

Arlington Heights Civic Association Meeting, February 21, 2023

Attendees: Kyle Alcock, Veronica Bartlett, Nick Carrasco, Kelly Davison, Anne Franciosa, James Herring, Eileen Janas, Steven Kleppin, Don and Courtney Loughry, Andrew Martin, Marilyn Marton, Matt Ociepka, Tatjana Pouliott, Janet Presswood, Kristi Sawert, Susan Scott, Betty Siegel, Brian, Sigriz, Kathleen Spencer.

Guests: Dan Nabors, Acting Bureau Chief, Arlington County Division of Environmental Services, Transportation, Engineering and Operations; Matt Richard, Chair, Arlington County Fair Board, Tara Spuhler McCabe, Vice Chair.

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting was held February 21, 2023, in the cafeteria at the Alice West Fleet Elementary School. Brian Sigriz, Co-President, opened the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Minutes of the November 8, 2022 meeting were approved by voice vote, with two corrections of misspelled names.

Kelly Davison, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$2382.58. 43 families have paid dues for 2023. Dues can be paid by check or via Venmo. See Ms. Davison's email for details.

Brian Sigriz provided the following neighborhood updates:

- 1) A new stop sign has been installed at the intersection of 1st Road South and South Old Glebe Rd. Neighbors remarked that more traffic enforcement is needed at pick-up and drop-off hours.
- 2) The sidewalk installation on S. Irving St. between 6th St.S. and 7th St . S., that is funded by the Complete Streets Program, should be completed by fall 2023.
- 3) The request for a four-way stop at the intersection of 7th. St S and S. Irving does not meet county criteria and has been denied.
- 4) Work on the Columbia Pike multi-modal upgrades continues. The Sun Trust Building will be demolished and the site will be a staging area for the construction at the Career Center.
- 5) The proposal for a large apartment building on the Bank of America site was approved last weekend.
- 6) Arlington Police are continuing their investigation of the shooting at Caspi February 4, 2023. Police report that this incident is unrelated to the shooting near Bob and Edith's Diner.
AHCA will have a Zoom call at 7:00 PM, March 8, with the Arlington County Police Department.

There was discussion about the vacancies in the police department, camera functionality, and ability of the ACPD to pursue people into other jurisdictions. James Herring reported that ACPD currently has 386 positions with 250 officers currently on staff; that cameras provide live view only, and the officers are only allowed to pursue perpetrators of violent felonies into other jurisdictions. ACPD has 15 officers on patrol; one covers Columbia Pike from Washington Blvd. to the west edge of the county.

Kristi Sawert reminded attendees that a zoom session on Narcan training will be held Feb. 28 at 6 PM. Sign up via the Eventbrite link in Ms. Sawert's email.

Mark Murawski, our representative to Bibury, has been invited to the Coronation.

Ms. Sawert reported the construction of a new AHCA website: arlingtonheightsva.org. If you have photos of the area (trees, gardens, Fleet, Career Center, etc.) that you would like to share, please send them to Ms. Sawert.

Career Center Update

There will be a meeting of the Career Center BLPC/PFRC on March 14 to provide updates on the permitting process. Arlington High School will finish the semester at the Fenwick Building, then move to the building at 4420 N Fairfax Drive in June. Aug. 17 will be the first day of school in the new location.

Vision Zero

Dan Nabors gave a presentation on Vision Zero. The presentation was distributed to the list serve Feb 21, 2023, following the meeting.

Vision Zero is a nation wide framework for eliminating traffic fatalities. Instead of reacting to crashes, Vision Zero is a way of using data to identify and eliminate systematic problems; to examine the factors that contribute to traffic injuries and deaths and eliminate those factors. Arlington Vision Zero began with a County Board resolution in 2019 followed by a plan adopted in 2021, with a goal of eliminating serious injuries and fatalities on Arlington streets by 2030. Vision Zero elevates safety issues over all other issues. It is data driven and will focus on equity. Data indicates that areas with a higher minority population and incomes under \$50,000 have more crashes.

Vision Zero encourages public engagement and will have an online feedback form available next month on its website:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Transportation/Vision-Zero>

AHCA has three high injury roads: Columbia Pike, South Glebe Road, Route 50/Arlington Blvd. They are investigating a policy of permanent slow school zones; changing speed limits to 20 mph, 24/7, within 600 feet of a school.

Vision Zero Arlington has 13 quick build projects in work, two in AHCA.

- 1) 2nd St S and S. Garfield - crossing and ramp improvements
- 2) S. Glebe Rd and Old Glebe Road - curb extensions to decrease crossing distance

Arlington County Fair - Aug 16-21, 2023

Matt Richard and Tara Spuhler McCabe gave a presentation on the 2023 Arlington County Fair. Mr. Richard reported that the Fair was profitable last year, for the first time in a while. They are working to get more equitable programming for the 2023 fair. They plan to have more free programming and some free rides.

They plan to have two zones for food. There was huge positive feedback last year on having the food spread out. Attendees urged the need for more ice cream!

ACPD gave positive feedback on closing 2nd St, which made it safer and much easier to patrol.

The Fair Board will be deploying additional resources to keep fairgoers out of the neighborhoods with closing at 10:30 PM instead of 11:00 PM. Fairgoers will be directed to the shuttle stops.

This year only vendors and those covered by ADA will have parking at the fair. There will be additional shuttle stops at Pentagon City Mall, and Sequoia, as well as at the Career Center.

Parking in the immediate neighborhood will be restricted to residents. There was some discussion about the extent of parking restrictions. Ms. Sawert encouraged people with concerns to make their views known to the Fair Board. AHCA will not take a neighborhood position since there are so many differing points of view.

Concerns were expressed about the volume of the Himalaya Ride; too much noise, too late. Mr. Richard took note of that issue. The noise was turned off on the day they had programs for people with sensory issues, so it is likely that it can be turned off earlier.

Neighbors also requested that the Fair Board assign some personnel to cleaning up trash in the neighborhood. The service was provided a couple years ago by the kids in the golf carts, but not last year. Mr. Richard took note of the issue.

The County Liaison to the fair is Sharleka Ashton.

Mr. Richard would welcome an AHCA representative on the Fair Board. There are open Board seats and plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Contact Mr. Richard for details:

<https://www.arlingtoncountyfair.us/>

The meeting concluded at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
Secretary