

DRAFT

The meeting called to order by President Julie Lee at 7:35 pm.

The speaker for the evening was Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth's Attorney (CWA) for Arlington and the City of Falls Church. Parisa was elected in 2019 for a four-year term. She has 20 years' experience in criminal justice reform, is a law professor, and her campaign platform included establishing a conviction review unit, a restorative justice plan and expanding and implementing (jail) diversion programs. Restorative justice goals include: vertical prosecution to make sure victims only have to tell their story once, victim listening sessions, providing victim advocates (50% of victims of violent crimes don't report), bringing restorative justice into the schools by training staff in the restorative justice process for disciplinary issues, establishing a disability coalition (DHS, Police Dept., Sheriff's office, advocates) and a disability response team to support defendants and victims. Other priorities include openness and transparency of the CWA's office, COVID-19 reduction (particularly in the jail population), and increasing communication from the community. During the question-and-answer period, Cory Sklar recommended the CWA office's newsletter, *The Justice Digest*. Citizens can subscribe at CWA__info@arlingtonva.us.

Parisa's office doesn't ask for cash bail in any case. They ask for a defendant to be held if that person represents a danger, and otherwise will appeal if the court sets bail. The jail population is 35% lower than when Parisa came into office. Because of COVID-19 the CWA's office collaborated with the Sheriff's office to get people with low bond amounts out of jail. There were questions about asset forfeitures (there must be a clear cause) and plea bargaining. Plea bargaining - which is how 98% of the cases in Arlington have been resolved - should not be coercive, but it is ultimately the court's decision.

Old Business

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the June GCA meeting, which was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report by Tim Aiken. There are 169 dues-paying members, and a balance of \$21,475.00. Eighty-three families paid dues during Glencarlyn Days.

Civic Federation report by Tim Aiken. The Civic Federation has been in recess. In June, the Director of Budget and Management presented the Capital Improvement Plan for 2022 to 2024. There will be an external release of a review of Police Practices. The Bond Referendum will be on the Fall ballot.

Neighborhood Conservation Committee report by Kathy Reeder. The 4th St. S. contract was awarded and a construction manager assigned. It will involve a lot of water main, gas line and power line work. The start date is in the fall. The latest word on the Kenmore Middle School

wooded area is that there will be surveying done. There is a description of the project at Glencarlyn.org, but the scope is not final. APS will have the final say, as they own the land.

Village View report by Brandon Hemel. The deadline for October submissions is tonight (Sept. 13). The deadline for the Nov. issue is October 10.

Steering Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion report by Pippy Sickbert. An annual report listing the committee's accomplishments in its first year was delivered to the GCA Board in August. Plans for the 2021-2022 year include continuing engagement with our Glencarlyn neighbors; three to four events, the first of which is *A Conversation with our Hispanic/Latino Neighbors* on September 30; and ongoing partnerships with the Arlington Diversity and Racial Equity and the Civic Federation Diversity Committees. We are partnering with other neighborhood civic associations, and our committee has been consulted by some of them about its mission and operations. Pippy thanked the Executive Committee for enabling the committee to continue its work.

Report on Glencarlyn Day by Courtney Holmes. Courtney thanked the many volunteers. She mentioned meeting many new families and hopes to have even more involvement next year. She is interested in feedback on how to make the events better and more inclusive. Having so many activities for the kids at the Friday night BBQ added to its success. She thanked Dave Cahill for his significant help with the food.

Neighborhood Directory report by Julie Lee. The processes of verification, proofing and formatting are continuing. Julie is reaching out to advertisers to defray the cost of printing, estimated at \$2,500. The cost of ads is \$75 for an eighth of a page, \$400 for a full-page ad inside the directory, and \$500 for the inside front cover. Other sizes range from \$125 to \$250. If anyone else wants to solicit advertisers, Julie will email them a letter with the information. Jeff Liteman suggested offering Dave Cahill a free quarter page ad as a way of thanking him for his contributions to the Glencarlyn Day BBQ.

Julie Lee reported that the Glencarlyn Library opened on the 7th of September. It is now open six days a week. To promote its continuation, all are asked to check out books. Mike Nelson, formerly at Glencarlyn, has been promoted to Youth Services at Central Library. Currently, the Cherrydale Branch Manager is also managing the Glencarlyn Branch. Board Chair Matt de Ferranti has told Julie that the discussion of closing our branch will not come up again for the next five years. The library is operating under COVID-19 funding now, but there will be another County funding discussion next April.

The Welcome Packet. Janet Fedak and Deborah Elkinton did the initial work. Courtney Holmes and Brandon Hemel formatted it, Kathy Reeder was proofreader, and Doug LeRoy will have it up tomorrow on the Glencarlyn Website. The condensed printed version is seven pages. A QR code and link on the front page takes you to the GCA website, and there are asterisks for the articles and links to resources. It will be distributed in a plastic folder in the Glencarlyn tote bag, along with some maps and brochures. Janet has 20 copies ready for

distribution. There will be an article about the packet in the Village View, and neighbors can reach out to Deborah or Janet for a delivery to a new resident.

New Business

Halloween 2021 Julie Lee has received many emails about trick or treating this year. Trick or treating will be on Halloween night, after dark, as it has been pre-COVID-19. This is not a Civic Association sponsored activity.

The 2022 GCA Budget report was presented by President Julie Lee and Treasurer Tim Aiken. There was a budget surplus at the end of FY 2020-21. During the current fiscal year, we are doing more things, including publishing the new directory and having two Glencarlyn Day celebrations. There will be a deficit this year. Printing costs for the Village View and the Directory are way up. The Welcome Packet and REI committee events added to our expenses. On the GCA Updates there is a link to budget expenditures for FY 2021-22. Julie commented that the expenses are justified, but we need to find ways to generate revenue. In January, she will look into apparel for next June's Glencarlyn Day. Cary Sklar asked if we could solicit donations by putting an item in the Village View or GCA Updates.

A motion to accept the budget was made by Jeff Liteman and seconded by Kathy Reeder. The budget was accepted.

Gratitude was expressed to Doug LeRoy, Webmaster and GCA Updates Manager, for his 20 years of dedicated service. He will be transitioning out of the position over the next year. Doug expressed his appreciation to Scott Downey for tech support and Pete Olivere for essential help.

Upcoming Events

9/30 A Conversation with our Hispanic/Latino Neighbors

10/4 GCA meeting with speaker Barbara Kanninen, School Board Chair

11/1 GCA meeting with speaker Michelle Winters, Alliance for Housing Solutions

12/6 GCA meeting with speaker Katie Cristol, Vice-Chair (and next Chair), Arlington County Board

A suggestion was made for a county naturalist to talk about the condition of Arlington's parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.