



# Glencarlyn Civic Association November 6, 2023

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The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Julie Lee.

## Acceptance of October minutes

### Civ Fed:

- Arlington Visioning Discussion
  - How should Arlington look in 2040.

### ArNac Report: Kathy Reeder

- Arlington Neighborhoods Program
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> street including wooded area across from baseball field – east side of South Manchester St.
  - Review and design are at 90% completion.
  - Final design is scheduled for the end of November with approval following in January.
  - Construction will continue next year between February and September which includes drainage, a wall, a turnaround on school property, ornamental oval steps with “Glencarlyn” and laurel leaf design.
- The final invasive plant treatment is coming next summer with a following tree evaluation.
- Volunteers have committed to maintaining the plantings.
- Landscape architects plan to use native grasses in the area. This will be the first time planting native grass in an Arlington Neighborhood project.

### Treasurers Report: Tim Aiken- Current balance is \$21,619 with 123 due paying families.

- New griddles were purchased and GCA is about to order new bags for the Welcome Committee.
- The member count goal for this year is 200.

**The Village View Deadline** is November 10<sup>th</sup> for the December newsletter. There will be no January Village View.

### 601 Carlin Springs Update: Brandon Hemel

- VHC is still looking for a partner in the mental health field.
- VHC will speak at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and announce their partner after Board of Director vote on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### New Business/ Upcoming Dates

- Kevin Connelly to replace Ben Aiken as constituent ombudsman.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – GCA Meeting at 7:30 PM - Adrian Stanton VHC Health
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Luminaria and Holiday Party – Volunteers needed
- December 10<sup>th</sup>-- Christmas caroling with St. John Church
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – Rain date for Luminaria

- February 5<sup>th</sup> – GCA Meeting

## **Guest Speaker: Natasha, Glencarlyn Librarian**

- County is doing a study to look at how libraries can serve the community long-term (10-20 years out).
  - RFP is out to pick group conducting the county survey. This process was supposed to be complete in December but has not started.
  - Reviewing how libraries can be more of a gathering place, not just a place to check out books
  - Diane Kresh will not be speaking about the future of libraries during the public engagement process.
- Friends of Glencarlyn Library group name was problematic as it conflicted with Friends of Arlington Library that has its own group and fundraising efforts.
  - Glencarlyn group will not fundraise or form a 501c3.
- The annual budget for Glencarlyn Library is ~\$500K which is the lowest budget per people served in all of Arlington. It represents about 5% of the total budget.
- Notes from Natasha:
  - The library is almost at capacity with 14 shelves left to restore.
  - Activities counted in library use statistics include walking in the door, using the Wi-Fi, and checking out ‘books’ with the library app.
- Update your home library to Glencarlyn.
- Natasha’s vision for the library:
  - Add to collections and break out audio/visual materials
  - Adding two display stands for seasonal displays near the entrance
  - Utilize mobile bookshelves to rearrange areas (i.e. story time)
  - Went through every book so the library stops getting holds and materials from other libraries
  - Handpicks books from other libraries
  - Looking for statistical and data-backed feedback to support her requests at budget time
  - Bringing back ESL classes at the library which requires a volunteer
  - Create meeting rooms spaces – 3+ years due to necessary construction and inspections
  - Glencarlyn has the highest ratio of floorspaces taken up by bookcases – reviewed by county
- Brainstorming session
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Ideas
    - Combine with Glencarlyn Days or Fall Fest
    - Get a big-name author to speak
    - A “Go Back to 1924” Day – what was popular then, daily activities, foods, hot topics
    - History walk with pictures and facts over the last 100 years
    - Historical photo display
    - A “Roaring 20s” celebration
  - Changes for the Better
    - Have family activities at times when more families are available (weekends, evenings)

- Announce all library events in the Village View
  - Better communicate all of the offered services and programs
- Structural Improvements
  - Comfortable chairs in a nook away from main open area for quiet reading
  - Modular renovation to allow for small, curated spaces for collaboration and interactive space
  - Seasonal displays of books for kids at the entrance
  - Name tags or name plates for staff
  - Unlock the bathrooms
  - Create a meeting space
  - More computers
- Speakers, Programs, Activities
  - Partnerships with the local schools/scheduled afterschool enrichment
  - Interest group for manga and comics
  - ESL classes or tutoring
  - Neighbor talents program (i.e. CPR, Narcan training)
  - Weekend toddler story time or dance sessions
  - Homework help
  - Therapy support for teens
  - Children's garden/gardening classes
  - Talk about history, geology and Civil War era of Glencarlyn
  - Author talks
- What can I do to support Glencarlyn Library?
  - Create a group to meet at the library
  - Short story readings
  - Check out books to be delivered and picked up at Glencarlyn
- Library Wish List
  - Selection of old and new books w/ staff recommendations
  - More programs with better publicity
  - Add tables in the front
  - Coffee hour one day a week for retired persons
  - Closer ties with local schools or their libraries
  - Picnic table and benches outside
  - Tuition/tutoring teams
  - Meeting space
  - Evening and weekend hours
  - Card game night
  - Improve street signage
  - 3D printer + classes
  - Home improvement classes
  - Intentional potluck dinners
  - History resource center – oral histories
  - Special collection of gardening books
- Library Favorite Things
  - The Halloween Poe readings by Kenmore students
  - Monday evening story time for kids
  - Unique history
  - Fabulous garden

- Small and convenient
- Location
- Family friendly layout
- Guest speakers
- Helpful librarians
- Architecture – big windows, welcoming space
- Resources like newspapers, computers, magazines
- Other
  - Add a service to send faxes
  - Can GCA review the data that was reviewed last time it was proposed that the branch close?
  - The library is an important center of community life in Glencarlyn.
  - Communicate information about the community that is served by the Glencarlyn library to the County Manager and board members
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Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.