

Arlington Heights Civic Association Meeting August 9, 2022 via Zoom facilitated by Bill Potapchuk

Attendees: Dora Sue and Ted Black, Bruce Boyd, Broughan, Mary Carbone, Nick Carrasco, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Alec Duncan, Zachariah Herrmann, Eileen Janas, DK, Carole Lieber, Andrew Martin, Marilyn Marton, Maryeliz, Conchita Mitchell, Johanna Montague, Martin Morowski, Dawn Nelson, Mikey Nguyen, Bill Potapchuck, Jim Presswood, Kristen Roberts, Kristi Sawert, Susan Scott, Brian Sigritz, Kristin Sleeper, Diana Wong, two call-in attendees

Guests: Laura Barragan, Department of Parks and Recreation; Barbi Broadus, Chairperson, Arlington County Fair; Jennifer Gildea, Principal, Alice West Fleet Elementary School; Takis Karantonis, Member, Arlington County Board

Kristi Sawert, President, opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Eileen Janas reported that the Neighborhood Conservation Program has changed its name to Arlington Neighborhoods Program. This implements a recommendation from the Neighborhood Conservation Program Review of 2021.

Ms. Sawert provided the Treasurer's report since Matt Ambrose could not attend: \$1,690.67.

Traffic flow at Old Glebe and 2nd Street South:

Takis Karantonis, Arlington County Board member, was a guest at the meeting to discuss the traffic situation near Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Thomas Jefferson Community Center, and Fleet Elementary School, following a traffic fatality at the intersection of 2nd St South and South Old Glebe August 2, 2022. Miss Gildea, Principal of Alice West Fleet Elementary School also attended the meeting.

Attendees discussed the long-standing safety issues of the area: people regularly drive the wrong way down First Road South; there are no school zone signs; the County Board has placed a moratorium on speed bump installations; there are no crossing lights at 2nd St and Old Glebe South; Fleet has an inadequate drop off lane with a poor traffic pattern for exit; Fleet has an inadequate exit to Route 50 and the buses can't make the turn; Fleet has an inadequate turning area for buses; it is a dangerous area for bikes; it can take 15 minutes to get out of a driveway during school drop-off times. Residents thought a traffic circle or three-way stop at 1st Rd South and Old Glebe would help. The sight lines are poor at that intersection.

Mr. Karantonis will compile a list for the transportation engineers and will hope to schedule a September meeting with a walk through.

Ms. Gildea reported that about 70 students get dropped off/picked up. She works closely with the Safe Routes Director and will report our concerns.

Parents raised issues about drop off/pick up at the Montessori school (formerly Patrick Henry) and the inadequate traffic flow on Highland Street South.

Arlington County Fair:

Barbara Broadus and Laura Barragan presented special issues for the Arlington County Fair. They expect more than 85,000 visitors. The fair has been at TJ for 45 years and has outgrown the space, but the County Fair has been unable to find a better location. The fair has been losing money for the past few years with the fees to Arlington County larger than they can sustain. The beer garden was a popular spot last year but the location made it hard to find.

This year Second Street South will be closed between Ivy and S. Jackson Street and the beer garden will be located in that area. There are two 20' x 50' tents; they are not movable. Neighbors were unhappy with the location; thought they were asked for input in May when the decision had already been made to close 2nd Street and the permit application had been made in April. They heard about the street closing via word of mouth; no official notification from the fair board.

Passes for local parking will be distributed on Sunday; additional passes can be picked up at TJ.

There are still concerns about access for people with disabilities.

The Fair Board has an open spot for an Arlington Heights liaison and would be happy to have someone from the neighborhood on the Board.

The rule against alcohol on school grounds is a Virginia State Law; a variance is not possible:
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title4.1/chapter3/section4.1-309/>
#:~:text=Penalties%3B%20Procedural%20Matters-,%C2%A7%204.1%2D309.,or%20school%20or%20student%20activities

Nick Carrasco is compiling comments on the Career Center Plans; needs them immediately; will be sending the compilation on August 10.

Martin Morowski reported on the Friendship Community with Bibury Parish, England, where the Custis family came from and volunteered to be the representative.

Kristi reminded participants that officer elections will be held at our next meeting in November. We need a volunteer for all positions but particularly for treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
Secretary