

## **LHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES – October 21, 2021, 8:30am (ZOOM MEETING)**

**Directors Present (12):** Amelia Frenkel, Elaine Furlow, Lauren Harris, Michele Horwitz Cornwell, Ralph Johnson, Jim Lantelme, Laura London, Richard Price, Matt Weinstein, Michelle Winters, Desire Davis Stolar, Jeff Joseph, Peter Bota

**Directors Absent:** Pamela Gillen, Tom Wolfe

**LHA Staff Present:** Ginger Brown

### **Welcome & Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Jim Lantelme, Vice President, at 8:30am. Jim welcomed Board Members and motioned to accept the minutes from the last board meeting. Jim made a motion, Richard seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Arlington County Board Update**

Takis Karantonis shared his deepest condolences for the loss of Pamela's mother. He personally thanked LBA for their work over the years on the Plan. Takis went back to look at all the work that had happened since 2015 and believes it is time to wrap it up asap and is working to accelerate the pace. As far as the future of LBA and the status of funding by the County, he is in discussion with his colleagues. There may be the possibility of locating LBA in the Lee Arts Center, at least temporarily. However, there are significant roof and HVAC system issues. Takis agrees that LBA should have a stable funding base for the next three years. After the approval of the Plan, he envisions a robust Placemaking Program taking place to popularize the Plan and target investors. LBA needs the resources to be able to do this on a daily basis.

Sandi Chesrown stated that Plan Langston Boulevard has been under-staffed and under budgeted while other planning processes have zoomed ahead. The corridor has lost development opportunities. She strongly recommended urging the County Manager to expedite the completion by increasing Staff resources. She thanked Takis for his ongoing support.

### **AED Update**

Susan Soroko gave the Arlington Economic Development Update. Susan congratulated LBA for its successful Langston Boulevard celebration and Zine. Susan notes that Arlington is thinking ahead about international development of the arts.

### **Finance Report**

Michele Cornwell shared that she sent the financial report to everyone via email on Tuesday – it reflects through September 30. There was a total of \$41,500 in the LBA accounts. A recast budget was provided to the Board. Michele noted that there is room in the budget for a possible pop-up space during the PLB Preferred Concept Plan and hiring part-time consultant and/or administrative support.

### **Housing Committee**

Michelle Winters updated the Board on the Affordable Housing Master Plan Update. The implementation portion of the plan is being reviewed by the County Manager's Office. The Missing Middle Study released the report on Phase 1 of the Study. All types of missing middle housing will be studied in Phase 2 except cottage clusters. Phase 2 will study these types in detail. She also reported that transitional (?) edges are being taken out of the PLB process because of the major mismatch in the timing of the studies.

### **Renaming Lee Highway to Langston Boulevard**

Ginger Brown reported that Cherry Hill Road had been picked to replace Lee Highway in the small section of Lee Highway that wasn't renamed during the Working Group process. The County Board voted unanimously to send the selection to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for approval. The paperwork to officially change the name of the organization is being filed. LBA was approached by neighbors of the Lee Arts Center to rename the community center, too. This is on hold until the County Board signals that they will consider the change.

### **Events Committee**

Ginger Brown reported on the success of the Langston Boulevard Renaming celebration and ribbon cutting. She discussed the possibility of hosting educational forums to support the PLB process.

### **Transportation Committee**

Richard Price reported on LBA's letter that was sent to the County Board supporting the Vision Zero Speed Limit Demonstration Project.

### **Planning Committee**

Ginger Brown reported that the Sunrise Senior Living facility on Glebe Road is going through a Special GLUP study in order to update and expand the facility.

### **FY2023 Budget Discussion with County Board Members**

Jim Lantelme gave an overview of the conversations with County Board members. The major takeaways included: 1) they know the value that LBA has brought to the County; 2) they don't want to be the sole funder in the long run and would like to see a three year glide plan to reduce the percentage of funding; 3) they are not as concerned about the actual numbers but a plan to reduce the percentage funded over time; and 4) they liked seeing and meeting with new members of the LBA. Jeff Joseph added that they recognized the importance of compensating Staff appropriately and that he was cautioned not to look to Columbia Pike as a model. Desiree added that we should identify what we are doing that does not overlap with what the County is doing. Ginger said that we would be presenting a Strategic Budget by December 1<sup>st</sup>. A Strategic Planning process would be needed sometime next year.

### **Plan Langston Boulevard Update**

Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed gave a brief update on PLB. Staff is currently evaluating the community feedback and creating the Preferred Concept Plan. The County will be hosting an information

session on common misconceptions for clarification before the Preferred Concept Plan is released early next year.

### **Preliminary Concept Plan, FAQs, and Potential Design Studio Temporary Space**

Elaine Furlow reported on the efforts currently underway by the communications committee. Because it is hard to keep momentum while the PLB is delayed, and because there are a lot of misconceptions out there, the group created messaging points in the form of an FAQ. We will begin distributing these through the civic association and through social media soon. Elaine also reported on ideas for educational forums.

Ginger Brown reported on a possible Earth Day event where LBA would take over the street in front of the Lee Heights Shops for a festival and, possibly, a tactical urbanism project. Ginger also reported on an opportunity to lease the Coldwell Banker site for a short-term “pop-up” community space for the rollout of the Preferred Concept Plan. The lease would be for the cost of utilities which would run around \$1,000 a month. The landowner, Kensington Senior Living, pays around \$3,600 a month in taxes on the property. The consensus of the Board was that this was an avenue worth exploring.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

**Next board meeting:** November 18th at 6:30 pm