

March 13, 2023

TLHCA President John Ford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from the January 11 meeting were approved without dissent, as was the Treasurer's Report.

Stormwater Detention Vault Construction. Alyssa briefed the meeting on construction activity related to the two large stormwater detention vaults that have now been installed and covered over by dirt at Cardinal School. She reported that the county will still be active in the area until the end of June. There are connections still to be completed linking various pipes to the new vaults and rerouting some utilities. The work probably won't be fully completed until the Fourth of July, with main traffic disruptions along N Lexington St between N 18th St and N 18th Rd.

N 18th St & Patrick Henry Drive. Two short blocks to the east, Laura reported that extensive traffic studies of our problematic intersection at Patrick Henry Drive and N 18th St have produced a county decision to install a permanent digital speed display along PHD approaching the intersection. The county is still reluctant to impose a 4-way stop here. Neighbors and the CA will need to remain vigilant and keep track of incidents of speeding along PHD at or near this intersection.

Westover/Cardinal Fest. Matt, Laura and John all reported on various aspects of the Westover-Cardinal Fest now set to take place on the grounds of the new school on Saturday, September 30 in the afternoon. The gala will celebrate both the new school and the restoration of the adjacent playing fields following over four years of non-stop construction on the site. Partners in planning and delivering this festival, in addition to TLHCA, include the Westover Village, Highland Park-Overlee Knolls and Leeway-Overlee CAs, the Cardinal School PTA, several unaffiliated party and civic lovers, and the Cardinal School principal. Next planning meeting is Monday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. at Westover Library.

The next TLHCA Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m., virtually.

Appeal for Civic Federation Assistance. Matt raised the issue of the powers and potential of neighborhood civic associations. He noted that there seems to be a lack of guidance for the CAs from the county's umbrella group, the Arlington County Civic Federation. He requested that CivFed provide written or in-person guidance for TLHCA as soon as is feasible, possibly at our annual meeting May 10. There was strong support for this suggestion.

Nominating Committee. The Board discussed establishing a nominating committee to identify candidates for the CA's four officer positions that come up for election at the annual meeting on May 10. Since there is a consensus that officer nominees should come from among present members of the board, and no present board member has indicated interest in running for any office, this idea was discarded. The incumbent officers, while acquiescent in serving another one-year term, cautioned that this willingness was not indefinite. It was noted that this paucity

of officer candidates is a fairly widespread issue among CAs in Arlington, particularly as we emerge from COVID-related restrictions.

Planning Committee Chair. Our special guest for the evening was current Arlington County Planning Commission chair Devanshi Patel. An attorney practicing in the county, she is a veteran of service on several pivotal county commissions already. She spoke briefly to Board members and approximately ten TLHCA residents who joined the meeting to hear her remarks.

Estimating that she spends approximately 25 hours per week on her current “voluntary” responsibilities, Ms. Patel answered the many questions posed by TLHCA members in attendance. As she and her committee wrestle with land use and development issues that are at the heart of the discord presently roiling the county’s political and civic life, she emphasized that transparency and clarity, especially in matters involving site plan and land use issues and hearings, are paramount in her goals for the planning commission.

Noting that her appearance at our meeting fell between the planning commission’s March 8 approval of several “Missing Middle” regulatory changes and the County Board’s planned decisive March 18 meeting on MM, Ms. Patel did say that the whole missing middle issue highlights “the housing crisis in Arlington County.” She said her commission has around 30 projects currently under review, many of them mixed-use proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. In attendance were Board members John Ford, Laura Stout, Irene Szopo, Matt Fleming, Alyssa Cowden, Michelle Winters, Bill Braswell and Eric Massant. Excused were Sima Nasr, John Richardson and John Vihstadt. Unexcused were Dave Magowan, Jon Judah and Mary Ann Frias.

Respectfully submitted,]

J Ford, deputizing for John Richardson