

The November 9, 2021 quarterly meeting of the Arlington Heights Civic Association, held on Zoom, was called to order by President Kristi Sawert at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: Matt Ambrose, Amy, Ted Black, Nick Carrasco, Maureen Critchley, Mahender Dudani, Evan Farley, Paula Henstridge, Stephen Hughes, Eileen Janas, Jim, Carol Lieber, Marilyn Marton, Gail Massot, Habte Michael, Bill Potapchuk, Kristi Sawert, Betty Siegel, Brian Sigritz, Scott Stewart, Tia Scales, Amy and Jay Vennett

Minutes of the August 10, 2021 quarterly meeting were approved.

Habte Michael reported that the Ethiopian Community Development Council is hiring people to help resettle refugees from Afghanistan. They continue to provide a variety of small business loans to people starting businesses.

Ms. Sawert asked if there were any attendees wishing to run for AHCA offices. Stephen Hughes conducted the election of officers for 2022. Approved by unanimous consent are:
Kristi Sawert, President
Nick Carroasco, First Vice President
Scott Stewart, Second Vice President
Matthew Ambrose, Treasurer
Eileen Janas, Secretary

Treasurer's report:

Matt Ambrose said there had been no activity in the BB&T account since last quarter and the Venmo account has \$465. CPRO and Civic Federation dues will be paid in January 2022. Matt would like to step down as Treasurer and asked attendees to consider the position. Due to the complexity of making changes to the financial accounts it is good to have a treasurer willing to serve multiple years.

Career Center:

Kristi Sawert provided an update on Arlington Public School planning for the Career Center site. The School Board approved Option 4 at their October 28, 2021 meeting and will reconvene the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) and Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) in early 2022. Option 4 envisions moving Arlington Community High School to a new location, the demolition of the Fenwick Building, and the construction of a five-story building along Walter Reed Drive that will hold all of the Career Center programs and Arlington Tech. A 400 space above ground parking garage will be constructed on 9th street, opposite the ECDC parking garage, once the southern part of the Career Center is demolished. A non-regulation size field will be constructed in the space of the current parking lot. Instructional facilities will include a fabrication lab, music lab, library, gym, black box theater but no swimming pool or regulation size playing field. Estimates are for a campus population of 2050 students: 1550 students in the new building and 500 at Montessori Public School of Arlington (MPSA.) It is too expensive to convert the Career Center to an elementary school. It will be left empty for an undetermined period of time. David Priddy and Monique O'Grady expressed concerns about the empty building at the School Board Meeting.

APS is currently contracting with ECDC for 150 parking spaces.

Ms. Sawert reported that there are not enough elementary schools in south Arlington and there are under enrolled schools in north Arlington. Estimates are that it would cost \$50 million to convert the Career Center to an elementary school; more than the construction of a new school.

The library would remain at the site.

Westmont:

Because of concerns about uncontained demolition dust at the construction site, Kristi Sawert submitted a FOIA request to Arlington County for information about asbestos testing and removal. Nick Carrasco is reviewing the documents received from the FOIA request. Documents said no asbestos was found at the Westmont site. He is redacting names and addresses from the material before posting it to the website. If anyone wants to see the material (200 MB), email Nick at nickc321@gmail.com

Kristi invited discussion of any concerns. Jay Vennett reported that with the completion of demolition there is no dust from the Westmont site. There was some discussion of moving the annual fair to Long Bridge park. People who use the park regularly said that while there is parking, the traffic flow is very slow.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
Secretary