

Arlington Heights Civic Association, May 11, 2021, Quarterly Meeting, held via Zoom.

Attendees:

Matt Ambrose, Nick Carrasco, Maureen Critchley, Tommy Dacanay, Martha Duggan, Roxann Dzur, Estelle, Paula Hensbridge, Stephen Hughes, Eileen Janas, Carole Lieber, Habte Michael, Ron Peterson, Amy Petz, Bill Potapchuck, James Rohal, Kristi Sawert, Janet Shannon, Betty Siegel, Brian Sigritz, Susan, Valynda, Jay Vennett, Marin Weaver

The meeting was called to order by President Kristi Sawert at 7:04.

Matt Ambrose gave the Treasurer's report: \$1361.94 available in our BB&T account. If you have not paid your 2021 dues, please contact Matt.

The Minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were approved.

Habte Michael, Ethiopian Community Development Council, reported that the center has served as a COVID-19 vaccination site on multiple occasions during April, providing more than 6000 vaccinations. Anyone from the community is welcome. They have sold about 10 of the new residences on South Highland St. and are still looking for buyers.

Ms. Sawert said that ECDC was a treasure in our neighborhood and that many of the neighbors had walked over to the center for vaccinations.

Nick Carrasco provided an update on the 5th Street South project. Milling and paving will happen soon. The water pipe work is completed.

Jay Vennett reported on the Westmont Plaza development. No demo permits have been issued yet. Mr. Vennett also reported that the restaurant that is replacing the Purple Lounge will not serve alcohol and has been painted, so it is no longer purple.

Career Center:

Ms Sawert reported on developments in the planning for the Career Center expansion. The Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) and the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) finished their work in 2019. The estimates came in at more than \$100 million more than APS had anticipated. No action occurred until the members of the BLPC and PFRC

received emails a couple of weeks ago, as APS prepares for the FY2022-2024 CIP vote on June 24, 2021.

BLPC members were very constrained by what APS said had to remain on the parcel. Now APS has decided they will have to get rid of the Fenwick Building, which hosts Arlington Community High School. Falls Church recently completed the George Mason High School which supports 1800 students, in 295,000 sq. ft. The current proposal is to erect a school similar to the George Mason High School on the site of the Fenwick Building and part of the parking lot. They will demolish the field to create a gravel lot for 150 cars. Additionally, the proposal is to expand Montessori from pre-K through Middle School, do additional construction at the Career Center to house Montessori and move it from the former Patrick Henry building to the Career Center. It's unclear how many additional seats there will be: 1300-1800. Currently there are 950 seats with 350 constantly rotating. About 2000 students have left APS. The administration thinks they aren't coming back.

There was discussion about neighborhood school vs. option school; about the amenities that will and won't be included (no pool, no information about a gym or theater); about the amount of green space; about parking; about plans for the library; about lab facilities. In a conversation with Ms. Sawert, Barbara Kanninen said this would be an option school so there would be no pool; it would never be a neighborhood school.

There was also discussion about the extended timeline for construction, currently estimated for completion of the buildings in Aug 2026 with field completion in Aug 2028 and no estimated date for completion of a parking garage.

Ms. Sawert asked attendees if they would be willing to attend a Zoom session with a school board member in a month. The attendees were in favor of that proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
AHCA Secretary