

Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) Meeting September 18, 2017

- About two dozen people attended this first meeting of the year.
- Allison Kennett, AFCA President, started the meeting with a few announcements:
 - Dues collection is in progress. Usually 40% of AFCA households pay dues– down substantially from what was collected years ago. In the interest of trying to increase this percentage, AFCA this year introduced use of PayPal to make dues paying easier.
 - Scarecrow making workshop sponsored by John Naland will be held at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on October 14 from 1-3 pm for adults and pre-teen children.
 - Following the demise of the holly tree in the Arlington Forest shopping center circle, the County agreed to replace the tree. AFCA is asking residents to vote for their tree preference online by September 20.
 - This year’s proposed AFCA budget includes purchase of a plaque to be placed in the circle in appreciation of Joe Cockrell’s efforts over the years to maintain the former holly tree.
 - Tree grant money is still available.
 - Following the resignation of the Southside Vice President, two candidates have come forward. There will be a vote at the October meeting.
- Allison review of agenda for tonight’s meeting:
 - New policies for resolutions
 - Discussion of proposed budget for the year
 - Linda Kelleher, Culpepper Garden Executive Director Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation update on renovation
 - Barbara Swart, Ready for 100 and request for AFCA resolution to support this initiative
- Allison discussed the AFCA Board’s proposal to change some of the association’s procedures:
 - AFCA will try to publish all past resolutions and letters approved by AFCA on the association’s website.
 - At every civic association meeting, there will be an opportunity to discuss issues, news and concerns from each part of the neighborhood.
 - The board is proposing new guidelines for future resolutions:
 - Make sure future resolutions are provided at least a week in advance of votes – and ideally a month.

- Resolutions with less than a month notice will be posted on the AF list serve for review to promote discussion and suggested changes.
 - For issues, of significant importance or interest, AFCA will consider setting up special meetings outside the regular monthly AFCA meeting to discuss and vote on these issues.
 - The AFCA Board may decide in the future not to take a position on certain topics that are too divisive for the neighborhood.
 - Should an issue of great importance come up in the summer, a resolution may be drafted and then circulated on the AF list serve for a vote. The resolution would pass if 80% of respondents agree to the unedited resolution.

- Lauren Mikoy presented the proposed 2017-2018 budget and it was adopted without change.

- Linda Kelleher, Culpepper Gardens
 - Working on planning for renovation and will be breaking ground probably by the end of the year.
 - Some systems are failing and there is a major need to patch the building, and replace the roof, sewage and water lines. Trying to do this in the least disruptive way for residents as possible.
 - Interior public space will be renewed. Basement classroom space will be replaced with services and 15 new apartments.
 - Culpepper is holding an open house to present more information about the renovation: Sunday, October 1 from 2-4 pm.
 - Looking for more volunteer led activities.
 - Kelleher explained some of the financing for Culpepper that depends on funds from the federal government, the state of Virginia and Arlington County. Culpepper has made a commitment that no resident will be displaced for 15 years because it is too expensive. The average annual retirement income for 40% of residents is \$15.
 - Culpepper has both independent (267 units) and assisted living (73) apartments.

- Barbara Swart – Ready for 100
 - Initiative begun by national Sierra Club to get communities to commit to providing 100 percent of their energy or electricity from renewable sources.
 - Each city/community manages their own efforts
 - Group in Arlington has the goal of having 100% of electricity provided from renewable energy by 2035.
 - Alexandria has already committed to this goal.

- Why do this? Improved health, concerns about climate change, improvements to water and air resources, and energy expense reduction.
- Arlington Community Energy Plan is more than 10 years old and covers all sources of energy and all sectors: transportation, government, education. Time for an update as there has been lots of developments.
- How to achieve goal: energy efficiency; economic trends; rooftop solar; utility scale renewables.
- How can Arlington achieve 100%? Local solar power, Dominion Power commitment for 15% and utility scale solar.
- Would like civic association to approve resolution in favor of the community energy plan and the transition to renewable electricity by 2035.
- AFCA will consider resolution and vote in October.

Meeting adjourned.