

The Arlington Heights Civic Association May 14, 2025 meeting was called to order by President Brian Sigritz at 7:04 PM in the cafeteria at Alice West Fleet Elementary School.

Attendees: Gilda Acosta, Chris Alarcon, Greg Cohen, Kelly Davison, Mahender Dudani, Farah Eck, Evan Farley, Erin Hill, Eileen Janas, Dan Juengst, Andrew Martin, Marilyn Marton, Gail Massot, Olivier Massot, Conchita Mitchell, David Pouliott, Jonathan Reed, Janet Shannon, Brian Sigritz, Deborah Wallower

Visitors: J. D. Spain, Arlington County Board; Emilee Riches, Arlington Parks and Recreation, Jerusalem "Jerry" Solomon, Arlington Parks and Recreation ; Matt Cochrane, Tara Spuhler McCabe, Arlington County Fair Board; Jeffrey Lubin, Arlington Police Department liaison to the Arlington County Fair; Jessica Kaplan, Tim Aiken, Arlington Historical Society

The minutes of the February 25, 2025 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Kelly Davison reported \$3,246.71 in our account with 44 households paying dues. Dues of \$20 per year can be paid by cash, check and Venmo. Please contact Kelly to pay dues.

**President's report:**

The Grace Hopper Center (new Career Center) is on schedule to open in fall 2026. Activity this summer includes signalization and street-scaping on 9th St S; removal of medians from S. Walter Reed; and summer gas line work in the parking lot and at the corner of 9th S. and S. Highland. Designated library parking in the lot will shift during the summer.

Brian plans to send a letter from AHCA reminding the School Board of their commitment to a two-building—not three-building—final configuration, with Montessori moving into the current Career Center, demolition of the Patrick Henry building and restoration of green space. AHCA members are encouraged to educate new school board members on the long history of school board commitments to the neighborhood.

Work has continued on the sidewalk and curb extensions on Irving between 6th and 7th.

Nothing new on the timeline for Irving between 2nd S and 6th St S.

Columbia Pike Multimodal is still on schedule for completion of road work by the end of 2025.

Toll Brothers held a virtual meeting May 13 on the 2601 Columbia Pike project. It seems a well thought out project and will be pedestrian friendly. The CVS has moved to the Westmont building at the corner of S. Glebe and Columbia Pike.

Elkins project (Columbia Pike and S. Walter Reed) is still delayed.

The Police Department is doing quarterly meetings in north and south Arlington instead of meeting with civic associations. The next meetings are May 15 at Lubber Run and May 22 at Arlington Mill at 6:30-8:00 PM.

**Arlington County Fair:**

Jerusalem "Jerry" Solomon thanked attendees for their input at the February meeting and provided updates on fair activities.

Beer Garden:

They hope to move the beer garden from 2nd Street S. to the upper field. Alcohol sales on County property need an allowance through the Arlington County Code which must be approved by the County Board by June in order to enable the shift this year. The request to advertise was approved last week. It is still a proposal but they continue to work on it.

#### Traffic Flow

Last year they doubled the ridership on the free shuttles to 24,000 using the Courthouse garage. They are looking for a closer garage to increase the ridership.

#### Parking Enforcement:

Ms. Solomon will send the 2024 parking restrictions map to Brian Sigritz for distribution and feedback from the community.

#### Marketing:

AC Parks and Recreation will manage the marketing and social media outreach. They will try to emphasize keeping the neighborhood clean and having safe fun. They would be happy to get input from the neighborhood on the social media campaign.

Due to connection issues Ms. Solomon was not able to show her powerpoint presentation. It was distributed to the listserve by Brian Sigritz May 15, 2025.

Tara McCabe, Arlington County Fair Board, will be working with 150 volunteers, age 15 and older. Children under age 15 can also volunteer if they are accompanied by an adult.

Attendees requested parking permits for residents-only on both sides of nearby streets and more trash cans for fair-goers walking through the neighborhood. Churches along Rt. 50 have been approached about allowing fair parking; Faith Lutheran participates. The ABC license is for a beer garden, not sip and stroll. To support local restaurants, the Fair Board reaches out to Arlington vendors. It is challenging for some restaurants to operate the restaurant and support a five-day event. Many of the food trucks are Arlington-based.

Jeffrey Lubin is the Arlington Police Department officer assigned to the County Fair. (APD is offering a \$25,000 signing bonus for new police officers.)

#### **J.D. Spain, Arlington County Board**

J.D. Spain has lived in Penrose for 16 years. His children attended TJ, Long Branch and Washington and Liberty schools. The Board was able to support the \$1.69 billion budget without increasing real estate taxes. Board members are closely following current issues: people are losing federal jobs; families in Arlington are struggling and the construction on Columbia Pike is hurting businesses. The Career Center is a community issue not just a school issue. \$647 million is allocated to schools. He supports our teachers and public education. The meals tax was raised to 5% to help fill the shortfall and we are fortunate to have many visitors who pay the meals tax. Arlington is 40% minority; the immigrant population is afraid to ask for help. Arlington is NOT a sanctuary city. We are a diverse, vibrant, law-abiding community. People have a right to due process. The Board is monitoring the federal impact in Arlington and making attempts to work with the governor.

#### Q&A:

Attendees raised a number of issues of concern. Mr. Spain will provide feedback to Brian Sigritz on any he was not able to answer at the meeting.

- Green space issues at the Career Center and the demolition of the Patrick Henry building

- Change in policy at Ft. Myer prevents bikers commuting through the base as they have done for decades
- Funding uncertainty for AMERICORPS staff working with youth; funding for summer programs uncertain
- Assistance to immigrants; list of rights, due process; see the County website for names of groups that are helping
- Concern about Safety Rangers in Rosslyn (ARLNow article April 11, 2025)
- Guidance to Arlington Police Department for contact with ICE; APD follows the law and has criteria for their contact with ICE
- Concerns for businesses on the Pike; Susan Cunningham is the liaison to the Columbia Pike Partnership
- Concerns about poor construction practices on Columbia Pike
- Cosmetology inspections that are no longer being done by the state but aren't being picked up the Arlington Health Department

### **Jessica Kaplan and Tim Aiken, Arlington Historical Society (AHS)**

Jessica Kaplan and Tim Aiken, Arlington Historical Society (AHS), gave a brief presentation on the history of enslavement in Arlington and Memorializing the Enslaved project. Over 1200 individuals have been identified. AHS, the Black Heritage Museum, Arlington County and the Career Center are working to memorialize them through the memorial stones project; bronze plaques embedded in sidewalks throughout the County. They would like to work with Arlington Heights to memorialize enslaved people from our neighborhood. Nine people, who were enslaved on the Louisa Hunter property, have been identified. The memorial stones cost \$300 each.

The Executive Committee has agreed to fund a stone. Contact Brian Sigriz or Eileen Janas if you are interested in funding a memorial stone.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Janas  
Secretary, Arlington Heights Civic Association