

Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association

Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Board Members in Attendance:

John Ford, President

Laura Stout, Vice President

Mary Ann Frias, Secretary

Fred Blott

Bill Braswell

Matt Fleming

Jon Judah

Ray Keaney

Sima Nasr, Communications

John Richardson

Michelle Winters

Guests:

June Gallagher, 17th Street, taught at Swanson. curious about Reed School

Lynne Lilly, 15th Street, grew up in Arlington, attended to Walter Reed, curious about Reed Project

Lynn Kelley, 18th and Lexington, children will be attending Reed.

Eric Karlinsky, 18th Street N., interested in Reed School

Richard Anton, George Mason. Created Greater Westover website with Matt Fleming

Administration

The minutes from the January 5, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter & TLHCA Website

John Ford called for interest in including/writing stories for the spring newsletter. John Richardson agreed to do one article about The Italian Store. Matt suggested an update on the Farmers Market, and Laura volunteered to do a story. Michelle suggested including an article about the Lee Highway meetings. April 1 is the deadline for contributions.

UPDATES

Missing Middle: John Richardson reported on the February 2nd meeting involving all local civic associations. Discussions involved what housing would be built/available for service employees/municipal employees that is affordable and where. Arlington housing will soon be priced out of the market and there are currently no plans to address the “missing middle” (middle income). There will be 4-5 additional listening sessions to discuss this issue. All participants agreed that there is a problem. Discussions *ensued* around the building of duplexes, the question is where to build them - one suggestion was building along neighborhood edges close to public transportation. Bill noted that the county has been working on this issue for about a year, and they hope to come to some resolution. Michelle added that the Missing Middle Study will be continuing for the next year. The study is divided into 3 phases. Michelle mentioned a website and a grant obtained to educate communities about the missing middle. Included on the site are visuals, a video, and a link to a webinar with AARP on 3/25 to discuss how it will be helpful for seniors in the community.

Greater Westover Website

Other civic associations were pleased with the Greater Westover logo created by Sima.

Civic Federation Arlington County Civic Federation passed a resolution on stormwater management. John Vihstadt will brief the board on this at the next meeting.

Reed School-Alyssa and John Ford noted that machines were installed at the Reed site to pump out groundwater but are very loud. The pump runs 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Some residents have complained to the county about the noise. Civic Associations have discussed creating a panel to handle complaints using the model created for the VHC expansion which has been successful. Any comments or concerns should be forwarded to John Ford who will forward them for the time being. Alyssa noted that once the project began, the communication from the county began to dwindle. Residents were concerned that they were not advised that the machines were going to be installed, and were not notified of early morning deliveries by large trucks deliveries with engines running and some blocking driveways. No changes have been observed in spite of these complaints. John will introduce Alyssa to Kathleen Trainor who may be of assistance. Bill noted that the residents most affected are those who need to be heard by the County.

Bill also remarked that there will be no parking for teachers on the site. A clause in the plan states that faculty will park in the neighborhood. He suggested that we need to help figure out how teachers can park without affecting residents.

Renaming: Laura reported on the renaming of the Reed School. There is a committee including representatives from the neighboring civic associations - 14 members. There have been three meetings, and a survey on name choices that closes Friday, March 11th. The School Board will make the final decision. A straw poll was split between the names McKinley and Reed. The survey includes five names: Cardinal (school mascot), Compass (continent theme), Exploration, Passport, and Kaleidoscope (arts integration at McKinley moving to new school). (The committee included a 5 year-old McKinley student). Jon Judah added that this is a sensitive issue. The survey was sent to approximately 400 families spanning the five civic associations. About 90 responses were received. The overwhelming sentiment was to keep the McKinley name. McKinley-Reed was also considered, but the committee moved away from names of people. Over 90% of students for the first 2 years are coming from McKinley. APS is advising the committee. APS noted that they are moving away from naming schools after people. Matt asked about the process once the county gets all survey results and whether the board will go back out and ask. John Ford said our report to APS can include the feedback from the survey. Jon Judah believes we owe it to residents to present the results. Matt suggested another survey round to see what residents say and then present results to APS so residents feel that they've been heard. Students are also taking the survey. Jon will go back to APS with the suggestion. The School Board meeting is 3/16. John Ford suggested we could band together with the other CAs on the suggestion.

Neighborhood Conservation: The sidewalk project planned at Inglewood and Kensington Streets (3-3½ block stretch) was discussed at the county meeting in late February which Matt and Bill both attended. Matt reported that well-organized meeting presentations were given with schematics, etc. The road width will be changed from 33 to 31 feet. Some of the sidewalk will be in the streetscape and not on the hill side. Parking will not be affected. Voting for the project is open from 4/1-4/30. The vote will be weighed by the amount of land owned by residents. Bill noted that it will be taken up in late April; the County board will hear in July if 60% of residents have voted for it. Construction will take from 6 months to a year. The entire sidewalk is County land. If any trees are affected, the county has said they will

plant new trees. John Ford asked if there is any action needed by TLHCA, and Bill replied no, rather, it's up to those residents affected. Bill said that formal residents' notice go out 4/1.

Officer Elections

Irene is the chair for the nominating committee and is reaching out to members for interest in serving.

Next Meeting

The next TLHCA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, and likely virtual.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.