

# **Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association**

## **Minutes of the September 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting**

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

John Ford, President	Jon Judah
Dave McGowan, Treasurer	Ray Keaney
Mary Ann Frias, Secretary	John Richardson
Fred Blott	Irene Szopo
Bill Braswell	John Vihstadt
Matt Fleming	

### **Guests:**

John Wolfsthal

### **Administration**

The minutes from the May 22, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Additional dues have been received - \$370, plus more not yet opened and \$110 in donations. The total balance in the account is approximately \$5,300. We saved \$250 on postage by hand distribution of the last newsletter.

John Ford thanked the distributing team and noted that he had received a lot of positive feedback from the hand delivery.

John raised the Westover Halloween Parade and solicited volunteers to help out; Matt, Meredith Judy and John Richardson agreed.

**Winter Festival at Big Walnut Park** A winter festival was proposed by neighbors and TLHCA offered to provide a financial contribution. Michelle Winters inquired about the use of the Trinity Church space for the festival; Matt noted that he had previously contacted the church about its availability for a concert and their response was that they typically only allow use by Trinity congregation members. John Ford noted that would look into it.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Newsletter & TLHCA Website**

Jon Judah updated the website including the addition of the recent newsletter. The next TLHCA newsletter will be electronic and allow space for articles board members may want to submit.

John Richardson offered to write an article about the Arlington Neighborhood Village Association. Jon Judah offered to write an article about school boundary changes. Renaming Lee Highway will be another subject. Another idea was suggested for an article about things residents are doing while quarantining at home such as exercising, playing games such as pickleball, holding drive-by birthday celebrations, putting teddy bears and rainbows stickers in windows, painting rocks with encouraging messages, etc.

## **Greater Westover Website**

Matt Fleming presented a brief “tour” of the Greater Westover website but noted that the other Westover area CAs haven’t provided input to the site.

## **UPDATES**

### **Stormwater Management/Civic Federation**

John Ford is the chairman of the public services committee of the Civic Federation - they will reach out to Libby Garvey, and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) will work with the county to develop general and specific principles with programs to inform a multi-year capital improvement plan the county will be working on starting in March. They are hopeful for Civic Federation approval of a resolution supporting a \$51 million storm water bond issue. The majority of funds are targeted for Spout Run (Waverly Hills and Cherrydale Civic Associations). There is a specific proposal for an underground detention vault to be installed under the Reed School field. This necessitated coordination with the School Board which is under pressure to hold on to as much as it can. Torreyson Run is the stream in question - it’s entirely underground with no overland relief. DES is sending recommendations to the county manager that may provide greater specificity. The county is financing a study with Gilbane Construction of options to study the feasibility of storm water management.

John Vihstadt reported on Civic Federation and state constitutional issues. In October, a committee will meet on constitutional change for partisan redistricting in Virginia; the Democratic party is split on this issue. Questions can be asked in the chat during the presentation.

The Civic Federation meeting held last night included discussion of a Parks & Recreation bond, and reforms on county government-should there be more members? Should they be selected at large? Should we use a mayor format? A more diverse representation was also discussed.

### **Housing Informational Study**

The Affordable Housing Committee is convening its informational study on the “missing middle,” i.e., lack of housing availability for middle income residents. Libby Garvey spoke to county board candidates last night, and joined our TLHCA board meeting in March to promote a county study of the issue. Libby mentioned commercial space that will be available for housing in the near future due to COVID-related vacancies.

### **Reed School**

The Arlington School Board is moving ahead with the Reed complex; public comments will be initiated on September 21st.

The county is adjusting the boundaries for capacity. and will publish maps around 9/21/2020, then allow approximately one month for feedback with 3-4 options including permutations of planning units and county-wide impacts. The county will hold an online town hall for a discussion with residents, followed by a motion by the county board for adjusted boundaries. The CCPTA director sent a letter about stress on families during COVID-19 as well as families who don't have means/access to provide feedback. Jon Judah will circulate the letter. The Reed School is slated to be open next fall (2021). The November school bond is slated to fund the remaining work on the Reed School, among other projects. Most children in TLH will be

slated for Reed. There will be two new school board members joining in January, after the November 3 election.

### **Lee Highway Alliance**

The renaming of Lee Highway is underway, with a 25-member working group over several months. There are currently 4-5 proposals to rename the highway. A meeting is scheduled for September 12th or 13th. There will be room for public comment.

### **Neighborhood Conservation**

Bill Braswell reported that while looking at the county budget, no funds appear available for the 15th Street project which would cost approximately \$2 million. It may be at least a year before this project is possible.

### **Virginia Hospital Expansion**

The expansion seems to be moving on schedule. The forum of monthly calls among CAs works well.

### **Aircraft Noise**

John Richardson asked about the recent increase in aircraft noise. FAA has altered some flight patterns creating more noise to Waycroft-Woodlawn residents. Arlington and Montgomery County, MD will conduct a noise study within 18 months to give a path to reduce noise; however, it is doubtful that there is an easy solution.

**Jon Wolfsthal** asked about changing the name of Tara-Leeway Heights. In the past, the Nauck CA voted to change the name of its association to Green Valley; this was brought to the Civic Federation who presented a resolution to the county board that voted to change the name. John Vihstadt noted that there used to be a Stonewall Jackson Civic Association and school whose names were changed to Bluemont and Arlington Traditional School, respectively. In discussion, it was agreed to keep an eye on this issue. One course would be to see how the Lee Highway name is changed before proceeding too far.

### **New Board Member**

Sima Nasr, a freelance graphic designer with her own business who builds small websites has agreed to join the TLHCA board. She is the parent of students at McKinley and has helped with the design of the TLHCA logo, the Greater Westover website, and with community efforts.

### **Next Meeting**

The next TLHCA meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, likely virtual. The meeting will convene at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.