

## March 9, 2022

The March 9, 2022 meeting of the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association board of directors was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by president John Ford. Minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting were approved without dissent. The next, annual meeting for the board was set for Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Treasurer Irene Szapo presented her report, which was also approved without dissent. Irene noted that she had received a 1099-K form from PayPal, with whom the CA has an account, and questioned the group as to TLHCA's obligations as a non-profit organization to file federal and state tax returns. The PayPal form featured a federal IRS tax ID number for TLHCA.

Several board members reviewed the issue at the meeting and subsequently. The consensus was that TLHCA should file the federal tax form 990-N as a tax-exempt organization, since the PayPal 1099-K confirms that we, like seven other Arlington civic associations, are already in the IRS system. Irene will do that on behalf of the board. There is no corresponding requirement for Virginia as best the board could determine.

Michelle Winters briefed the board on Plan Langston Boulevard (county effort) and the Langston Boulevard Alliance (corresponding private group) progress toward what might be a transformative series of changes along what used to be Lee Highway. She mentioned a family-friendly Earth Day festival in Lee Heights on April 24. The board agreed to help publicize that event, and to investigate the possibility of making a cash contribution to the festival on behalf of TLHCA, as was suggested by John Richardson.

There followed a lengthy discussion of the future of the Lee Center at Langston Blvd and N Lexington St. Michelle said PLB is planning to maintain a similarly-purposed building at the site, along with the adjacent playground and baseball field/basketball court. John F reported on efforts by our northern neighbors in Leeway-Overlee CA to ensure that outcome. The present building suffers from long-neglected maintenance and will likely need to be completely replaced, though many of the resident artists moved back to the current building February 7 after COVID restrictions were relaxed.

John F noted that board member Meredith Judy has resigned from the board due to a family move to Fairlington. Her contributions to the board will be missed.

Nominating Committee chair Irene Szapo will lead an effort to identify officer and board candidates prior to the TLHCA annual meeting in May.

Laura Stout discussed an effort to raise support for Ukrainian refugees, and offered to provide further details to interested board and association members.

Alyssa Cowden briefed the board from the front lines of the construction of the new stormwater detention vault adjacent to the Cardinal School. Excavation has begun in earnest,

and while not all community-requested traffic and transportation changes have yet been implemented, progress and county responsiveness are apparent and a system of regular communication between Alyssa and DES/APS managers is in place.

The ongoing dialogue continues between the TLHCA and the county about the potentially life-threatening dangers posed by the physical layout of the intersection of N 18<sup>th</sup> St and N Patrick Henry Drive. John F and John R briefed the board on two private meetings they held with County Board members Takis Karantonis and Libby Garvey. The meetings were arranged by John R. Both County Board members were impressed with the seriousness of the situation and pledged to investigate further. It was agreed that either a consistently functioning mobile warning sign on southbound Patrick Henry Drive or installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection would be needed to mitigate the danger, especially now that many schoolchildren walk to Cardinal School through this intersection.

There was a brief discussion by the TLHCA board of speed or red-light cameras as a possible deterrent to speeding at this intersection, but the intersection lies slightly outside the Vision Zero guidelines outlined by the county for school safety.

There was a discussion of the TLHCA role in maintenance of and advocacy for the Big Walnut Park on N Lexington St between N 18<sup>th</sup> St and N 20<sup>th</sup> St. The possibility was raised of a board-sponsored cleanup of the park. To be continued.

The board discussed the annual, hand-delivered printed TLHCA newsletter which traditionally helps to publicize the annual meeting. It was agreed the deadline for submissions would be April 27, with a view toward distribution on the weekends preceding the May 11 annual meeting. John R will do one or two interviews with Westover merchants as follow-ons to his previous accounts of how they are faring during COVID. Other contributions were solicited and will be welcome. Matt Fleming agreed to again captain the distribution effort.

There remains some concern that TLHCA does not have a complete list of contact information for all residents of the CA. John F reported that this issue was raised, together with potential resulting security concerns in the event of public safety or health emergencies, with Takis and Libby, who promised to see if the county could be helpful. Both Board members did note privacy concerns. Meantime, a notice in the hand-delivered paper newsletters serves as the best means of reaching our constituents and soliciting from them updated contact information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Board:

John Ford, President

Laura Stout, Vice President

Irene Szapo, Treasurer  
Sima Nasr, Communications Chair

Fred Blott  
Bill Braswell  
John Richardson  
Matt Fleming  
Alyssa Cowden  
Michelle Winters

Community Members:

Joe Herman  
Mark Koumhaus  
Harvey Snyder