

**Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)**  
**Minutes of the Membership Meeting, January 18, 2018**

*Recorded by Don Schlichtmann*

Pres. Arthur Fox called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. He noted one business matter to be addressed prior to introduction of the evening's two main speakers.

He first introduced Lauren Bailey and indicated that she had been nominated at the November meeting as a member of the ExBoard with responsibility to oversee the NC Program. She now had to be formally elected. The membership roundly approved her election.

Arthur then introduced Geoff Vetter as spokesperson for the team addressing questions of the design and voting on the I-395 'sound wall'. The team included representatives of VDOT, TransUrban, and Lane Construction, the contractor. Mr. Vetter gave a brief description of the project and the voting process and schedule. A first round of ballots to 'eligible and benefitted' owners/residents is due to be returned by Jan. 29. A second round of ballots will be sent by certified mail to those owners/residents who do not respond to the initial mailing and will be due three weeks later. If a majority of those who return ballots from the two rounds approve of building a sound wall, a sound-absorbing concrete design fastened by steel posts will be constructed between Glebe & Eads Sts. along the east side of I-395. If not, there could be no continuous sound wall between those points. However, it's possible that a portion, or portions of the sound wall could be built if strong support were shown among affected residents along only certain sections of Army-Navy Drive.

Arthur next introduced Arl.Co. Board member John Vihstadt, who was warmly welcomed. Mr. Vihstadt spoke first about 'big picture' items, especially Arlington's efforts to include citizens in the decision-making process. He noted the more than fifty civic associations and fifty County advisory boards, along with advisory boards are appointed directly by the County Manager and invited anyone interested in serving to forward their resume to him.

Mr. Vihstadt went on to address several key issues and respond to questions from the audience on topics including the following: 1) helicopter noise; 2) DCA commercial jet noise; 3) criminal justice concerns, including the opioid crisis; 4) METRO management; 5) APS growth and capital budget planning; and 6) stress on the County's operating budget in 2019. He also noted that there were sixty-seven water main breaks in the County within a four-week period due to the cold snap. He noted also a large number of frozen water meters that County staff had to repair.

With time running short, the meeting officially concluded, but Mr. Vihstadt mingled with members of the audience for a while afterward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.