

**Tara-Leeway Heights Citizens Association
Board of Director Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2022**

1. The Board of Directors of the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association (TLHCA) met by Zoom at 7:00 PM Wednesday, November 9, 2022. Directors present and constituting a quorum were John Ford (President), Laura Stout (Vice-President), John Richardson (Secretary), Irene Szopo (Treasurer), Bill Braswell, Eric Massant, Irene Szopo, and John Vihstadt. Michelle Winters and Matt Fleming had advised their inability to attend. No word was received from Alyssa Cowden, Pete Erickson, Mary Ann Frias, Jon Judah, and Dave McGowan. Four guests also attended.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the TLHCA Board of Directors meeting of September 14, 2022 were approved as distributed.
3. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed November 1, 2022.

United Bank		
October 1, 2022 Bank Balance		\$3853.82
Bank deposits -----		
Payments:		
Sima Nasr- TLHCA Zoom Renewal		\$157.40
October 31, 2022 Bank Balance	\$3696.42	
PayPal		
October 1, 2022 PayPal Balance		\$1665.56
Dues	\$9.22	
Donations	—	
October 31, 2022 PayPal Balance		\$1674.78
Total	\$5371.20	

Because of the current balance of \$5,371.20, a question was raised about possible use of some or all of the funds for community purposes. Mr. Ford described discussions underway among several civic associations and PTA's about sponsoring a community celebration once the new stormwater vaults underground at Cardinal School are completed sometime next spring. An assessment that the grounds will require time for recovery will push the date for the event beyond the opening of school next fall. Mr. Ford said that the celebration would likely include games and hot dogs and welcomed volunteers willing to help with organization. Invitees (no speeches) would include the County Manager, County Board members, and other Arlington figures in order to keep the County engaged on the stormwater issue. There was discussion

about whether alcohol would be permissible/encouraged. Mr. Vihstadt reported County Board discussions about permitting alcohol consumption in designated public areas.

4. County Traffic Survey: Mr. Ford reported that the County has distributed a survey questionnaire about safety improvements to the Patrick Henry Dr./N. 18th St. intersection. The survey is to be completed and returned by November 20. John Ford, Sima Nasr, Matt Fleming, and John Richardson will meet at 10:00 AM Monday, Nov. 14, to discuss the issue.

5. Rank-Choice voting: Dave Schutz, representing the Civic Federation “Tiger Committee” on considering rank-choice voting in Arlington as part of voting reform, gave a report that went into considerable detail (John Vihstadt is also a member of the committee). Local General Assembly Delegate Patrick Hope has introduced legislation in Richmond on the subject and is working with the Tiger Committee for the next legislative session. Mr. Schutz said that both the County Board and Arlington School Board, each with five members, would probably be increased to seven each. Rank-choice voting – where multiple candidates are on the ballot for the same position – is currently practiced widely in other countries and to some extent in the United States. It distributes voter preferences to all named candidates below one’s first choice and offers the opportunity for under-represented (e.g., minority, less popular) viewpoints to be represented in public bodies, whereas “first past the post” winners invariably represent the best-known candidates. Mr. Schutz noted that there are a number of other questions under consideration, including converting County Board jobs to full time, raising their salaries, creating electoral districts vice at-large candidates (the current system), and lengthening terms of service. Certain County Board members currently favor implementing rank-choice voting for 2023 Arlington primaries, but no decisions have been made. The current election system provides predictability. Conversion to machine-readable ballots would speed the vote count. Mr. Schutz reiterated that the goal of considering rank-choice voting is to increase representation of underserved Arlington communities and said that one application would see voting for election of two (three and four) tranches of rank-choice candidates two years apart. Mr. Schutz noted that Arlington is required to follow the so-called Dillon Rule, by which the General Assembly sets our election guidelines. Regardless of what the Tiger Committee proposes, there are several possible responses, including “all or nothing” implementation, partial implementation, or rejection by the Civic Federation before the County Board were to decide.

6. Other Issues:

a. Laura Stout raised again the County survey of the Patrick Henry/18th St. intersection, due to be completed by Nov. 20. It was agreed that it should be included in the December TLHCA newsletter.

b. Condolence Card: Mr. Ford will send Michelle Winters a condolence card in the name of the Board for the recent passing of her mother.

c. VHC: Mr. Ford noted that recent meetings of groups concerned about the large-scale expansion of Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) have been less contentious than in the past, as most of the exterior construction is complete, even though it will not be ready by December 31 as hoped.

d. Stormwater Vaults: Mr. Ford said that Director Alyssa Cowden reports good coordination with the groups carrying out the effort.

e. Holiday Event: Laura Stout volunteered to host a holiday-time social event for the TLHCA Board, for which she received effusive thanks from the members.

7. Next Board Meeting: Mr. Ford announced that the next Board meeting will be held January 11, 2023, whether in person or by Zoom to be determined.

8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John P. Richardson, Secretary