

## **Ashton Heights Civic Association 11/16/2016 Meeting Minutes**

**Scott Sklar, AHCA President**, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM. He gave out kudos about what great support we are getting from all our various subcommittees for neighborhood concerns.

- After getting input from our community a “Letter of Principles” was submitted to the County Board including our community concerns about a Bed and Breakfast (B&B) being proposed for the large property on North Pershing Drive.
- After getting input from our community committee, another letter was submitted to the County Board including our community concerns about a hotel being proposed for the Staples space along Wilson Blvd.
- The gas pipeline project along Route 50 continues to progress. Brooke Alexander, our Tree Steward, is providing diligent support by keeping an eye on any trees that may be impacted along this construction area. She has been pointing out any concerns to the construction site manager if she feels that any trees may be in danger of getting injured by this activity. They have been responding to any of her concerns beautifully.
- Scott also announced that Carmen Kosik has taken on the advertising duties for our Ashton Heights Newsletter. She is aggressively looking for additional adds to support our newsletter publication.

Our **District Police Liaison, Officer Patrick Smithgall**, gave us an update of the types of crime that has taken place in our area. For the last month it has been a fairly quiet period. There were approximately 30 criminal activities in our area including fraudulent phone calls (lately new ones claiming to be from Dominion Electric), package theft, drunk and disorderly conduct, larceny from unlocked cars and stealing.

- In one condo there were 17 cases of packages being stolen from the mailroom. A sting operation was set up and the perpetrator was quickly apprehended.
- Also bikes have also been stolen from bike cages in condos.

Officer Smithgall again asked us to be vigilant with keeping an eye out for any suspicious activity and to please lock your homes and cars.

**Laura Lazour from the Department of Parks and Recreation** gave a presentation on renovations being proposed for the Lubber Run Community Center. She mentioned that an “early visioning” process was

very helpful to incorporate multiple uses for the renovation of this site. This past July the County Board agreed to the parameters to be applied to this sight. These parameters include in this plan the recreation center, a kindergarten, a new location for the Culpepper Garden Senior Center, a new gym and an underground parking lot. Parks and Recreation offices currently housed at this location, are to be moved to another site. Funding was approved this past November for the Lubber Run Recreation Center renovation. Bids are now being looked at for the architect to design this renovation. The County Board hopes to announce an award of this contract at the December 10, 2016 meeting.

**Jim Feaster and Ken Matzkin discussed the status of the defining of short term rentals in Arlington County.** They have found that currently there are no B&Bs in Arlington and no definition or parameters that are already established for a short term rental on private property. However they find on the Craig's List website for Arlington that there are approximately 1,000 short term rentals being advertised. The county government is conducting a survey and dialoging with residents on what they would like to be done. The "rule of thumb" is that the rental is for less than thirty days. The County Board plans on discussing this at the 12/10/2016 meeting. Jim and Ken encouraged everyone to complete the survey and the provide questions/concerns on the county website.

**Jim Feaster and Ken Matzkin also discussed the status of the changes being proposed for the Neighborhood Conservation Program.** It was decided to not make any changes to the current process.

**Robert Sharpe, Resident Ombudsman and Director of Constituent Services for Arlington County came to talk about his new role in the county government.** Arlington county wants to improve its communication and services to our residents. They want to make it a "one stop shop". If you are not getting a good response or services from Arlington County government members, please contact him to look into it.

The meeting was adjourned early around 8:45 PM, and AHCA members mingled and finished up the food.

Respectfully submitted by, Jodie Flakowicz, November 21, 2016.

