

The February 8, 2022 quarterly meeting of the Arlington Heights Civic Association, facilitated on Zoom by Bill Potapchuk, was called to order by President Kristi Sawert at 7:03 PM.

Attendees: Dora Sue and Ted Black, Nick Carrasco, Melanie Ciolek-Panno, Mahender Dudani, Evan Farley, Carolyn Francis, Paula Henstridge, Eileen Janas, Jim, Clare Konrad, Marilyn Marton, Bill Potapchuk, Kristi Sawert, Tia Scales, Brian Sigriz, Betty Siegel, Scott Stewart, Diana W.

Visitors: Michelle Stafford, Neighborhood Complete Streets Program Manager; Eiisa Ortiz, Chair, Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission; Cinda Berry Lee Arts Center

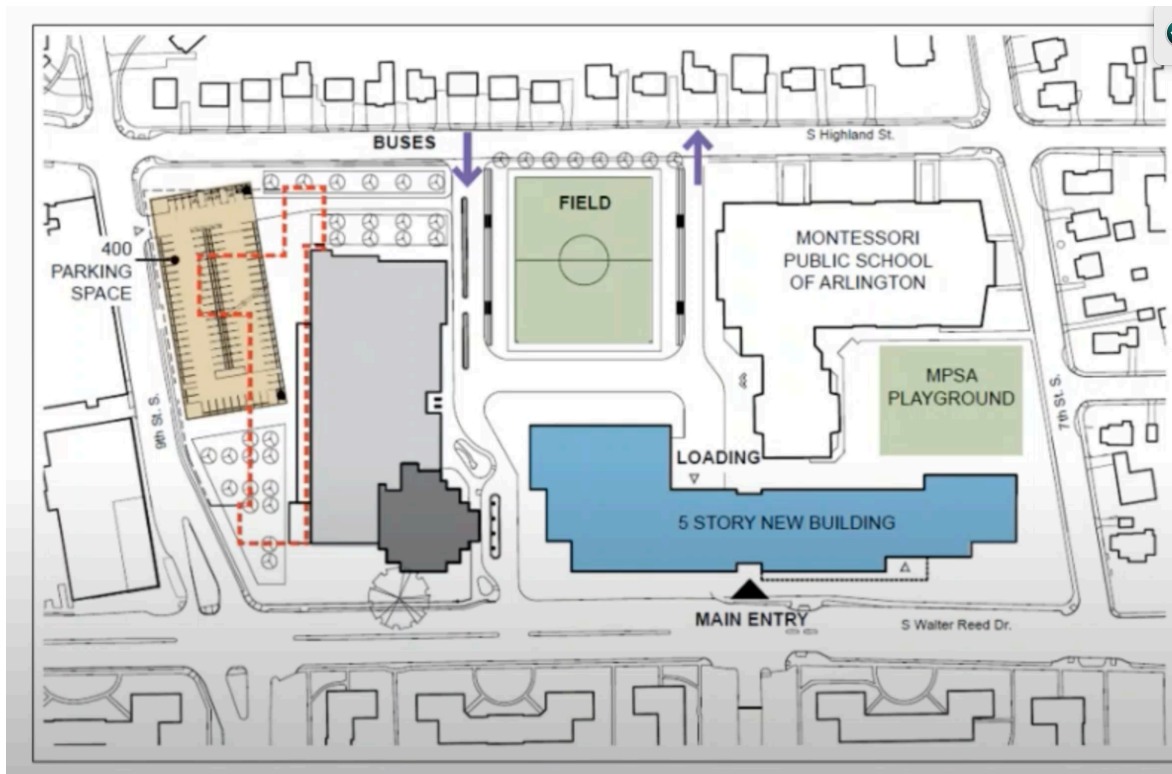
Minutes of the November 9, 2021 quarterly meeting were approved.

Matt Ambrose was unable to attend. No treasurer's report.

Habte Michael was unable to attend. No ECDC report.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee representative Eileen Janas, reported that our two priority projects are still in the queue but do not have enough points for action. Projects are First Road South Traffic Calming, and Sidewalks on one side of Highland St between Route 50 and Second St South.

### **Career Center Update:**



Nick Carrasco reported the current state of Arlington Public Schools ideas for the Career Center site. The first joint Public Facilities Review Committee/Building Level Planning Committee (PFRS/BLPC) Meeting was held January 19, 2022. The next meeting will be

Wednesday, February 16. The January 19 meeting covered the building location, the above-ground parking lot, and bus traffic on the site. Nick said he still has no details on how many stories the garage will have; it should have 400 spaces. Buses will come in from Highland St.. Nick thanked everyone for their feedback, which he compiled and submitted.

Eileen Janas asked if Nick had any idea what APS considers the life expectancy of the Montessori building and how soon after this construction is done it would be demolished. Nick has not heard anything about its life expectancy.

Betty Siegel reminded participants that our association had supported increased building height on the 9th St side next to the tall AT&T building, not along Walter Reed Dr. Highland St. cannot handle bus traffic and it is a huge impact on the neighbors. APS needs to look holistically at the site. Nick said that APS does not envision more buses than currently use the site.

Eileen Janas said APS needs to plan the whole site, not put up a gigantic building and then plan the site. Eileen assumes that when APS says they will use the Career Center Building as swing space, that means they will move an entire school population into the Career Center while they demolish a current school and rebuild in its place. That means more buses. Nick and Kristi agreed they think that is what APS plans. Kristi has heard that the Barcroft School is considered to be at the end of its life cycle. Eileen said the building needs to be net zero, should be turned 90° and face south for solar panels on the roof. She said the parking garage will need to recharge teachers' cars during the day and that it could be used as a revenue source at night, if it were used to recharge cars from neighbors on Highland St, Fillmore Gardens, or the motel on Columbia Pike. Nick raised concerns about safety and getting the cars out early enough in the morning before school starts.

Kristi thought the best outcome would be if Montessori moved into the current career center building and the Montessori building was torn down. Nick said APS is unable to update the HVAC system in the Montessori building.

Bill asked if there is any way to slow things down. Nick said it had already been delayed two years, it is in the CIP and APS wants to move forward.

Nick reported that Douglas Park and Penrose Civic Associations want the new building on 9th Street instead of Walter Reed.

Kristi encouraged everyone to attend the February 16 meeting.

Additional information is available on the project site: <https://www.apsva.us/engage/arlington-career-center-project/>

### **Neighborhood Complete Streets:**

Michelle Stafford, Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) Program Manager, gave an update on the "South Irving Street from 6th Street South to 7th Street South" project. NCS received 360 submissions in 2017 for locations with missing or incomplete sidewalks. Irving St. was accepted as a project. Their first design was delayed because the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Fire Code disagree about safe street width: MTP calls for 14'; fire code requires 20' of clear travel way. The new design is a compromise with 18' of travel way. It uses the right of way, not any private property. There was discussion about the sidewalk width, the amount of traffic on the street, the need for a stop sign at 7th and Irving and the location of curb cuts at 6th and Irving. Michelle reported that when the four-way stop was installed at S. Highland and

7th St. S, it was chosen instead of S. Highland and 6th St. S. Brian reported that there is only one block between the stop signs on 6th Street S at Irving and Highland streets. Kristi asked Michelle to provide her with point of contact information for a traffic engineer, since circumstances have changed.

Comments about the revised design can be shared until March 1, 2022 on the project page:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/South-Irving-Street-NCS-Project>

Current Timeline: Present the revised design to the County Board in April 2022; 2022-2024 - Detailed Design and Implementation

NCS has one other project in Arlington Heights: making the service driveway behind the AT&T building on 9th Street South accessible. Currently there are no curb cuts so it is not ADA compliant.

### **Lee Arts Center:**

Cinda Berry gave a presentation on LAC, formerly the Lee Arts Center. The LAC is in the Lee Community Center, a building at the corner of Langston Blvd (formerly Lee Highway) and Lexington Ave N, that has provided open studios for artists, educational opportunities, and sponsored art events for 40 years. It has special equipment and space that is too large or too expensive for homes, such as kilns, a dark room, a letter press and vapor hood. The building needs extensive renovation but the County has no apparent plans for its future or the future of LAC.

Ms. Berry asked members to visit their website [savelac.org](http://savelac.org), sign their petition, and send a letter from the civic association to the County Board supporting LAC.

### **Open forum:**

Kristi opened the meeting for questions or comments. Scott reported that Westmont construction continues, but he has not heard about any issues. Betty Siegel thanked AHCA board members for their hard work on behalf of the community.

Kristi Sawert adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas, AHCA Secretary