

Minutes from Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 7:30pm at Taylor Elementary School

Board Members Present:

President, Bill Richardson; First Vice President, Mike Green; Second Vice President, Deirdre Dessingue; Secretary, Jean Fisher; Treasurer; Maxine Nagel; Director Anne Wilson, Director Charlie Henkin, Director Liz Lord, Director John Seggerman

1. Welcome (President Bill Richardson).

- Copy of DRCA letter to Christian Dorsey handed out Re: Detached Accessory Dwellings Proposed Amendments to Zoning Ordinance, dated May 16, 2019.

2. Review of minutes of March 6 DRCA meeting

3. Reports from Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Members

- Regarding the dispute between Maryland and the FAA on Reagan Airport overflights, MD responded to the FAA's rejection of their court filing to change the overflight approach paths to pre-2015 flight profiles. Although those earlier profiles were over Northern Virginia, they were not over Donaldson Run neighborhoods. In any case, MD indicated they wish to explore profiles over the Potomac River, which would relieve DRCA area noise. This remains a work in progress. (C. Henkin)
- Marymount Farmer's Market opens 9am this Saturday through Saturday after Thanksgiving. (D. Dessingue)

4. Nancy Van Doren, Arlington Public School (APS) Board Member (Speaker #1 of 2) then Q &A:

- County Board just passed \$670 million budget approval; \$20,000 per student.
- County to grow/add 1000 new students per year; this will require a tax increase. This estimate did not take into account new county housing initiatives such as ADUs which could add more students than that.
- The next Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is next Spring; to plan over the next 10 years; boundary change, etc.
- Reed will open sometime before January 1, 2021.
- Instructional Pathway Program – "Profile of a Graduate"; looking at all different programs from K-12, to explain and update; adjust how many neighborhood schools, different options, etc.
- Work session on iPad use and all Apple devices as tools, May 29, 2019; digital books as opposed to text books. State gives us money to buy iPads; currently "One to One" – one device per student in 3rd grade and above; on in a very secure network, same software applications, personal learning. Evaluate for future usage in elementary schools for all grades; state gives us money to buy iPads.
- Dorothy Hamm Middle School (DH MS) will be ready to open September 2019; all on time and within budget; 700 students who are zoned, will go; the addition will open Dec 2019 or March 2020; field should be turning over in June. (Question from M. Green).

- Per Washington Board of Education (WBE guide), Arlington county has highest cost per student, but not by much; small class sizes, high quality teachers; 80% budget is personnel; If this is still what we need, we will keep it. If not, change it. (Question from M. Green)
- Teacher salary changes are being considered - to not further compensate teachers for PhD above the level of compensation for Masters.
- Next CIP to discuss adding new high school seats to existing, or build a comprehensive new high school.
- Only one chapter on cursive writing is taught in schools; we also need to learn keyboarding/typing. (Question from D. Dessingue).
- APS approach to repetitive bullying incidents: J-6.811 is being revised now. On school board agenda June 18th, perfect time to provide feedback. School cannot disclose what they are doing with the bully; Additional support may be needed by school administrator in certain schools/cases. (Question from L. Lord)
- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU); up to 3 renters. Are we accounting for this in our estimated demographics to county? (Question from C. Henkin)
- Two new sidewalks for DH MS, along Vacation Lane and utility pole will be completed over summer. (Question from A. Wilson)
- Next week, meet with county regarding crossing guards on Military and Nelly Custis, Quincy and Old Dominion and check Lorcom and Vacation Lanes.
- Ten rain gardens will be on middle school site.
- Any possible change to zoning DR high school students from Yorktown to Washington & Lee HS will be determined in Fall 2020 or 2021. (Question from J. Fisher)
- The number of students at DH MS will be 725 to start, then 1000 once the last class comes. (Question from L. Lord)
- APS offers both Mandarin Chinese and Arabic classes in MS and HS. (Question from M. Green)
- Student have electives in Fine Arts such as music and theater or other areas, matter of choice. (Question from B. Richardson).
- Ellen Smith will be the Principal at DH, it will be fully staffed.
- APS will follow the policy on re-naming of school(s). (Question from B. Richardson).

5. County Board Member, Erik Gutshall, Speaker #2, then Q & A:

- We need to have long-range schools and county and facilities plan.
- “Joint facilities advisory committee – take inventory of what facilities we have collaborative efforts with schools; what is school of the future?”
- Service delivery models (snow, leave removal); visionary forecasting – this next year and begin community conversation, scoping exercises, truly joint county and schools.
- We have specific/current needs we know we have to take care of now – to keep county running. By July 2020, we will be done with scoping and start writing the plan. 1, 2 or 3 year process, don’t know yet. *Coordinated, integrated, long-range thinking*.
- Striving, strong middle class, harder and harder for young families to stay in Arlington.
- We have multi-generational households. “Housing Arlington” to fundamentally transform housing in Arlington, “Missing Middle”; 80-120% of area medium income. 100% = \$110,000 per year; \$500-\$660K is not a lot; Lee Highway –what can we do there?

- Need to cultivate small business. Currently doing a study on Columbia Pike. How do we do new, without pushing out existing?
- 26th-OD Task Force presented to county board, staff will work on it. Noah Simon, chair of task force, will likely present the report to the County Board in September. CIP adopted next year May 2020. Concerns so far are cost-effective, the first choice of the task force; for now, snow and leaf mulch will remain. It is unlikely that staff to come back will satisfy everyone. (A. Wilson)
- Legal counsel: proffer system is struggling. Arlington has a comprehensive plan (nexus). We are not set up to do it. County lawyer – “what is defensible in the courts”. Homebuilders in Loudoun, Fauquier counties are burying through their pipeline; localities with proffers vs those without. We are the envy of all other jurisdictions. County planning staff is putting together a white paper. (Question from C. Henkin)
- Question on who writes traffic warrants? “Vision Zero Movement” - zero fatalities, we trust and rely on professional staff who do everything possible to keep roads safe. (Q from M. Green)
- Question on ADUs- How does this interact with lot coverage? Recent ADU decision does not change existing zoning rule on lot coverage footprint; accessory building vs. dwelling- adding a cooking facility. The 1 foot setback was recommended by the Housing Commission, but rejected by county staff in favor of 5 feet. This of course is less than 10 feet for primary structures. (Q from D. Dessingue)
- Cost \$40/year to re-cycle glass? A. Extraordinarily disappointing where we find ourselves here. A. Do not think it is \$40, will ask. Recycle vs. re-use (Question from C. Henkin)

6. Adjournment