

Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)

Minutes of the Membership Meeting, November 15, 2018

Recorded by Don Schlichtmann

Pres. Arthur Fox called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. There were approximately 60 attendees. Arthur began by noting that the Arl.Co.Board was considering revising the Permit Parking program and that a meeting on the subject was scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 29 at 6:00 at the Aurora Highlands Community Center. He indicated that people who might be concerned about elimination of the program should make their concerns heard.

He then introduced Bob Hyde, who presented the proposed ARCA budget for 2019. Bob indicated that the 2019 budget was similar to budgets of the past several years. After several brief questions, a vote was called and the budget was unanimously approved.

Arthur then introduced Brent McKenzie, who led a four-person team working with TransUrban to explain ‘next steps’ in construction of a “sound wall” along Army/Navy Drive to shield the neighborhood from traffic noise on I-395. Brent indicated that construction would begin at the southern end of Army/Navy Dr. near S. 26th St. and would gradually move north to where it would terminate in the vicinity of Horizon House. The duration of the project is projected at more than a year. The “sound wall” will vary in height between 17 and 25 feet, depending on terrain and will be an attractively patterned concrete. Some removal of trees and shrubs on the residential side of the “sound wall” is inevitable, but maximum care will be taken to preserve same. No replanting will be accomplished to replace removed foliage.

Arthur then moved to the major topic of the evening, a discussion of the impact on ARCA and south Arlington of the announcement by Amazon to locate half of its new headquarters, and 25,000 jobs, in the Crystal City/Pentagon City area. He referenced comments from the Wall Street Journal regarding the “prosperity explosion” the announcement meant for the Wash., D.C. area and public comment from the Arl.Co. Manager that the staff would work diligently to meet Amazon’s needs. He noted concerns regarding infrastructure limitations in S. Arlington, notably schools and transportation, and said that the three area neighborhood associations (ARCA, AHCA, and CCCA) were committed to working together actively to surface matters of concern to the Arl.Co. Board and staff. He and members of the audience commented on the re-branding of the area from Crystal City south to Potomac Yard in Alexandria and west to the River House complex as “National Landing”, expressing concern over the strategic intent of this effort.

After providing a thorough review of issues raised by Amazon’s announcement, Arthur noted the resolution regarding the need for an infrastructure study in 22202 that had been approved by ARCA Members in 2015 and submitted to the Arl.Co. Board. He commented that some lip service but no concrete action had occurred in the past three years and offered a new resolution for discussion to call the Board’s attention again to the need for a study. The new President of AHCA was in the audience, as well as a past President of CCCA, and both concurred in the need to put this issue squarely before the Board. After some discussion of wording a vote was taken, and the proposed resolution (attached hereto) was approved with only one negative vote, that being in support of even stronger language in the resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.