

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting of May 14, 2024 was called to order by Brian Sigriz, President, at 7:08 PM in the library of the Montessori Public School of Arlington.

Attendees: Ellen Campana, David, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Evan Farley, Eileen Janas, Steven Kleppin, Marilyn Marton, Catherine Newling, Amy Petz, Jim and Janet Presswood, Tia Scales, Brian Sigriz

Guests: Myriam Villarroel, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, Inspection Services Division; Amy McWilliams, Columbia Pike Partnership; Sarah Zullo, Akilū Tesfaí, Kidist Eben Ezer, Ethiopian Community Development Council members

Minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting were approved.

Kelly Davison, Treasurer, reported dues payments from 54 households for 2024 with \$2437 available in our account. Dues can be paid by Venmo, checks or cash. Contact Kelly and she will pick them up.

Brian Sigriz provided the President's report:

Web Site:

There has been a delay in the launch of the new website but it should be operational before the August meeting.

Career Center:

The construction contract was approved by the School Board. There were issues about the contract not including prevailing wage requirements. APS will examine the possibility of including prevailing wage requirements in future contracts.

Ground Breaking ceremony is May 16, 2024 at 2 PM.

Brian will try to arrange an APS presentation of the construction schedule at a joint meeting with Penrose.

Plans for the legacy Career Center Building are not finalized. Brian continues to push APS to keep their commitment to move Montessori students into the building and demolish the Patrick Henry building—and not use the current ACC for swing space.

The renaming committee opted for Pike Campus. APS is not obligated to accept the recommendation. There is also interest in naming the new building after Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, a former Arlington resident, who helped define the COBOL programming language. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Hopper

Eileen Janas said that the signage on site is still inadequate: no indication of two-way traffic at the Montessori entrance; one-way signs that must be ignored; and that no action had been taken following her email to Steve Stricker in March. Brian will contact Steve Stricker.

Walter Reed Complete Streets:

APS will administer this project instead of Department of Environmental Services (DES.)

Columbia Pike Multimodal Project:

Segment D construction between S. Garfield and S. Courthouse on Columbia Pike is currently focused on utility relocation. Roadway construction will start in late 2024 and should be completed by late 2025.

Irving St. 6th-7th:

Construction on Irving Street should start in fall 2024.

Irving Street 2nd St to 6th Street:

Construction (bump outs for lights) is not scheduled yet. Carlyle lights will be restored.

Penrose has raised concerns about speeding on 2nd street

1st Road South Redesign:

Eileen Janas, AHCA representative to the Arlington Neighborhood Program, reported the status of the 1st Road South project. The engineering survey was completed. Engineers are beginning to draft the concept design. The current proposal is for curb extensions at 1st Rd S and Glebe; extend concrete medians within S. Glebe Rd; add back the No-U-Turn signs. Changes at 1st and Old Glebe will be the relocation of the Do Not Enter sign, add a curb extension at the stop sign, add STOP striping on the roadway, add No Left Turn and No Right Turn signs. There is still discussion about speed bumps and elevated crosswalks that are requested by the residents.

There was discussion about Arlington adding more No Turn on Red signs that seem to increase congestion and a perceived imbalance between pedestrian/bicycle friendly features and smooth movement of traffic.

Traffic Signal - Intersection of Columbia Pike and Walter Reed

The request for additional left turn arrows at the Columbia Pike and Walter Reed intersection was rejected based on sight distance, crash history, left turn volume and signal operation.

Code Enforcement:

Myriam Villarroel, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, Inspection Services Division, provided an overview of code enforcement. Her department handles complaints about house maintenance, vegetation, and property problems. Concerns can be reported on the website. County personnel will verify if the concern is a violation, notify the owner with a door hanger and negotiate to get the issue resolved. The County hires contractors to do the work if the property owner does not comply.

They also enforce the Noise Control Ordinance. (See flyer below.)

To file a complaint:

- [Register or log in to Permit Arlington to submit a Code Enforcement Complaint.](https://aca-prod.accela.com/ARLINGTONCO/Default.aspx)
- <https://aca-prod.accela.com/ARLINGTONCO/Default.aspx>

- Call [703-228-3232](tel:703-228-3232) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

See the website for details about complaints: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Building/Enforcement-Appeals/Code>

Ethiopian Community Development Council:

ECDC has been in the neighborhood for 40 years. They help new people find a home, find employment, get children enrolled in school, provide a gathering place, and advocate for affordable housing. ECDC has 17 locations in America and has helped 725,000 refugees. They welcome neighbors to the annual pot luck supper the Sunday before Thanksgiving, World Refugee Day June 20, 2024, and the 5K Run/Walk for Refugees Saturday, June 29, 2024 at Bluemont Park, 329 North Manchester St., Arlington, VA 22203. Sign up at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Arlington/5KRunandWalkforRefugees>

ECDC and AHCA discussed remaining in contact moving forward, and informing each other of upcoming events.

Columbia Pike Partnership

Amy McWilliams, Deputy Director, Columbia Pike Partnership, spoke about CPP activities. CPP is a non-profit group incorporated in 1986 with three functions:

- Advocacy for residents and small businesses
- Business support - Columbia Pike has over 60 restaurants that are family run. Through the buy-a-nurse-a-lunch program none of the restaurants had to close during COVID. Through crowd funding the restaurants could count on providing lunch service every four weeks to the nurses at local hospitals and clinics.
- Placemaking-Creating ways to celebrate our community. This is the 27th year of the Blues Festival. Sponsors keep it free. CPP has sponsored the Columbia Pike Farmers Market for over 25 years. They sponsor free movies on Friday evenings at Arlington Mill and Saturday at Penrose Square during the summer. CPP sponsors Paws on the Pike, and supports Arlington Arts, the Art Truck, and Hispanic Heritage events.

CPP has worked with the County to expand the retail options allowed under the Form Based Code. For example, the current Code disallows covered windows, which disqualifies health facilities in ground floor spaces since they must cover windows to ensure privacy.

Amy regularly talks to County staff in the Department of Transportation and mentioned issues with the traffic signal at the intersection of Columbia Pike and S. Walter Reed. She will continue to do so.

The issues at the Fillmore Shopping Center were discussed. Tenants were required to leave by May 2022 with construction expected in fall 2022. When Amazon Fresh pulled out, the owners lost their financing. Three of the stores were condemned (Atilla's, the Salsa Room, Hair Salon); three are empty (Dog Spa, Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization - now CPP,) but were not condemned. Many property owners along the Pike are not hands-on. Management companies collect the rents, which are often paid to trusts. It is difficult to engage the property owners.

Graffiti remains an issue. Five arrests were made recently. In Arlington, graffiti is the responsibility of the property owner. Mrs. Chen's has been hit repeatedly. DC has a mitigation program that helps private property owners.

Brian expects the August meeting to be a virtual meeting. There was discussion of the pros/cons of in-person, hybrid and virtual meetings. An issue with hybrid meetings is inability of virtual attendees to hear those attending in-person, which perhaps could be mitigated by signing onto zoom via personal phones. Hybrid meetings are more technically challenging than either virtual or in-person meetings.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Janas
Secretary

NOISE ISSUES: WHO TO CALL

What is the issue?	What time is it?	Who do you call?
Loud Parties/Music <i>Indoor music is allowed if it cannot be heard inside from 20 feet away or outside 50 feet away</i>	Any time day or night	Arlington Police Department <i>Call 703-558-2222</i>
Animals <i>Heard at least once per minute for 10 consecutive minutes</i>	7 a.m.–10:30 p.m., 7 days a week	Animal Welfare League of Arlington <i>Response within 5 days; Call 703-931-9241</i>
	10:30 p.m.–7 a.m., 7 days a week	Arlington Police Department <i>Call 703-558-2222</i>
Lawn Equipment <i>Lawn or garden maintenance using motorized equipment is not permitted during nighttime hours</i>	9 p.m.–7 a.m. weekdays; 9 p.m.–10 a.m. weekends & holidays	Arlington Police Department <i>Call 703-558-2222</i>
Construction/Trash <i>Permitted during daytime hours; Noise exemptions provided by Code Enforcement</i>	8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., weekdays	County Code Enforcement <i>Response within 5 days; Call 703-228-3232</i>
	Weekends, holidays, and 4:30 p.m.–8 a.m. weekdays	Arlington Police Department <i>Call 703-558-2222</i>
Live Entertainment/Restaurants <i>Each business has conditions on their live entertainment use permit</i>	Any time day or night	Arlington Police Department <i>Call 703-558-2222</i>
Nighttime Disturbance <i>Includes yelling, wailing, shouting or screaming that can be heard within a nearby dwelling</i>	9 p.m.–7 a.m. weekdays; 9 p.m.–10 a.m. weekends & holidays	Arlington Police Department <i>Call 703-558-2222</i>

The Arlington County Noise Control Ordinance is in effect 24/7/365. The ordinance defines "daytime" as 7 a.m.–9 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.– 9 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Please Note: To enforce the Noise Control Ordinance, Code Enforcement, Police, or AWLA staff must witness the violation. Due to resources and response times, some issues correct themselves before staff can witness them and cite a violation.