

Arlington Heights Civic Association Meeting, November 8, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Bartlett, Nick Carrasco, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Eileen Janas, Stephen Hughes, Steven Kleppin, Andrew Martin, Marilyn Marton, Ann Petz, Kristi Sawert, Brian, Sigritz, Scott Stewart

Guests: Elenor Hodges, Eco-Action Arlington; Susan Finotti, Capital Project Management Coordinator, Arlington County Division of Transportation; Sheila Borkar, Arlington County Division of Transportation

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting was held November 8, 2022, in the cafeteria at the Montessori School of Arlington. Kristi Sawert, President, opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Minutes of the August 9, 2022 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Ms. Sawert provided the Treasurer's report since Matt Ambrose could not attend: \$1403.67.

Nick Carrasco reported that the Arlington County School Board voted in favor of the base specifications and approved \$182 million for the Career Center project. Following completion of the new building, Montessori classes will be moved into the Career Center Building and the Montessori building will be demolished.

Scott Stewart reported on the Westmont Construction. Internal electrical work is being done. The owners are negotiating with businesses for the retail spaces. The back alley remains closed.

Kristi Sawert reported from the Pike Presidents meeting that they are trying to get an urgent care facility. The Bank of America space on Columbia Pike will be redeveloped. The commercial form based code applies to all of the sites.

Ms. Sawert read the proclamation prepared by Mark Murawski to establish a friendship community with Bibury Parish. Passed by voice vote.

Stephen Hughes served as nomination chair for the election of officers for 2023:

Kristi Sawert, President
Brian Sigritz, Co-President
Kelly Davison, Treasurer
Nick Carrasco, First Vice President
Steve Kleppin, Second Vice President
Scott Stewart, Community Liaison
Eileen Janas, Secretary

Officers were elected by unanimous consent.

Tree Canopy Program:

Elenor Hodges from Eco Action Arlington gave a presentation on the Tree Canopy program. Arlington County has two tree planting programs. The tree **distribution** program provides tree whips which residents can pick up and plant themselves.

The tree **canopy** program is managed for the county by Eco Action Arlington and provides large native trees to residents in the spring and the fall. Program applications for the spring 2023 plantings are available on the Eco Action Arlington website and are due by Friday Jan 6,

2023. The resident selects the tree and the spot in the yard where it should be planted, and the hole digging and planting are provided by the program.

<https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>

Ms. Sawert enthusiastically reported on the tree planted in her yard.

As an equity issue, Eco Action Arlington has identified 10 neighborhoods that have lower tree canopy than the county average and will target those for additional trees.

Eco Action Arlington received funds for a pilot project to help residents with tree maintenance issues such as pruning and soil de-compaction. There was discussion about the difficulty of planting trees in the Arlington Heights duplexes. Few of them have enough space for a large tree away from power lines.

Columbia Pike Multimodal Street Improvements:

Susan Finotti and Sheila Borkar provided an update on the Columbia Pike Multimodal Street Improvements. The project is divided into nine segments with five completed, with a projected completion date for the entire project of 2025. The project will improve the streetscape, underground the utilities, replace leaking water and sewer lines, widen sidewalks, and install transit stations. The section of Columbia Pike from Garfield (between Bangkok 54 and the 7-Eleven) to Courthouse (Dorchester Towers) will start in the summer of 2023. Construction has started on the segment from South Nash to South Joyce, which is a Federal project.

Additional project details can be found at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Columbia-Pike-Multimodal-Street-Improvements>

and at <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/va/st-anc-1>

Ms. Finotti reported that curb bump outs are planned for the intersection of Walter Reed and Columbia Pike.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
Secretary