

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Courtney Holmes at 7:30 pm.

Arlington School Board Chair, Dr. Barbara Kanninen was introduced by Vice president Holmes. Dr Kanninen is serving her second term as school board chair, since joining the Board in 2015.

Dr. Kanninen outlined the Arlington Public Schools' (APS) priorities for the 2021-2022. They are: ensuring student well-being and academic progress; advancing 2018-24 Strategic Plan goals with focus on innovation and equity; recruiting and investing in a high-quality and diverse workforce to ensure APS is the place where talented individuals choose to work; and improving operational efficiency. Additionally, Dr. Kanninen spoke about keeping in mind personal recovery time for teachers and staff, and reminded meeting attendees how teachers are continuously facing challenging times. When asked about what operational efficiencies, she responded that in some ways APS continues to operate like a small-town school system, which it hasn't been for many years. In the past, there was little coordination between APS planning offices and county government planning offices. Now APS and the county demographers are working in a more cohesive way to focus and prepare for any population changes.

Over the past year, APS adjusted boundaries, opened two new elementary schools and moved two schools to new locations. By opening Cardinal Elementary in Westover and Innovation Elementary in Courthouse, APS added two new neighborhood schools and moved Arlington Traditional School (ATS) to the former McKinley Elementary School site and Escuela Key to the former ATS building on N. George Mason Drive. When asked about upcoming boundary changes, she stated that there will be small boundary shifts next school year but none effecting Campbell Elementary, Carlin Springs Elementary or Kenmore Middle. Growth has leveled off and APS believes it has enough elementary seats for all students. But the only neighborhood schools on the western side of Columbia Pike are Carlin Springs and Abington so she cannot rule out future boundary changes if the population grows in unexpected ways. Additionally, the Kenmore site is the only large site owned by APS on the western edge of the county and there are not too many other opportunities to repurpose building sites if needed. Continuing to discuss school construction and boundaries, Dr. Kanninen told the attendees that APS does not anticipate new construction beyond the Career Center site in the next ten yea but nothing is off the table if Arlington growth increases more than expected.

Dr Kanninen reiterated APS's support for virtual learning for students and families who request it although the system is struggling with staffing for the classes. As stated in the Virginia Constitution, Arlington is obligated to instruct every student who lives within the County. In that regard, the school continues its support for immigrant families. APS is proud to participate in Blue Star Welcome Week, a nationwide initiative to build a better sense of belonging and community for military families.

Old Business

Treasurer's report by Tim Aiken. There are 172 new dues paying members - including 49 new members from the Glencarlyn Day BBQ and 34 from the pancake breakfast - and a balance of \$22,845.00.

Civic Federation report by Tim Aiken. They held a candidate debate at the meeting on September 14, which included candidates for the Arlington County Board, the Arlington School Board, and the Virginia House of Delegates. CivFed debated, modified, and approved a resolution on diversity, equity, belonging, and inclusion. The acoustics were poor, and it was very hard to hear. Tim encourages Glencarlyn's delegates and alternates to attend the meetings. Civic Federation Delegate Sue Campbell found it helpful to hear the candidates. She was amazed and encouraged by the resolution to work on issues of diversity and equity. There is a recording of the meeting at civfed.org.

Neighborhood Conservation Committee report by Kathy Reeder. On the 4th St project, which has been approved, a construction manager has been assigned and is working with the contractor. The start date is expected to be sometime this fall. Residents will be invited to an onsite preconstruction meeting. It is usually announced a week to two weeks in advance. Kathy will notify us of the meeting in The Village View and Glencarlyn Updates, and on Glencarlyn.org at the NC activities tab. For more information, email Kathy at kathleenreeder@comcast.net. On the Kenmore wooded area proposed project, some additional data must be obtained before it is finalized. The NC conservation staff provided a draft list of improvements for that proposed project, including improvements in the wooded area at the west end of the Kenmore property, the S Manchester St entrance and frontage, as well as the 2nd St S. dead end and the east side of S Manchester St. For a detailed description, go to Glencarlyn.org on the NC activities tab. The proposed scope of work is not final. Arlington Public Schools will have a major voice in the proposed work on the property. At the November 1st GCA meeting, we will be voting on supporting this project. Pete Olivier asked about the earlier process of opening up the fence in that area. This was not an NC project. According to Peter Olivere, the opening of the fence was reduced on both 2nd and 1st Streets S. by half. According to Darlene (no last name given), whose property is adjacent to the fenced area on 1st St., the fence opening at 1st St was reduced because of the location of her driveway nearby. Kathy will get some information on that issue. Pete suggested delivering flyers about the proposed plans for the new project. Kathy will look into that.

Village View report by Brandon Hemel. The deadline for the next issue is October 10.

Steering Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion, reported by Pippy Sickbert. We held an event on September 30th called "A Conversation with our Hispanic/Latino Neighbors." It was an overwhelming success, with credit due to the facilitator Kathleen McSweeney, who pulled together a panel of diverse Latino Arlingtonians. It was an interesting conversation with Kathleen giving a history of Latinos in the US, in Arlington and in our neighborhood. We partnered with a number of other Arlington civic associations. Forty-eight people registered and 31 attended. Our Community Outreach Officer, Officer Montoya, attended and announced that he has been appointed to a new position as the Arlington Police Department's Latino Liaison. Samia Bird, County Chief Race and Equity Officer, posted that our program was a contribution to National Hispanic Heritage month.

Glencarlyn Directory. Advertisers and people with suggestions for advertisers should contact Julie Lee. Sara Williams has begun the process of emailing to confirm names and addresses. She hopes to be done by next week to get it to printer. Hopefully, the new directory will go out with the November Village View.

Welcome packets are available. Contact Julie Lee for more information.

We will have the **Luminaria** display on Dec 11th with the rain date on the 18th. Afterward, there will be cider, snacks, a fire pit and other activities in the Library parking lot. A neighbor has reached out with new ideas on how to celebrate winter holidays. More on that to come.

New Business

Upcoming GCA meetings. The next meeting will be November 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.