

**Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)**

**Minutes of the Membership Meeting, September 21, 2017**

*Recorded by Don Schlichtmann*

Pres. Arthur Fox called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He noted that roughly seventy people, led by Chick Walter, had participated in the recent ‘invasive plant clean-up’ effort at the Hume School and various locations elsewhere and commended the participants.

**Arl.Co. Police.** Arthur then introduced Capt. Wayne Vincent, commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. of the Arl.Co. Police Dept., who in turn introduced a sergeant and three detectives to talk about cyber security and financial fraud. Capt. Vincent mentioned a (free) “Breakfast with the Chief” to be held Oct. 30 at the Hyatt from 8:00 to 10:00, which requires advance registration.

The sergeant and detectives then gave short talks and took questions. One showed how he signs the back of his credit cards with “See ID”, which encourages clerks to check identity. It was recommended to use credit cards rather than debit cards at gas stations, especially at the pumps, to avoid compromising personal bank accounts. Card ‘skimmers’ are increasingly found in gas pumps and are almost impossible to detect. Gas pumps do not yet accommodate credit card ‘chips,’ a more secure technology which most merchants employ – a gas station weakness which criminals are exploiting.

One detective recommended seeing “*Krebs on Security*” on-line for cyber protection tactics and to assume that one’s identity has been compromised by the Equifax and other hacks. The speakers recommended checking credit reports and monthly card statements and talking with your bank. Another detective advised to update software and employ encryption and firewalls to thwart personal computer hacks.

The entire presentation was warmly received by the Members, who gave the presenters loud applause.

**Announcements.** Arthur briefly announced the creation of a new north/south “Grant St.” being developed on the COSTCO block that will eventually run from 12<sup>th</sup> St. S. to 15<sup>th</sup> St. S., the upcoming completion of the cosmetic rehab of the shopping mall interior, and the ongoing construction of a 23-story residential tower adjacent to the Metro entrance scheduled for completion by early 2019.

**I-395 ‘Sound Wall’.** Arthur then introduced Brent McKenzie of Trans-Urban, the private contractor working with VDOT to implement the I-395 ‘Express Lanes’ conversion to ‘Hot Toll Lanes’ northward up to the foot of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge across the Potomac River. Mr. McKenzie introduced a representative from his construction sub-contractor and two representatives from VDOT.

Mr. McKenzie passed out copies of a “395 Express Lanes Project Update” presentation which provides an overview of the project, describes the location and types of sound walls, and describes the voting process for approval of a sound wall by “impacted home owners” who will be “benefitted” by its construction. During questioning, he noted that there will be a toll gate north of the Eads St. slip-lane that many area residents use to cross the River and confirmed that they will incur a toll. Several Members expressed disappointment with this statement, which they said was a change from VDOT’s earlier position.

Arthur noted that voting materials will be mailed to impacted residences in October and advised them to be on the lookout. He also promised to send an email with website links that would enable members to obtain more specific, technical information relevant to their properties and the project’s timing.

**JBG/Smith.** Arthur then introduced Matt Ginivan and George Hayward of JBG/Smith, the successor to Vornado in the D.C. area. Mr. Ginivan noted that one-third of JBG/Smith's property portfolio is located in 22202 and they would be proceeding very carefully to ensure the success of their area improvements focusing first on enlivening street level retail and the provision of needed amenities.

The two gentlemen discussed plans for re-developing Crystal City and connecting it with the Potomac Yard area to the immediate south in Alexandria. Specific commitments mentioned for CC were the provision a 'specialty grocery store' and a movie-house/tavern to replace the Potomac Yard Multi-Screen Cinema which will be demolished in 2019 to enable development of a new, high-rise, mixed-use "neighborhood" behind the "big box stores" adjacent to the new Metro stop scheduled for completion in 2022. They listened carefully to ideas from Members for development in 22202, including the need to preserve open space and to put a priority on places for people to socialize. They took many notes. When asked about the management organization of JBG/Smith, they explained that there are two principal committees within the company that they must convince regarding projects, a design review committee and an investment committee. They also said that their portfolios included new development, not the maintenance of current assets.

The presentation was well received and discussion continued after the meeting was adjourned.

There being no further business, the meeting officially concluded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.