

LEE HIGHWAY ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Lee Highway Alliance Board of Directors Held at Woodmont Community Center on May 4, 2017

Voting Directors Present (15)

Peter Bota, Ginger Brown, Mike Cantwell, Sandi Chesrown, Michele Cornwell, Edith Gravely, Ralph Johnson, Tom Korn, Jim Lantelme, Laura London, Scott Matties, Richard Price, Chris Sundlof, Judith Wheat, Michelle Winters

Non-Voting Director Present (2)

Matt Weinstein and Tom Wolfe

County Liaisons Present

Karen Vasquez

CAC/Planning Committee Members Present

Fatima Argun, Sally Duran, Elaine Furlow, Charlie Henkin, Benjamin Keeney, Jim Todd

Guests

Delegate Rip Sullivan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sandi Chesrown at 7:03 p.m.

Richard Price moved the Board to adopt the minutes of the February 9, 2017 meeting and Michelle Cornwell seconded. The minutes were unanimously adopted. (Agenda Item 2a.)

Delegate Rip Sullivan was introduced and presented General Assembly Joint Resolution 594 commending LHA for its vision and creativity in the Lee Highway redevelopment and planning process.

Agenda Item 2: Approvals and Reporting on Previous Board Directives

Jim Lantelme provided the Treasurer's Report. LHA currently has \$48,781.91 on deposit in the bank. The County Board approved \$60,500 for FY18 funding. Karen Vasquez explained that the funding that was approved was ongoing funding beginning in FY18, rather than the one-time funds that were included in the FY17 budget. The Finance Committee will be able to confirm in late fall that this line item has been included in the County's FY19 budget. (Agenda Item 2b.)

Jim also reported that the Finance Committee had identified a broker and received a bid for D&O insurance for the Directors. The estimated annual premium is \$1,100 for approximately \$1 million in coverage for acts/omissions and SLAP suits. The final decision will be made by the Finance Committee. (Agenda Item 2c.)

Tom Wolfe presented the most recent version of the job description for the Executive Director position. The Board agreed that the requirement of being an Arlington resident be changed to a desired element rather than a requirement. There was also discussion about the job duties. The Board agreed that any additional comments on the ED job description should be submitted to Tom for consideration before the position is advertised. [Tom Wolfe has since removed himself from further involvement and has notified the Board he intends to apply for the position.] (Agenda Item 2d.)

LEE HIGHWAY ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Sandi Chesrown reported on the status of the office space search. As previously noted, the Calloway parsonage cannot be used because of the expense involved in reconfiguring the space to meet County requirements. Board members are going to look at a property at 5001 Lee Highway, which is owned by Dominion Electric. If there is additional space, Michelle Winters expressed interest in the possibility of using the additional space as "incubator" space for non-profits or small businesses. (Agenda Item 2e.)

Sandi also provided an update on LHA's communications strategy. Bean Kinney confirmed that no amendment to the By-Laws is needed to form a Communications Committee. Richard Price, Elaine Furlow, Michelle Cornwell, Judy Wheat, and Sandi Chesrown volunteered for the Committee. LHA worked with Economic Development to include Lee Highway as a tourism corridor, and it is has now been included in two publications - the "Stay Arlington" map & the 2017-2018 Visitors Guide. LHA is also in the process of developing a directory and listserv to facilitate communications. Efforts to develop a brand/logo will be discussed by the Communications Committee and a few local different graphic designers will be interviewed. (Agenda Item 2f.)

Karen Vasquez discussed the minimum documentation standards required by the County Board to be maintained for LHA. Documents, including Board organizational documents, articles of incorporation, bylaws, conflict of interest policy, annual budget, and list of Board members, as well as Board minutes, must be available on line. Sandi noted that she is working with Sima Nasr, a Tara Leeway graphic designer, to quickly update LHA's web site to include all of that information, so that the County will release funding to LHA.

Sandi also provided a report on the March 21, 2017 CAC meeting at the Langston Brown Community Center. (Agenda Item 2g.)

Agenda Item 3: Community Day Events/Public Awareness

Sandi Chesrown is working with three civic associations – John M. Langston, Waverly Hills, and Tara Leeway – and two Board members – Edith Gravely and Michelle Winters – to organize LHA's Spring Event comprised of three Arlington Community Day Festivals on May 13. Sandi provided the signs and flyers designed by Sima Nasr (attached to the minutes). The festivals will be held at Langston Brown Community Center, Woodstock Park, and Big Walnut Park. LHA acknowledged the generous sponsorship of four sponsors, funds from which LHA matched – Reid and Kate Real Estate, Sully Services Lawn Maintenance, Legacy Home Improvements, and Arlington Community Federal Credit Union, with a special thanks to LHA's Board member, Chris Sundlof.

Agenda Item 4: Re-planning of Lee Highway

Ginger Brown provided an update on the scoping process. Funding of \$500,000 was put back into the FY18 budget by the County Board to pay for the two to three year planning process, which will be led by a team of multi-disciplinary consultants. The consulting team will work with County staff and a committee of stakeholders, including LHA. It is anticipated that the RFP for consulting services will be released in mid-summer and that the team will be brought on board by late summer, so that the planning effort can commence in early fall. Either the County Board or County Manager will appoint the group of stakeholders on the committee and a smaller working group. Ginger encouraged LHA Board members to indicate their interest in being appointed to the planning effort.

LEE HIGHWAY ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ginger also provided an update on JFAC. There is a community forum on 5/24 at Wakefield High School at 7 p.m. Issues to be discussed include the Buck Property and the Virginia Hospital Center land swap.

Agenda Item 5: VDOT Issues

LHA has been working with EFC CA and others to encourage VDOT to re-design the Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge over Lee Highway at EFC, starting at the O&D Trail. As a gateway, the bridge should not only be functional but also well designed. VDOT has listened to the County staff's recommendations and recommendations made by LHA and others at two community meetings, and have included about 75% in the re-design. Another meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 6-8 pm, Yorktown High School to discuss the final design.

Several attendees raised concerns with Delegate Sullivan about the recently-erected, inappropriately large and badly placed VDOT signs in Cherrydale and Lyon Village to announce the new tolls on I-66. The Board discussed a number of possible alternatives to the existing signs, as well as the negative impacts they created for the community. The Cherrydale Civic Association has scheduled a meeting with VDOT on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the HB Woodlawn Middle School Library, in which LHA will be participating, and all are welcome to attend.

Agenda Item 6: Summer Educational Forums

Some of the possible topics proposed for educational forums included Housing, Transportation and Transferable Development Rights (TDRs). With respect to TDRs, Sandi noted that she has discussed a July forum with Bean Kinney presenting, as the concept could be helpful to implementing LHA's guiding principles during a rezoning process. With respect to housing, two particular topics were discussed: Missing Middle Housing, referring to a form of housing between single family and mid-size apartment buildings aimed at middle-income affordability; and Complexity of Affordable Housing in a corridor such as Lee Highway. It was suggested that a video be created of the presentations to be posted on the LHA website. Sandi will look into possible program options and report back to the Board.

Agenda Item 7: Local Business Event

LHA is still looking into a fall event with the local business community, possibly in October. A small committee of LHA Board members will be formed to organize the event, to perhaps include the theme of "Shop Local/Shop Lee." An update was provided about the Legacy Business initiative, which LHA undertook with AED and VA Tech graduate students. More information can be found at www.legacybusinessarlington.com.

Agenda Item 8: Announcements

Tom Korns discussed the Lee Highway Walking Tour, which was attended by about 30 people. The tour was organized by LHA with Arlington Economic Development and Walk Arlington to engage citizen participation and empower the community to positively impact the future physical environment.

With regard to LHA's partnership with the Marymount Farmers Market, the Farmers Market will begin on May 27 and operate into November with nearly double the number of vendors from last year. LHA has worked with Field to Table, the market manager, to create an Adopt-a-Saturday

LEE HIGHWAY ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

program which identifies civic associations, non-profits, and others to volunteer on Saturdays to help set up and take down the market. This effort has been very successful.

With regard to awards, LHA is a finalist in the State of Place competition, submitted by Chris Forinash on behalf of LHA. Other finalists include Asbury Park, NJ, Fargo, ND and Sacramento, CA. According to the website, LHA seeks to use State of Place analytics, focusing on one of the four main commercial nodes along this auto-centric corridor, to identify opportunities to optimally transform the corridor and increase its walkability. For more information see, www.stateofplace.com.

Neighborhood Complete Streets. Nominating process open from 5/1/17 to 6/16/17. This is a new program and the first call for applications will fund a limited number of projects on neighborhood (non-arterial) streets. According to the County, projects that may be considered include streets with: missing sections of sidewalk, inaccessible curb ramps, inadequate street lighting, or are obstructed or otherwise unsafe for all users.

There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.