

Ashton Heights Civic Association 01/18/2017 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. First Scott reported for Brooke Alexander, the head of our Tree Canopy and Native Plants Subcommittee, the following:

- The gas pipeline project along Route 50 is finishing up. Brooke Alexander, our Tree Steward, continues to provide diligent support by keeping an eye on any trees that may be impacted along this construction area and talking with the pipeline crew about trees that may be impacted by their work. This has been very helpful.
- Ashton Heights has been granted \$22,000 for our tree canopy fund from Arlington County. \$25,000 has also been granted for the area along Route 50 where construction has destroyed/removed trees. This is to fund replacements trees for these areas.

Patrick Lueb from our Transportation Committee reported the following:

- Ashton Heights Parking Principles should be ready for our review next month.
- He is also attempting to get a feel for parking concerns in our neighborhood. He would like us to let him know where commuters are parking in our neighborhood, where there are parking concerns from an overflow of cars, say from a rental home with a lot of tenants. He hopes to meet with the county parking representative about our concerns.
- He also reminded us that a letter was submitted to the County Board including our community concerns about a hotel being proposed for the Staples space along Wilson Blvd. (A member of the impacted part of our community reported later in this same meeting that the Sheehan Company has not responded yet to our concerns).

Scott Sklar went on to mention:

- Don Beyer, our county representative, fought very hard to get the FAA to not direct the flights from Reagan National Airport to fly over our county. He was successful.
- Apparently a number of our residents have found that their recent water bills have been inordinately high. When the Arlington County Utilities Services (ACUS) were contacted about this, they claimed that

that there must be leaks somewhere in the home plumbing systems. These same residents contacted their plumbers to do an analysis of their plumbing systems and found that they had no leaking problem. Once this analysis was shared with ACUS they have submitted refunds. Scott is encouraging everyone to check their bills.

Arlington County Police, 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.

- Cars left open continue to be stolen from, for now just little things.
- In early December arrests were made for a few burglaries.
- There was an armed robbery at the jewelry store on Washington Blvd. for which an arrest was made of a person who resides in Alexandria.
- Incident on N. Nelson involving a juvenile and a cab driver, where the police were called. The juvenile was found to be under the influence of drugs. He pointed out the rising drug problem with opioids in Arlington. If you have not talked with your kids about the dangers of drugs, please do so now.
- There have been a number of pedestrians hit near Washington-Lee High School. Please be vigilant with looking out for pedestrians as you drive.
- A 10 year old was walking home near Lyon Park where a man in a black pick up truck, stopped and asked the child what they were doing. The child responded that they were walking home and took off. Please keep a look out for suspicious activity.
- Crime for the county for the last five years has gone down and for the last ten years crime has been significantly less.
- He handed out a list with various phone numbers on which one can report various crimes and to report other concerns.

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.

Josephine Peters, the Chief of the Arlington County Public Health Division, gave a presentation on Arlington County's Community Health Survey. This presentation included the following:

- The last survey was done in 2007.
- An information sheet about the Strategic Planning Process for this assessment was shared.
- They would like help with getting this survey out to all in Arlington County residents, please contact her if you have suggestions. She plans on sending us our copies of the survey through our list serve.

- Improvements/concerns since the last survey include:
 - Flu shots now being administered at a number of local pharmacies, has provided better access to these shots, which has helped bring down the number of flu cases in the county.
 - More access to health care for our residents came with the establishment of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.
 - Childhood obesity is high in our county, although Arlington residents are found very healthy overall.
 - An Opioid Emergency has been declared in our county - the number of deaths from this are seriously on the rise. Narcan is a medication used to block the effects of opioids, especially in overdose situation. This is now available.
 - No studies yet on the impact of iPhone and iPad use by both drivers of cars and pedestrians.

Tina Leane and Samantha Baker gave a presentation on the Ballston Business Improvement District (#wheremindsmeet). Some new improvements/activities mentioned include:

- The Farmers Markets period of operation has expanded from April thru November.
- Pop up concerts
- Food truck days
- Taste of Arlington now scheduled for 5/21/2017 for the 30th year.
- Medians on Fairfax Drive near the mall are being improved.
- *Artscape* on the 9th Street pedestrian bridge
- Walking Tour of Ballston app is now available
- *Ballston 360* - mapping tool app of the area
- *Ballston Connect* - a website for activities including food truck schedules, events and food specials at local restaurants.
- Marymount University construction of a 9 story educational building and a 15 story residential building is almost complete at Glebe and Fairfax Streets.
- The building to be built at the Carpool site has been approved to have 330 units.
- The development (which will include a Performing Arts Center) to be built at the funeral home parking lot is still on hold. They did not know the reason for the delay.

- 4040 Wilson Blvd located on the corner of Randolph St. has been approved to be a mixed use retail/office/apartments site. 8 levels of office suites and 12 levels of residential space along with retail areas.
- 750 North Glebe Road - the old Mazda dealership is slated to have a grocery store included in this building complex. Not sure which one yet.
- Ballston Quarter is slated to have 30-40% restaurants including a *Punch Bowl Social* restaurant/bowling alley, a cooking school, and retail of national chains and local boutiques.

A brochure was passed around.

Linda Kelleher the Executive Director of Culpepper Garden, a nonprofit retirement and supportive services community located at 4435 N. Pershing Drive. She gave a presentation about this community:

- Located on 4 acres
- 340 apartments - 267 independent living and 73 assisted living - \$1,500 - \$3,000 per month
- 44% rely on Social Security
- Wait lists for assisted living
- Staff - no turnover this past year
- Pets allowed
- Renovation beginning in June/July
 - \$10 million from HUD over two years. In current apartments bath tubs being replaced with showers. Old space of Senior Center being converted to 6 new apartments.

The meeting was adjourned early around 9:10 PM, and AHCA members mingled and finished up the food.

Respectfully submitted by, Jodie Flakowicz, January 24, 2017.