

# ***DRAFT***

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Lee at 7:00 pm.

## **Old Business**

Approval of minutes. Approval of the April minutes was tabled until September.

Treasurer's report. Tim Aiken was not present. Julie Lee announced that GCA now has 219 dues-paying members and a balance of \$21,758.

Civic Federation report. No report. The next report will be at the September meeting.

Neighborhood Conservation Committee report by Kathy Reeder. There will be no parking on the 5500 to 5600 block of 4<sup>th</sup> St. S. from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> for work on the final layer of paving. The S. Jefferson blocks that adjoin 4<sup>th</sup> St S. have signs up that indicate they will be paved soon. For answers to questions, contact Jasmeet Singh at [jsingh@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jsingh@arlingtonva.us), Laura Simpson at [lsimpson@arlingtonva.us](mailto:lsimpson@arlingtonva.us) or Kathy at [kathleenreeder@comcast.net](mailto:kathleenreeder@comcast.net). At the Kenmore site, work on removing invasive plants is proceeding. Kathy would like to submit a new project for the Rt. 50 end of S. Kensington. A very invasive patch of bamboo would be cleaned out, and the area re-planted with native plants. Parts of the property are under the jurisdictions of the VA Department of Transportation, Arlington County, and private owners.

Village View report by Brandon Hemel. The deadline for the next issue is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Steering Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion. On May 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a program on addressing anti-Asian-American discrimination. It is going to be on zoom, and registration is accessible through the Glencarlyn Updates or the May Village View.

Glencarlyn apparel. Julie Lee reminded attendees that the deadline for ordering GC apparel is Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at midnight. To order, use the QR code in the Village View or go to GCA Updates.

Glencarlyn Days report by Courtney Holmes. Activities for GC Days (one month away) will include the BBQ at Glencarlyn Hall, the pancake breakfast, the parade, Storytime at the library, house tours and a Library Garden tour, the moon bounce and snow cones. Randy and Ann Krug's house will be on the tour. A volunteer with a pick-up truck is still needed.

Election of Officers conducted by Kathy Reeder. The Nominating Committee included Kathy, Steve LeSueur and Barbara Martinez. Kathy introduced Josh Goodwin, who has volunteered to be the new Block Captain Coordinator. The slate of officers was presented on the back of the meeting agenda and was read aloud by Kathy. As there were no nominations from the floor, a motion to approve the slate of nominees was made and seconded. No discussion ensued, so Kathy called for a vote. Fifteen voted in favor, none opposed, with no abstentions. The motion passed. President Lee thanked the Nominating Committee for all of their work.

GCA Yard Sale. The yard sale will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Until the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, neighbors can register to be on the map and request post sale pick-up by B-Thrifty.

Julie Lee commended the new GC Updates managers, Rachel Porter and *Xi Chen*. All of the respondents to the neighborhood survey are happy with the Updates.

### **New Business**

Upcoming GCA meetings. The next meeting will be on September 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be an in-person meeting, with a photographic presentation by Lloyd Wolff. There will be a Fall Picnic at Carlin Hall on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

The following part of the meeting was devoted to brainstorming and discussing ways to enhance the functions and programs of the GCA and increase involvement and inclusion of all sectors (age, location, ethnicity, etc.) of the neighborhood. Julie Lee led the overall discussion, with Pippy Sickbert, Kathy Reeder, Courtney Holmes, Janet Fedak, and Tim Aiken facilitating and recording (on large charts) responses to ten areas of concern: meetings, communication, County issues, outreach, school issues, participation, activities and school events, neighborhood issues, parks, trees and environment, and Neighborhood Conservation projects. The responses to a survey posted in the Village View and on the Website were pre-written on the charts.

Discussion on **Meetings**. Can we shift the locations and or times/days of GCA's monthly meetings? We are not currently set up to zoom meetings from Carlin Hall or the Library. Certain times may exclude some people, although they might increase inclusion of others. This could be addressed as a survey issue. What about providing childcare? That could create an insurance issue. The library is a good place for kids who are independent. Our bylaws specify meetings on first Mondays, but they could be changed. What about recording meetings, or including a summary of the minutes in the GCA Updates?

Our Zoom attendance followed the pattern of our in-person meeting. They average 15 to 20 people, except when there are hot topics or popular speakers (such as Board Members) when attendance is 30 to 40 people. Respondents to the survey indicated that reasons for not attending were being too busy or not interested in the program topic. It was suggested that we bring in more County Department heads to speak and address topics such as parks, the VA Hospital Center property, schools, and car break-ins. Other program ideas from the survey: recycling, having a social hour after a quick business meeting, a program on foster parenting.

On **Neighborhood**. The topics listed on the chart (from the survey) were traffic (a lot of mentions), vehicle noise, speeding, stop signs, littering, pedestrian safety on Carlin Springs Rd. and on S. Manchester. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> law enforcement can stop vehicles for excessive noise. We should encourage the County Board to get behind this issue. On littering around the 7-11, should a formal request/complaint be made to the owners? There is also littering at the bus stop on the off ramp from Rt. 50 East and the areas bordering the schools. Should we organize neighborhood trash pick-ups, or get the schools to have their students do it? Adopt A Street will bring free equipment for trash collection.

On **Activities and social events**. Some would like more adult activities, such as bunco, pickup volleyball, 5K races, and library events like the one by Jerry Martineau. Other suggestions are service opportunities for Glencarlyn youth (for service hours), author talks at the library, and events organized

with Block Captains for their blocks, like block parties. To close off part of a street requires a county permit and a fee 30 days in advance. We could set up a sign-up Genius for small interest groups.

**On Outreach.** How about monthly social gatherings? Some Block Captains are willing to organize social events and identify and/or act on special needs of specific neighbors on their blocks, others want to limit their involvement to distribution of the Village View. In the bylaws, the job of block captain is described as more than just V.V. delivery. Could we have Village View Block Captains and “Caring Block Captains”?

**On Parks, trees and the environment.** Our neighborhood is surrounded by park land, which is advantageous but also carries responsibilities. Concerns have been expressed about the vernal pool beside the Nature Center road. There may be a rare species of salamander living in that area. This time of year, there is lots of amphibian activity around the vernal pool. A resident expressed concerns about protecting the springs in the park. It takes a lot of human power to address issues of the environment, and we should try to mobilize our neighbors to help. Perhaps we could enlist the help of an Eagle Scout looking for a project. Steve Young leads monthly invasives removals every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday from 2 to 4 pm. Should this be in the GCA Updates? or an article in the Village View? Deer have denuded the park’s understory, and severe storms have caused tree loss. There is interest in pushing the county to designate some of the Hospital Center grounds as parkland. The community should keep pounding that over and over. The Civic Association can write a letter promoting that idea, especially in regard to the springs, vernal pool, and sledding hill. When we have events, we should practice sustainability by using recyclables and asking folks to bring their own cups and other beverage containers.

**On County issues.** These include the Missing Middle project, housing in general, and taxes. There is a problem with commercial vehicles parked along S. Manchester St. They create traffic and trash and take up parking spaces. Some would like to have the Glencarlyn neighborhood sign that is beside the bus stop off Rt. 50 moved to a more noticeable location. One could be put on Rt. 50 on the east side of Manchester. Many who live there in the 39 townhouses don’t even realize they are in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. How about more signs in better locations - one on the south side, one on the north side, and one on the west side? Kathy Reeder will find out about getting additional signage through the NCAC. Could we get a flashing sign at 1<sup>st</sup> St. S. for crossing to and from Kenmore School? On Missing Middle decisions and “the Arlington Way,” we need notice of meetings in advance.

**On Participation.** Should we pay kids to help with Civic Association activities? What about a junior committee? Can we use GCA funds creatively to attract people to events? Should we establish a Security Committee to engage with the police and liaison with Officer Montoya. Officer Montoya is not part of the criminal division. His responsibility is community engagement. Pippy Sickbert interviewed Montoya and he talked doing education programs on safety. Should we have monthly social events, and can GCA use funds for desserts or other attractions for events? We can’t promote the food truck, but we could say, “Pick up your food and go to [a gathering place].” What we are aiming for is not expecting Julie and Courtney to put together events that people want, but to have other volunteers who will take on those responsibilities.

**On the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Council.** Possibilities: construction of a walking trail between Manchester St. and Glencarlyn Park, ivy removal on the hospital property, project at the south

end of Kensington St. where a dead end and fence abut county property with overgrown trees, and rain gardens and natives planted in the curb strips.

**On Schools.** Arlington established hub bus stops, which can be very inconvenient for some families. Litter from kids walking home from school was brought up again. There was a reminder to be attentive to the issue of future uses of the Kenmore land.

Julie Lee thanked everyone for participating, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.