

The meeting of the Arlington Heights Civic Association of August 13, 2024 was held via Zoom, facilitated by Bill Potapchuk. Brian Sigritz, President, opened the meeting at 7:02 PM

Attendees: Veronica Bartlett, Ted and Dora Sue Black, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Alex Fukuda, Eileen Janas, Susannah Keefe, Steven Kleppin, Andrew Martin, Marilyn Marton, Aaron Miller, Morton Posner, Bill Potapchuk, James Rohal, Kristi Sawert, TH, Tia Scales, Janet Shannon, Brian Sigritz,

Presenters: Matt Richard, Arlington County Fair Board; Hannah Nicely, Arlington Neighborhoods Program; Jason Widstrom, Arlington Department of Transportation

Minutes of the May meeting were approved. Mr. Sigritz gave the Treasurer's report on behalf of Kelly Davison: \$2380 in our account.

President's Report:

Near-by construction:

Elkins Building in Penrose Civic Association at the corner of Columbia Pike and S. Walter Reed, will have 88 multifamily units. There will be a virtual meeting Aug. 22, 2024.

Fillmore Gardens shops: CVS is the only store still there.

Westmont Apartments: The 5 Guys restaurant is starting construction.

Sunrise on 7th and S. Glebe Rd: slated to move forward but no current activity.

Goodwill: slated to move forward but no current activity.

Career Center: waiting for permits. There is a "No Left Turn" sign from the Career Center to Walter Reed. Eileen will contact Steve Stricker re concerns about shifting so much traffic to Highland St. Brian expects we will receive construction status emails, similar to those received during the Westmont construction, once construction actually starts.

The 2025-2034 APS Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes funding to complete the other phases of construction: remodel the current Career Center for Montessori, demolish the Patrick Henry building; plan the green space. The new career center will be named the Grace Hopper Center.

Blues Festival: Brian hopes everyone enjoyed it. There is some concern from the Columbia Pike Partnership about the current location, especially during construction of the new Career Center building, and there is a possibility of moving the Blues Festival farther west on the Pike.

New Website: launch after Labor Day

Matt Richard, Arlington County Fair Board

Arlington County Fair starts tomorrow August 14 at 5:00. Matt Richard, County Fair Board, reminded attendees that there would be free cupcakes for Arlington Heights neighbors following the opening ceremony. WMATA and ART buses are expected to use 6th St and will not use Jackson St. this year. Brian has lots of extra parking permits which will be available at 9:00 August 14 at TJ. Attendees mentioned the need for trash clean-up during the fair, as there was last year, and issues with foliage blocking the sidewalk on 2nd St. S., making walking difficult.

Hannah Nicely, Arlington Neighborhoods Program, Neighborhoods Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development

Hannah Nicely spoke about the AHCA 1st Road South traffic calming project. AHCA submitted the project in 2016 as our first priority project to the Neighborhood Conservation Program, now Arlington Neighborhoods Program. Alex Strong, block captain, managed the General Interest Survey in December 2023, which had 80% support from the neighbors. The project has required input from multiple organizations including VDOT, which owns South Glebe Rd., Vision Zero, APS, and Arlington DOT. The Concept Design Review will be held virtually Tuesday, August 27. The proposal includes extending curbs, and improved signage but does not include speed bumps, “local traffic only” or “no thru traffic” signs, or extended medians in Glebe Rd. Ms. Nicely has consulted with the Fleet principal, who says school buses are not supposed to use it; she will follow-up with the principal at TJ Middle School. A resident of 1st St S said dozens of cars a day go down the street the wrong way.

Jason Widstrom, Arlington Department of Transportation

Jason Widstrom provided an update on seven construction projects in or affecting Arlington Heights:

Sidewalks on the 6th-7th block of S. Irving: Part of the Neighborhood Complete Streets Program managed by Michelle Stafford, which is a sister program to the Arlington Neighborhoods Program. The project was approved in 2022. Construction should start in January 2025 and take two months. They are at the 100% design phase and will use the on-call contractor. They need temperatures above 40°F to pour concrete. There was discussion about the long delay between approval and construction; need for a stop sign at 7th and Irving; and traffic circles/roundabouts.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/South-Irving-Street-NCS-Project>

Sidewalks on South Irving from 2nd St. S - 6th St S: Also part of Neighborhood Complete Streets, managed by Renee Harris. The project is at 30% design phase and ready for signatures. It will take 6 months to reach 100% design. It will not have to go out to bid; they will use the on-call contractor. They will keep the Carlyle lights.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/NCS-S-Irving>

South Walter Reed: Plans are at the 100% stage. It will cost \$8 million and will have to go out for bid. It is on hold because of Career Center construction.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/South-Walter-Reed-Drive-Complete-Street>

Speed bumps S. Irving St.: Part of the Vision Zero program managed by Christine Baker. S Irving between Rt. 50 and 2nd St. S is one of the pilot sites using modular materials. Susannah Keefe, an Irving St. resident, noted that drivers are slowing down in response to the speed humps. Bill Potupchuk noticed an almost immediate increase in traffic on the newly paved S. Highland St. The block of S. Highland St. between Rt. 50 and S. 2nd St. has very few street lights, is narrow and has NO sidewalks on either side of the street. Increased traffic makes it more dangerous.

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

Bus platform and safety improvements at the intersection of S. Glebe Rd. and Old S. Glebe Rd.: VDOT will do the median work in early 2025. They will use Zicla, a hardened rubber, which will make the platform flush with the sidewalk.

Columbia Pike Segment D: Arlington DOT will complete all segments of Columbia Pike by the end of 2025. The contract has a provision for a bonus if the work is finished early. 90% of the sewer work is complete in Segment D. Water and gas work will be done next. It may take Dominion another year after the construction is complete to pull all the wires, so there will still be restricted lanes on Columbia Pike.

STARS Study for Glebe Rd.: This is a VDOT effort with Arlington as a partner. Work is currently occurring at the intersection of N. Glebe and N. Cathedral.

Intersection at **9th and S. Glebe** safety improvements: This is still an active project but there was no project status.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/9thGlebeIntersectionProject>

The next meeting of AHCA will be in-person November 12, 2024. Please contact Brian Sigriz if you are interested in serving as the 2nd Vice President, or would like to volunteer in any other way.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.