

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting of November 14, 2023 was held at the Montessori Public School (MPSA) of Arlington. The meeting was opened by President Brian Sigritz at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: Veronica Bartlett, Ellen Campana, Nick Carrasco, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Stephen Hughes, Steve Kleppin, Shari Langer, Dan Loughry, Eileen Janas, Marilyn Marton, Mark Murawski, Kristi Sawert, Brian Sigritz,

Minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Kelly Davison reported funds of \$1,443 available, with recent expenditures for the development of the new web site. Dues collection for 2024 will begin shortly. Members can pay via Venmo or drop a check at Kelly or Brian's home. Dues are \$20 per family. Kelly will send a reminder email via the list serve.

Officer Reports:

Career Center - Brian Sigritz provided an update on the Career Center. In the spring, neighborhood speakers presented numerous concerns at the County Board review, when the use permit was approved with a 4-1 vote. Some of the concerns raised have been addressed. The playground fence is 4' instead of 8'. Sidewalks on Irving and Highland have been repaired. Mr. Sigritz spoke at the Nov. 7 School Board meeting as part of the planning process for the next Capital Improvement Program (CIP), reiterating the need for a commitment from the School Board capping the maximum student population at 2570, as well as for their commitment to demolish the MPSA building and return it to green space. He received some positive response from School Board members to keep those promises.

Other Career Center items: It was noted that the labels on the two hour parking slots used by library patrons have been repainted, making them much more clear. Other issues raised were the lack of regular updates from Steve Stricker, the project manager, and the poor signage with confusing detour signs. Mr. Sigritz said he expects there will be regular updates when the construction starts in 2024.

Columbia Pike - Construction on segment D has started. At the August 2023 AHCA meeting, there was discussion about the traffic signal at Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive. The presenter did not know the plans for that signal and responded after the meeting that no changes were planned. Attendees discussed the difficulty of turning left from Columbia Pike (heading east) to Walter Reed without a left turn arrow, and the difficulty turning left from Walter Reed (heading south) to Columbia Pike, and agreed that AHCA would like the signal to have left turn arrows, as long as that does not make the situation worse. Ellen Campana raised the issue recently via the County web site and will provide Eileen Janas with the response, as a first step to get this issue raised again.

The **Westmont Apartment** building is completed with commitments for Jersey Mike's, Five Guys, and Urgent Care. Prior to the construction the bus stop at the Westmont used to have etched glass reading Arlington Heights, but it has not been restored. There is also some public art missing from the bus stop. Mr. Sigritz will check on it.

Mr. Sigritz reported that the Fillmore shopping center construction has been delayed. Owners are looking for businesses willing to sign short term leases to occupy the former CVS and Attila buildings. Reconstruction for the Bank of America site is proceeding. The Sun Trust building on Columbia Pike will be demolished soon to provide parking for Career Center construction workers.

Graffiti is an issue. Some cameras will be installed.

Arlington Blvd. - VDOT representatives will attend the AHCA February meeting to discuss the tentative plan.

Arlington Neighborhood Program (formerly Neighborhood Conservation Program) Eileen Janas, AHCA representative to the Arlington Neighborhood Program, reported that the Traffic Calming proposal for 1st Road South is up for consideration for the spring 2024 funding round. Staff will want to work with a block representative as a communications point of contact.

Sunrise Senior Living: Steve Kleppin reported that the Sunrise Senior Living facility between 7th and 8th on S. Glebe Road was approved by the County Board. Most of the issues of concern were environmental and biophilia. C2E2 (Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission) urged the need for LEED Gold building practices, more permeable surfaces, and solar panels for renewable electricity. Alliance for Housing Solutions was disappointed that there will be no affordable units. The applicant responded that the roof had mechanical equipment without enough room for solar panels; that solar panels in the parking lot would require pylons that would reduce the number of spaces; that costs at Sunrise were for housing and services, so that even if housing costs were reduced, adequate income for services was required.

Goodwill Site Redevelopment: Steve Kleppin will represent AHCA on the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) for the 6 story Goodwill site redevelopment project. Concerns were discussed about the serious lack of green space. There is no place for children to play who are not in the daycare center. There is no green space for residents to relax outside. The building takes up most of the site as a concrete jungle, with no attention paid to outdoor needs of residents. The proposal includes a 7' retaining wall along the Rt. 50 exit ramp to Glebe Road and around the corner onto Glebe, but none of the diagrams show it clearly.

County fair: Matt Richard, the chair of the Arlington County Fair Board will attend the AHCA February meeting along with a member of the Police Dept. The Police Department sets the parking restrictions. If you are willing to represent Arlington Heights on the Fair Board, please contact Brian Sigriz.

AHCA Website: Mr. Sigriz reported that AHCA has contracted with the person who redesigned the Penrose web site, to redesign and rehost our site. It should be operational in early 2024. Nick Carrasco will continue to help with the website and list serve maintenance.

Mr. Sigriz thanked Kristi Sawert and Nick Carrasco for their long service to Arlington Heights Civic Association as elected officers.

AHCA Election of Officers for 2024

Stephen Hughes conducted the election of officers for 2024. There were no nominations from the floor. Elected by unanimous consent are:

Brian Sigriz, President
Steven Kleppin, Vice President,
Kelly Davison, Treasurer
Eileen Janas, Secretary

There is an opening for a Second Vice President/Community Liaison Officer. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Brian Sigritz.

Community Oversight Board

Gary Dean, Vice-Chair of the Arlington County law enforcement Community Oversight Board, <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Community-Oversight-Board>, provided a brief overview of the creation of the board, via phone link. Arlington has a hybrid model with an independent police auditor and a civilian led review board. Board members have undergone a year of training, including ride-alongs with police officers.

They meet the second Wednesday of each month and have one vacancy for a member under the age of 30.

Their charter is to investigate public complaints and provide input to the state of Virginia for legislative priorities via the Police Department, but they also want to be collaborative with the citizens and add value in other areas.

Bibury-Arlington Friendship Community

Mark Murawski reported on his visit to Bibury, England in May 2023. Bibury, in the Cotswald region of Gloucester, is the home of the Custiss family, who migrated to America and built Arlington House. An 8-1/2" x11" painting presented to Mr. Murawski in commemoration of the visit is hanging at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, above the AED (automated external defibrillator.)

Arlington Civic Federation:

Mr. Sigritz spoke at the Arlington Civic Federation meeting in October as part of the Vision 2040 effort. He is still looking for volunteers to represent AHCA at the Civic Federation. Their meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington. Representatives can attend as many or as few meetings as they wish. If you are willing to be a representative to the Civic Federation, please contact Brian Sigritz.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Janas
Secretary