

LHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JAN. 21, 2021, 6:30pm (ZOOM MEETING)

Director's Present (12): Peter Bota, Mike Cantwell, Sandi Chesrown, Michele Cornwell-Horwitz, Elaine Furlow, Pamela Gillen, Lauren Harris, Jim Lantelme, Laura London, Matthew Weinstein, Michelle Winters, Tom Wolfe

Former Directors voted in during the meeting (3): Ralph Johnson, Tom Kornes, Richard Price

Directors Absent (0)

LHA Staff Present (2): Ginger Brown, Maia Potok-Holmes

Welcome & Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Pamela Gillen, President, at 6:30pm. Pamela welcomed Board Members.

Plan Lee Highway Update

Natasha Alfoso-Ahmed, PLH Project Manager, shared that Arlington County is hosting two Community Forum meetings on Jan. 27 and 28 to help prepare the participants for four upcoming community meetings, beginning on February 25th. They will also host virtual neighborhood meetings, beginning September 2021, to receive input on the Preliminary Concept Plan which will likely be completed by the end of Summer 2021. Staff will participate in initial transportation recommendations and join the LHA-VDOT Briefings. The final plan should be complete by June 2022.

AED Liaison Report

Susan Soroko, Director, Creative Economy, AED, thanked LHA staff for their quick turnaround on numerous AED requests. AED has been working with community members and organizations to encourage shopping local and have utilized their social media and #ShopArl hashtag to promote local events and holiday specials.

President's Report

Pamela Gillen, President, informed the board that they would be receiving an email requesting members agree to the Conflict of Interest Policy. Planning Committee Members will also be asked to agree to the Policy.

Gillen's next topic was proposed amendments to the LHA bylaws sent out to the Board in December. After review of the 3 amendments, the members discussed the pros and cons of changing County Appointed Directors' non-voting status to voting. A few Board Members were concerned about the County Board's possible influence on the Board and felt they would rather not give County Board Appointees the ability to vote. Additional discussion was held on the consideration to eliminate the County Board appointed seats.

Gillen made a motion to adopt the By-Law amendments extending the term limits for Directors and to change the name of the Planning, Urban Design, and Zoning Committees to the Planning Committee. Sandi Chesrown seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

County Board Update

Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County Board Chair, joined the meeting and provided an update on the County's COVID-19 vaccination effort. The County is in vaccination phase 1a and 1b and hope to begin vaccinating educators soon. The County Board expects to receive more vaccines from the government in the coming weeks and months. De Ferranti also explained that the County is continuing its work on racial and housing equity efforts.

President's Report Continued

Gillen made a motion to change the By-Laws to allow County Board appointees to vote. Ralph Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was 13 in Favor with 2 Abstaining (Elaine Furlow and Mike Cantwell).

Gillen also informed the board that LHA has two vacant board seats: a Business seat and a Resident seat. She expressed hope that they would be brought before the Board at the March meeting. With Sandi Chesrown stepping down from the VP role, the Executive Board also hopes to fill this position by March. The Events Committee Chair, vacated by Sandi, has been filled by Tom Wolfe. Chris Forinash and Chris Gordon are now Co-Chairs of the Planning Committee.

Finance Committee

Michele Horwitz-Cornwell, Treasurer, reported that LHA is in need of financial support. Although expenses are lower than normal due to the Alliance giving up its office space, the cancellation of 2020 fundraising events has had serious implications on LHA's finances. She informed the board that she, Ginger Brown, Elaine Furlow, Pamela Gillen, Maia Potok-Holmes, and Tom Wolfe worked on a Corporate Sponsorship program to be launched in conjunction with a new fundraising luncheon. The luncheon will be held on April 23. Michele asked members of the board to contribute as the event's host committee.

Events Committee

Tom Wolfe, Events Committee Chair, introduced Vision 2050, a new annual fundraising event to be held by LHA on April 23. The virtual luncheon will celebrate the Lee Highway community, honoring local heroes, and raise funds. LHA is also continuing its Loving Local program throughout the Winter and Spring months and creating a Shop Local Gift Guide for Valentine's Day, Easter/Passover, Mother's Day, and Father's Day. There are hopes that a May Bike to Work Day will be planned with a rest stop location along the corridor.

Gillen added that Richard Price had agreed to be our Secretary.

Transportation Committee

Richard Price, Chair, reported that Vision Zero team met virtually via a Working Group earlier this month to discuss the Draft Action Plan which will be distributed to the public next week with the hopes of gathering input. The County Board is hosting a Virtual Open House on February 11th at 7pm. VDOT is holding a briefing on February 3rd to discuss transportation options as put forth by Plan Lee Highway.

Housing Committee

Michelle Winters, Chair, informed the board that the AHS/LHA Missing Middle grant website has had a soft launch and asked that they all visit the site to provide feedback. She shared that the County is conducting Missing Middle Housing Arlington Listen meetings for the County's Middle Housing Study. The County is also launching the review of the Affordable Housing Master Plan and Multi-Family Reinvestment Study, formerly the HCD initiative. Additionally, the County proposed a Zoning Ordinance amendment for Affordable Housing Building Height.

Planning Committee

Co-Chairs Chris Forinash & Chris Gordon shared that there will be a joint meeting of the LHA Planning Committee Working Group and the Plan Lee Highway Working to review the PLH Phase 2 Land Use concepts. Additionally, the Artis site has been approved and will be moving forward.

Working Group On Renaming Lee Highway

Matt Weinstein, Chair, shared that he spoke to the VA House of Delegates this morning on behalf of Rip Sullivan's bill. The bill, which would give Arlington County the ability to rename Lee Highway, passed the Transportation Committee Subcommittee. He also shared that the Loving family is strongly opposed to Arlington using their family name for the corridor. The strong second choice is Langston Boulevard.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Board Meeting: March 18th, 2021 at 8:30AM