

The August 8, 2023 meeting of the Arlington Heights Civic Association was called to order by co-president Brian Sigritz at 7:05 PM. The meeting was held via Zoom with about 38 people attending.

Attendees: Veronica Bartlett, Ted and Dora Sue Black, Nick Carrasco, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Alan Goldstein, Brendan H, Paula Henstridge, Eileen Janas, Dan Juengst, Steven Kleppin, Shari Langer, Andrew Martin, Conchita Mitchell, Daniel Perch, Bill Potapchuck, Janet Presswood, James Rohal, Kristi Sawert, Tia Scales, Janet Shannon, Brian Sigritz, Sally Snead, Bill Stevens, Thomas Wallinga, Kyle and Carol, Scott, Charlie's iPad

Guests: Jeff Cole, Catherine Meloy, Goodwill Industries of Greater Washington; Michael Foster, MTFA; David Brotman, Roxana Hernandez, Lauren Riley, Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, P.C.; Jeff Kreps/VIKA; Sean Denniston, Arlington Historical Society

Minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting were approved.

Kelly Cherry-Leigh Davison presented the Treasurer's report. AHCA has \$1884 in the account; recent expenditures include pizza for the May 9 meeting and funds for a bike donation at Alice West Fleet Elementary School.

Co-president Brian Sigritz updated the attendees on a number of projects in the area:

1. The Career Center building permit was approved by the County Board in June, with a 4-1 vote. Neighborhood concerns were expressed, particularly concerning the number of buildings on the site and loss of green space. The Arlington Public School superintendent is including renovation of the old Career Center for Montessori education, moving Montessori to the old Career Center, demolishing the Patrick Henry building and adding green space in the new CIP, which will be voted on in June 2024.
2. A Career Center construction timeline meeting will be held at the Career Center, tomorrow, August 9, 2023 at 7 PM.

3. Irving St. improvements between 2nd St. S and 6th St. South to create an unobstructed sidewalk on one side of the street: the approved plan will be to retain the Carlyle lights but move them to bump out areas, which will reduce parking by five or six spaces.
4. Sidewalk on the west side of Irving St. between 6th St. S and 7th St. S: on schedule for construction in February or March 2024.
5. Columbia Pike uptick in graffiti: Megan Haydasz attended a meeting on behalf of AHCA. From her email to the listserve: “When you see graffiti appear, take a photo to document it, and *report it* (category = 'vandalism') via the ACPD non-emergency online form at: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Online-Police-Reporting-System> The more reports ACPD receives, the higher priority the issue becomes for them. They are especially interested in specific dates and times when graffiti appears to have been painted over and reappears, as well as written/photo documentation of specific tags (such as ‘CP’ and ‘hate’) that recur.”
6. Westmont construction is nearing completion. Apartments are being rented now. There will be a 5 Guys Restaurant and an Urgent Care in the commercial space.
7. The Exxon site on the corner of S. Glebe and Columbia Pike is being considered for apartments and townhouses.
8. Sunrise Senior Living - Steven Kleppin attended the SPRC meetings on the proposed Sunrise Senior Living building on Glebe Rd between 7th and 8th St S. The SPRC will make a recommendation to the County Board in August.
9. The VDOT project for Arlington Boulevard improvements between S. Fillmore and Glebe Rd. South will host a virtual meeting August 24 at 7 PM.
10. A VDOT study for Glebe Road between I-66 and Columbia Pike can be viewed at the project website at: https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/glebe_stars.asp Comments can be

provided via the project website until September 14, 2023 at www.publicinput.com/route120glebestudy

11. The Arlington County Fair is next week, Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 16-20. Parking passes for residents will be distributed this weekend. Parking restrictions will be the same as in 2022. 2nd St South will be closed from S. Irving to S. Jackson for the beer garden. Matt Richard has been very responsive addressing concerns. Contact Brian Sigritz or Matt Richard if you have any issues or questions.

Columbia Pike Forward:

Sheila Borkar, Project Manager, gave a presentation on the next phase of Columbia Pike Forward. Segment D extends from S. Garfield to S. Courthouse. Activity will start in September 2023 with relocation and under-grounding of electrical, water, storm sewer and gas lines. There will be one lane of traffic in each direction, with a second lane in peak direction during rush hour. Details will be available on the website: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Columbia-Pike-Forward>. You can sign up for the biweekly newsletter.

The project team will host an Open House in-person event at Penrose Square on Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 11 AM to 3 PM to discuss upcoming construction and traffic impacts for Segment D.

Ms. Borkar was asked whether there would be a left turn arrow to Columbia Pike for southbound traffic on Walter Reed Dr. Ms. Borkar will check and provide the information to Brian Sigritz.

Goodwill Industries Site Redevelopment

Representatives from Goodwill Industries at 10 South Glebe Road have filed an application for a zoning change to permit a new structure with a child care facility, 128 affordable housing units, and an expanded and more efficient Goodwill facility. A site plan has been filed with the County. Staff feedback has been incorporated into the plan which has been resubmitted. The presentation at the meeting is part of their outreach to the community and request for comments.

Goodwill of Greater Washington was founded in 1935 with a primary mission of workforce development. The 10 South Glebe Road facility was built in 1954 and acquired by Goodwill in 1999. The building is a very popular donation center and retail store, but traffic flow is not smooth and often backs onto Glebe Rd. The building is not energy efficient. Goodwill is working with Michael Foster of MTFA architects and David Brotman of AHC to design the new facility.

The proposal will go to a Site Plan Review Committee and then to the County Board.

Concerns were expressed about the placement of the childcare center playground, exposing children to exhaust fumes and pollutants and about the lack of play facilities for children who are not attending the day care center. The second floor play space at Gilliam Place, 918 S. Lincoln St. was mentioned as an example of creative play space.

While the proposal increases the green space from that of the current configuration, concerns were expressed that for a residential establishment, the proposed green space is still extremely limited. Presenters expressed appreciation for the comments. Additional comments can be emailed to Andrew Painter, Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, P.C. at apainter@thelandlawyers.com

Arlington Historical Society

Sean Denniston gave a presentation on the Arlington Historical Society, founded in 1956. AHS owns the old Hume School at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Rd, open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4:00 PM and the Ball Sellers House, built in 1750 and donated to AHS in 1975. It is open Saturdays, 1-4 PM, between April and October. AHS sponsors a free event every second Thursday of the month. See the website for details:

<https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/>

AHS has plans to renovate the school and is happy to accept donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Janas
Secretary