

DRAFT

Meeting called to order by Julie Lee at 7:33 PM.

President Lee introduced Pippy who to discuss the Zoom meeting process. We will take questions via chat. Pippy will serve as the moderator. President Lee thanked everyone for joining over Zoom. We will take all questions via chat. President Lee thanked Janet Kopenhaver, President of Embracing Arlington Arts to discuss its organization as well as how the group has been assisting artists and arts organizations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Ms. Kopenhaver thanked President Lee for inviting her. EAA was established in February 2017 and is the only organization advocating for all arts genres in Arlington. EAA works closely with the Arlington Board and Arlington Manager. Their mission is to enhance the health and vibrancy of arts in Arlington and the DC region.

They achieve their mission through media outreach (radio, podcasts) including many local, state and national dignitaries. Their weekly podcast has continued through the shutdown. They have been in the Washington Post most recently. A monthly newsletter includes a comprehensive calendar of events on their website. EAA maintains an active social media presence.

EAA spearheads initiatives to maintain and grow the County's cultural identity:

- Hosts workshops for arts organizations
- ARLNOW subscription that benefits all arts organizations
- Led grassroots advocacy effort against draconian budget cuts proposed in 2019 (work resulted in cuts being reversed)
- Infrastructure initiative for quality performing arts venue

EAA has been responding to the COVID-19 crisis. They have added resources to its website, broken into five focus areas:

- Financial assistance
- Well-being of Ourselves
- Technology
- Continuing Programming
- Pro Bono Expert Advice

They established a bi-weekly Zoom call for arts groups to swap intelligence, network, talk and provide support. They feature guest speakers in the five focus areas.

They have updated their website to include a calendar of online events.

For those interested in ways to help:

Financial:

- Direct donations if you are able
- If you're already holding a ticket – donate it back

- Purchase or renew a subscription now

Other ways to help include joining a board, patronize the groups (buy) and spread the word.

EAA has an infrastructure initiative underway. Several venues have closed in recent years (Artisphere, Iota, Clarendon Ballroom, Rosslyn Spectrum all closed and VA Square Black Box rescinded). Restaurants are losing roughly \$400,000 in revenue as a result of not having a black box theatre in Arlington.

\$18 Million is the revenue from arts in Arlington and employs around 1600 people.

Arts organizations have shrunk by around half in recent years. Cultural groups have dwindled down to 3-4.

EAA's initiative is to get a new flexible performing arts center built. It would be a public-private partnership. It would assume no county management or staff. Three resident theater organizations would be housed there. A capital campaign would be run to raise money for the interior space. Our neighboring jurisdictions already have options including two in Tysons, one in Falls Church, Herndon and Alexandria. The National Conservatory for Dramatic Arts would be the daytime tenant. Encore Theater would be a partner and would hold some smaller performances there. Some organizations that could take advantage would include: contemporary opera company, classical music organizations, dance company and live performances.

Other uses could include community organizations, non-profit organizations, summer camps, church services, film screening, Capital Fringe Festival, Artist and Theater "hub" in the lobby.

Question: what are your funding sources? A third corporate sponsors, a third individuals and a third from grants.

Question: Are those Zoom support calls recorded? They sound like they have great information. Two have been recorded. PowerPoint presentations are all available on the website.

Question: I assume donations are tax-deductible. Yes, they are.

Question: My daughter is a W-L senior. What college internships are available? Talk to Encore. They are a good place to start. Otherwise, Signature and Syntetic Theaters could be options. I will add it to my list for things to add to the website.

Question: Syntetic does not own building. Developer owns Signature building. Signature raised money to build it out. Signature paid taxes and rent a few years ago. Usually theatres in DC or Maryland do not pay rent. County stepped in and said to Signature that they don't have to pay rent anymore and county loaned them money to pay back taxes. Arlington owns the building.

Question: How do other jurisdictions compare to Arlington? We are low in terms of grants compared to other jurisdictions.

Question: With the closing of the other venues, why did Arlington decide to rescind the black box funding? Politics. County staff were only looking at the scenario that had the county managing the property (one of five options presented).

President Lee thanked Ms. Kopenhaver for her information.

Called meeting to order.

Minutes were submitted via on the website. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: \$16,310 and 201 paying dues members.

NCAC: 2nd street work is largely complete. Remaining actions is to install parking signage, paint stop bars and landscaping. Planting will take place in the fall. Any issues with the existing work, should reach out to the project manager or county representative (in Village View article). Arlington is looking for ways to offer virtual design review for 4th Street work. NC staff is exploring options for virtual presentations if they get permission. After review approval, it normally takes six months to bid out. This will likely be delayed. On Glencarlyn website, information can be found. No new updates on 6th Street for turnaround at dead end. A plan to beautify the area at the end of 1st Street South.

Civ Fed: Meeting only for executive committee.

Village View: Printing will be pushed out for the June edition. Jerry will be taking photographs of graduating seniors and will feature them in the June edition. If you have content, let Brandon Hemel know.

No more old business.

New business and announcements. Sincere thanks to Alex Hecht and Noah Cahrssen for their service as well as Jeff Liteman for his work on the Nominating Committee.

Elections: Slate presented. Slate approved as presented. New slate of officers were elected. President Lee thanked everyone for offering to serve.

GCA will be taking photos of all neighborhood high school seniors (at least 15 in the neighborhood). Jerry will set up a background under the portico under the library. If you know any seniors, have them reach out to Julie or Latonya. It will take place after May 11.

There have been traffic issues at the 3rd and Lexington intersections as well as the 4th and Lexington intersections. If you see something, take down the car details (descriptions and license plates) and communicate them directly to President Lee.

Please keep an eye out on your neighbors. If you see something reach out to block captains or to President Lee. Suggestion made to include an article in the Village View.

Concern about a neighbor who walks around without a shirt. Many in the neighborhood is aware of his behavior and have reached out to their family. We're limited in how to act.

Concern about 8-13 year old boys riding bikes without masks and not obeying stop signs, etc. Street safety is an issue that we can promote in an Update.

Suggestion made to add footer on board slate to make clear that the Facebook page is not a part of GCA as well as to reach out to the moderator of the page to include.

Next meeting is September 14.

Glencarlyn Days is tentatively postponed until September 11-12, 2020. Dave Cahill will be assisting with the Friday night BBQ.

Thanks to Pippy and for her support to prepare for this Zoom meeting.

Adjourned at 8:55 pm.