

DRAFT

Meeting called to order by Julie Lee at 7:35 p.m.

President Lee introduced Monique O'Grady, Arlington School Board Chair, for a report on the beginning of the school year and other important APS issues.

Ms. O'Grady reported that Tuesday, September 8, was the first day of the school year for most students. All students are receiving full-time distance learning. There were some technical problems on Tuesday, but they were corrected by Wednesday. Students receive independent online or offline instruction on Mondays and live, online instruction Tuesday through Friday, except for special needs students who receive live, online instruction on all five days. On Friday, September 11, 92% of APS students participated in synchronous (live, online) instruction. The county received a \$500,000 grant for expanding access to the internet. All Pre-K through 2nd grade students have I-pads. The county hopes to provide access to some high-density apartment buildings. Technical help is available by phone.

On the issue of the reopening of APS schools, special needs students will be the first to return, possibly sometime this fall, but criteria for opening include input from county health personnel, the Covid-19 infection rate, providing a safe environment (temperature screening, face coverings, social distancing, contact tracing, sanitation) as well as staffing, food service, and transportation.

The School Board will re-evaluate the presence of School Resource Officers. A Memorandum of Understanding between APS and the Arlington Police Department regarding SROs has been expanded from 2 pages to 11 pages and will be reviewed this year. Citizens can provide input on the Engage with APS page of the APS website (apsva.us).

APS may have to adjust its budget for the 2020-2021 school year because of the financial impact of Covid-19. There will be a budget deficit of \$5 million.

Elementary School boundary changes will be discussed at the School Board meeting on September 24, with a decision to be made in December. Chairwoman O'Grady stressed that all criteria will not be achieved in this boundary change plan, commenting that "Sometimes it takes several steps to get to the equity we desire."

Janet Boyd of the Arlington League of Women Voters did a presentation on registration and different ways of voting in the November 3 election. The registration deadline is October 13. Voters must update a name or address change by the deadline. Citizens can go to elections.virginia.gov for voting information. Options are voting at the polls on election day, voting early in person (started September 18), and absentee or mail-in voting. In lieu of

mailing, there are drop boxes at the Madison, Walter Reed, Aurora Hills and Langston Brown Community Centers and at the registrar's office (2100 Clarendon Blvd).

Pippy Sickbert reported on the Glencarlyn Steering Committee for Racial Equity, which started meeting weekly in May. Its goal is to implement a dialogue on race in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. The committee conducted a neighborhood survey on racial issues. No responses mentioned incidents of discrimination in the community. An evening program – "Glencarlyn Through the Prism of Race: A Conversation" – will be held on October 15, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Zoom. Marty Swain, a former APS teacher and founder of Challenging Racism, will be the facilitator. The committee is drafting, and the executive committee will review, a resolution to present at the November GCA meeting. Anyone interested in participating in the program and/or joining the Steering Committee can do so at gcainterests@gmail.com.

GCA Business Meeting

The minutes from the May 4, 2020 meeting were read and approved. No corrections were made.

Treasurer's Report: Tim Aiken reported that there is a \$19,950.59 balance in the GCA account and there are 114 dues-paying members.

Neighborhood Conservation (NCAC) Report: Kathy Reeder's update on the NC Street Improvement Project on Second St. S. /S. Kensington St.: A sign change and tree planting are the last steps. Another ongoing street improvement project is on 4th St. S. between Kensington and Illinois. Information on the project schedule will be communicated in the Village View. Information on both projects is available at Glencarlyn.org under the NC Activities tab. For questions, the county contact is Laura Simpson (lsimpson@arlingtonva.us).

Civic Federation Report: On Tuesday, September 8, Gretchen Wiedemeyer provided voting information and there was a candidates' forum. Local candidates on the November 3 ballot answered questions presented individually. The Civic Federation voted to create a task force to look at how the county government is structured.

Village View: The November deadline for submission is October 10.

Old Business

Glencarlyn Activities Day: President Lee reported that the September 12–13 Activities Day was a success, with many families involved in the sidewalk chalk and scavenger hunt competitions. Numerous neighbors appreciated the beauty and variety of Glencarlyn's trees on the self-led tree tour. The tour is posted on the Glencarlyn Neighborhood website for all to enjoy now and into the fall. Ms. Lee expressed appreciation to the tree tour committee and to

Courtney Holmes for her work organizing fun and festive activities for the neighborhood children.

Former Virginia Hospital Center (Carlin Springs site): Decoupling of the doctor's office building will begin shortly, but there will be no building demolition until next year. Steve Young led a walking tour of the property to emphasize the historic elements and natural resources on the property. In attendance were County Board Chair Libby Garvey and Greg Emanuel, Director of the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services.

Vandalism and theft: Recently, acts of vandalism and theft have been committed at the library garden, Carlin Hall, the St. John's Church garden, and the picnic shelter at the end of the 3rd St. entrance to Glencarlyn Park. Citizens are asked to take photos if they observe damage and to file a report with the police or call Julie Lee if they see any evidence of such acts.

The county's Missing Middle Housing Study proposes changing the zoning from single family to duplex, triplex and multi-plex homes in areas of the county. On September 22, the County Board will have their first work session to adopt the charge and scope of the study. The GCA wants to know if they will propose re-zoning in a variety of neighborhoods, not just smaller neighborhoods with small lots.

New Business

Plans to remove sections of the Manchester St. fence that crosses 1st St. S. and 2nd St. S. along the east side of S. Manchester St. are going forward.

Libby Garvey, Chair of the Arlington County Board, will speak at the October 5 GCA meeting. Please send questions in advance to: gcaspecial@glencarlyn.org

It was decided that GCA will not sponsor Halloween trick or treating this year. We have not done so in the past. Because of Covid-19 we considered it this year. We are waiting for guidance from Arlington County.

At the November 2 GCA meeting, representatives from Arlington County's Dept. of Environmental Services will present a program on Recycling Right and will discuss the correct way to separate, prepare, and dispose of recyclables.

GCA plans to try to hold our annual luminaria display by following Covid-19 protocols during the sales and distribution process. Luminaria is scheduled for December 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.