

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting of February 13, 2024 was called to order by Brian Sigritz, President, at 7:08 PM in the library of Alice West Fleet Elementary School.

Attendees: Kyle Alcock, Kelly Cherry-Leigh Davison, Eileen Janas, Susannah Keefe, Steve Kleppin, Marilyn Marton, Ron and Cathy Peterson, Amy Petz, David Pouliott, Jim and Janet Presswood, Brian Sigritz.

Guests: Matt Cochrane and Matt Richard, Arlington County Fair Board; Stephen Capizzi, Arlington County Police Department; Mark VanZandt, Khalil Minhas, Project Manager, Allison, Regina Herr, Ashley, Dana Trone, Tyler, Virginia Department of Transportation, Arlington Boulevard Safety Improvements Project

Minutes of the November 2023 meeting were approved.

Kelly Cherry-Leigh Davison, Treasurer, reported dues payments from 52 households for 2024 with \$2408 available in our account.

Brian Sigritz gave an update on the Career Center. Mr. Sigritz spoke at the November School Board Meeting, reiterating neighborhood positions on restoration of green space when the Montessori School of Arlington moves to the current Career Center. The Board is examining the cost of retrofitting the building and considering using it as swing space for all the other schools that need retrofitting in Arlington. Mr. Sigritz says that Presidents of the other Civic Associations are considering sending a letter. Contact Mr. Sigritz if you have any concerns you want expressed.

There may be a special meeting in late April. There will be a whole process to decide the final configuration of the land, when the Patrick Henry building is demolished.

Mr. Sigritz is on the naming committee for the new building; possibly the Career Tech Center to keep a connection between the name and the function.

There are three projects for Glebe Road improvements currently in the planning process

- 1) Old Glebe and South Glebe — where the auto shop is. Safety improvements are being considered. Send comments to Brian.
- 2) South Glebe Road and 9th St S intersection improvement. Details can be found at the project website: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/9thGlebeIntersectionProject>
- 3) Glebe Road STARS Study. The STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study is assessing potential safety, multimodal and operational improvements for over two miles of Glebe Road (Route 120) between Columbia Pike (Route 244) and I-66. The second round of public involvement is happening in February 2024. See the website: <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/glebe-road-stars-study-in-arlington-county/>

Eileen Janas, AHCA representative to the Arlington Neighborhoods Program, reported that our first priority project, Traffic Calming on First Road South, has moved into the planning process. In December Alec Strong agreed to be the Block Representative, and conducted the general interest survey. Hannah Nicely, our Associate Planner, is in charge of the process for the Dept. of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD). The project is in concept design and engineers will be doing the site survey this month. They will request a meeting with the neighborhood to present their design. Once approved by the neighborhood, the proposal will

go to the Arlington Neighborhoods Program Advisory Committee for approval in June, and be presented to the County Board in September 2024. Construction would start in 2025.

As a follow-up to discussion at the November meeting, Brian Sigriz discussed the need for signal improvements at the S. Walter Reed/Columbia Pike intersection with Susan Finotti, the Manager of Columbia Pike Multimodal Street Improvement project. Meeting attendees were asked whether they support an initiative to bring this to the County. There was agreement that the signal needs updating. Eileen Janas will follow-up with Ms. Finotti.

Steven Kleppin reported on the Goodwill site redevelopment and Sunrise Senior Living projects. Goodwill redevelopment is moving very rapidly and has been approved by the County Board. Mr. Kleppin has presented neighborhood concerns about the lack of green space and the concrete jungle; bike path safety; traffic from 100+ new families. The need for affordable housing is outweighing other concerns and they are unlikely to be addressed.

Sunrise Senior Living project has passed the County Board. Fencing has been erected around the site.

Route 50 Safety Improvements

Mark VanZandt, Virginia Department of Transportation, gave an overview of the Arlington Boulevard Safety Improvements project, [<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/arlington-boulevard-safety-improvements-in-arlington-county/>] with contributions from multiple staff members as part of the community engagement phase. Neighborhood opinions are valued. Please use the survey to provide feedback to the project. The project will add left turn signals at Irving St/Rt 50, create left turn lanes, extend left turn lanes at Fillmore/Rt. 50; install a barrier between east/west traffic lanes from Glebe Rd to Fillmore which will prevent left turns onto and off 50 from North and South Garfield, Highland, and Jackson Streets. Planners are coordinating with the Arlington Boulevard Trail Study and are working to minimize tree loss. They have measured the volume of traffic currently making left turns on and off Rt. 50 to estimate the impacts to Irving St. and Fillmore Street. They expect 10-15 additional vehicles at peak hours, or about one every 4 minutes. They are considering issues connected with the service road extension for the residences on Route 50 and are coordinating with Etz Hayim about the on-street parking.

Design approval should occur in 2025 with construction starting in late 2023 and lasting 2-3 years.

Attendees asked about traffic calming on Irving. North Irving has speed bumps and raised crosswalks. Nothing slows traffic on South Irving. People often cross in the middle of the street. There were also questions about coordination with the Fire Dept and APS for the modifications on the frontage road; whether some changes could be introduced before the construction to reduce the risks to pedestrians from speeding on S. Irving; impacts to funeral processions and impacts to neighborhood streets from blocking the entrance to the Cemetery. A movable barrier, such as bollards, was suggested as an alternative to a permanent barrier.

There will be a webinar February 21, 2024. Mr. Sigriz will provide details with a link to the webinar to the listserve.

Comments can be made by March 8, 2024 via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Khalil Minhas, PE, PTOE, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive,

Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Arlington Boulevard Safety Improvements" in the subject line.

The presentation will be provided to Brian Sigriz for distribution to the list serve for people who could not attend.

Arlington County Fair

Matt Richard and Cpl. Stephen Capizzi talked about fair planning. The fair will run Aug 14-18. Closing will be at 10:30 again this year. The Beer Garden will be on 2nd Street, which will be closed to traffic.

Matt apologized for the difficulties getting parking permits last year. The person who had managed the process for many years moved away, and they failed to have enough permits printed last year. There were 150,000 attendees in 2023. They are trying to get the Sequoia garage. They will not have the Faith Lutheran Lot. Fleet will again have vendor parking and 30-40 parking spots for disabled people. There will be shuttles from the Courthouse Metro

The Fair website will be updated in late March.

Cpl. Steve Capizzi reported that security generally went smoothly in 2023 and there were few incidents.

Questions and concerns can be addressed to matt@arlingtoncountyfair.us

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
AHCA Secretary