

The annual meeting of the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association was called to order by president John Ford at 7:00 p.m. on May 10, 2023. Board members present were Laura Stout, Irene Szopo, Sima Nasr, Michelle Winters, Matt Fleming, Bill Braswell and Eric Massant. John Richardson was out of the country and could not attend. Community members attending included Kym McMillan, Heather Salinas, Greg Perrett, Al Herman, Jon Ware and Ray Keaney.

Arlington County Elections Office Deputy Director Tate Fall appeared by Zoom to brief members on practical aspects of Rank Choice Voting, which will be employed by the county for the June 20 Democratic primary election for the two County Board seats that will be contested in November.

Ms. Fall reported that:

- Voters will be asked to rank order their top three preferences among the six contenders. RCV will apply only to this year's County Board primary election. Ballots will be two sided: One side will feature all except CB elections, to be conducted in traditional fashion. The reverse side will explain and offer RCV.
- No write-in votes will be allowed for the June CB primary election. June 20 is also the deadline for declaration of candidacy for the November general election, by state law.
- Results of the June 20 primary election will take several days to process, but they should be published by no later than June 27.

In response to requests from Board members at the March meeting, Arlington County Civic Federation board of directors chair Jackie Snelling briefed on CivFed's evolving role in the county and its relationship to individual civic associations.

She emphasized that CivFed is avowedly non-partisan, and represents nearly 85 organizations, of whom two-thirds are neighborhood CAs and the rest are largely advocacy groups ranging from the Arlington Historical Society to the Arlington Tree Action Group. CivFed is a "big tent" that aims to accommodate diverse ideas and opinions and to unite where possible to push for reforms in county government and process.

Jackie solicited and received from members feedback on a proposed flyer she is developing to explain CivFed to newcomers. Among the suggestions for CivFed assistance to our CA were: generic newsletter content; information on event planning details such as permit and alcohol requirements; access to newsletters such as ANNE, and practical advice on best practices among other CAs.

TLHCA's annual elections were conducted. Incumbent president John Ford, vice president Laura Stout, treasurer Irene Szopo and secretary John Richardson were reelected without opposition. Current CivFed delegates Bill Braswell, John Ford, Laura Stout and John Vihstadt were reelected for another term. Board member Eric Massant expressed interest in serving as an alternate delegate and was elected without dissent.

Treasurer Irene Szopo reported a healthy bank balance of just above \$5,000, and after some discussion, the board authorized the September 30 Westover Day planning committee (Laura Stout, Matt Fleming, Sima Nasr and John Ford) to commit \$1,250 (with a possible ceiling of \$1,500) in support of this community-wide event. Several big-ticket expenses were itemized. Other sponsors will also contribute. They include three other CAs, the Westover Farmers' Market and the Cardinal School PTA.

Minutes of the March 15 meeting and the May treasurer's report were approved. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. .

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.