

## **Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting 18 September 2024**

On Wednesday September 18 2024 the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) held a general membership meeting at Taylor Elementary School. Prior to the meeting the Executive Committee hosted a social hour with light refreshments. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and presided over by DRCA President Bill Richardson.

Welcome by President Bill Richardson included:

- Update-Minutes of previous meetings will not be distributed via print. Refer to DCRA.org where they are posted.
- review of Agenda
- Introduction of Bill Browning and Jennifer Toussaint

### **County Deer Management Project**

First Presentation - Bill Browning with Arlington Regional Master Naturalists

Bill started with a short overview of the region's history of human and deer:

- Deer were hunted to critically low levels 1600-1800's. From the 1930's-1980's the government imported deer from across the country. Natural predators (coyotes, wolves) were diminished.
- Deer decimate the forest foliage specifically the understory and habitats of low-nesting birds, various insects, box turtles, salamanders etc.
- Surrounding counties have been actively managing deer. 2021 Arlington hired Steward Green to count the deer population.
- Only deer pop management in Arlington is cars. Deceased deer intakes are increasing over the last 10 years.
- June 2023 White Buffalo studied deer population in Arlington. Their assessment determined our forests cannot regenerate themselves at current deer levels, recommend sharpshooting population control.

Second Presentation - Jennifer Toussaint

Chief of Animal Control for Arlington County  
Animal Control & Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Jennifer shared short AWLA background-

- 2017 national recognition of population control in the urban environment of Arlington.
- AWLA bridges the need for wildlife resources as well as domestic animals.
- 1500 field cases responded to annually

Jennifer then addressed Arlington's deer population:

- She opened with white-tailed deer facts-

Matrifocal groups- doe and offspring

Arlington deer predators- coyotes, foxes, privacy fencing, construction sites, Motor Vehicles.

Deer reintroduced from the 1930's-1980's

Quick bear detour about how AWLA helps deer move through the county annually.

Steps to population management-

-Analyze the limited data we have.

-Create realistic benchmarks.

-Create and execute plan.

Closing-

Culling is currently illegal. Current datapoints are not perfect. Would need a consideration for sharpshooting control strategy.

President Bill Richardson Closed with the following updates and announcements:

-Zoom Status-

Low Interest level, likely will not continue with Zoom

-Community interests & Feedback:

Interest in Local Traffic Issues, request for DRCA to continue

-Missing middle decision is scheduled to be announced on 9/27

-Kathy Rehill reminded members to look up - EHO watch for local updates.

-Alisa Cowen summarized the 2352 Vermont project. Records show there's a covenant that would prohibit the current build plan. The community intends to send a letter indicating they will enforce the covenant.

-Plan Langston Blvd. Kensington Senior Living Facility current update: 7 story building.

Affected civic associations met with property owner, and sent letter addressing a number of concerns.

-DRCA website has been updated! Shown by John Fischer. Request for community feedback and share with neighbors.

Closing and Farewell.

Meeting Adjourned 9:10 PM