

## **LHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 16, 2019**

### **Voting Directors Present (11)**

Ginger Brown, Mike Cantwell, Sandi Chesrown, Michele Cornwell, Edith Gravely, Ralph Johnson, Jim Lantelme, Laura London, Scott Matties, Richard Price, Michelle Winters

### **Non-Voting Directors Present (2)**

Matt Weinstein and Tom Wolfe

### **Voting Directors Absent (4)**

Peter Bota, Tom Kornis, Chris Sundlof, Judy Wheat,

### **Executive Director**

Lucia De Cordre

### **Guests Present**

Susan Soroko, AED Liaison

Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, CPHD Plan Lee Highway Project Manager

Rip Sullivan, State Delegate

Paul Holland, CAC Member/Plan Lee Highway Chair

### **Welcome & Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ginger Brown, President, at 8:05 am.

### **Legislative Update**

Rip Sullivan, State Delegate, graciously provided an update and lively discussion of the 2019 legislative session. Some of the successes included the tax bill, changes to allow absentee voting without excuses, energy efficiency, redistricting reform to end gerrymandering, and a carrot to state universities to freeze tuition in exchange for funding. Failures included not voting on the ERA and gun safety (third attempt at Red Flag bill).

### **AED Update**

Susan Soroko noted in regard to the recent budget cycle that AED fully supported LHA's funding request, although the County Board only funded 85% of the request or \$80,500. Discussion ensued about funding of other alliances which included \$90,000 to the Clarendon Alliance or 95% of their request and \$370,000 to CPRO or 93% of their request. Susan recommended on-going communications with the County Board and County Manager regarding how expectations and outcomes match, illustrating successes throughout the year rather than only at the end of the year.

### **Changes to the LHA Board**

The first LHA Board Member to leave the Board is Judy Wheat. A veteran trial attorney, Judy's eight year term on the 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Arlington and Falls Church will begin on July 1, 2019. Although she cannot remain on the LHA Board, Judy will continue to participate in the CAC as a member of the Rock Spring CA. Ginger expressed LHA's congratulations to Judy for this honor, and thanked her for her exemplary service as Secretary.

Sandi Chesrown, VP, then nominated Pamela Gillen to complete Judy's term on the Board, and the motion was seconded by Michelle Winters. Sandi noted Pamela's extensive experience,

both professionally (head of Ballston based architecture firm specializing in retail) and as a community volunteer (President, Waverly Hills CA; past Member, Arlington Planning Commission; Member, Arlington Economic Development Commission; Member, LHA Planning Committee and original LHA supporter dating back to 2012). [The Board unanimously approved Pamela's seat on the LHA Board.](#)

## **President's Report**

Ginger thanked Lucia deCordre for her consulting services as Executive Director since the fall of 2017. Lucia is leaving LHA at the end of May and moving to Camden, Maine, to start a B&B with her husband to be called Timbercliffe. Board members also extended their appreciation to Lucia and wished her well.

Ginger also thanked Michele Horwitz Cornwell and BMC Property Group for providing LHA with the gift of Quikbooks. Ginger recommended that the Board approve a bookkeeping service to replace Lucia's duties including set up and training on Quikbooks (approximately \$900), quarterly reviews (approximately \$2000), and tax preparation of 990EZ form (approximately \$1600). Ginger noted that an independent audit is also advised. After Board discussion, [Sandi made a motion, seconded by Mike Cantwell, that LHA spend up to \\$5000 to have Quikbooks properly and efficiently installed with training, followed by an audit. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.](#)

Ginger informed the Board that she has stopped Bean Kinney's efforts to transform LHA from 501 c 4 status to 501 c 3 status based on a variety of issues including the lack of County Board funding, BKK's legal advice that the process might not be successful citing the Sierra Club case, and the need to focus on other organizational issues in light of Lucia's departure. Michelle Winters noted that AHS is a 501 c 3 and there is no problem with lobbying. [The Board recommended that BKK provide a memo on this topic, which Matt Weinstein said he would request from Jon Kinney, and that the issue be discussed again at the September LHA Board meeting when more information is available on LHA's finances.](#)

## **Minutes LHA March, 2019, Board Meeting**

Judy Wheat circulated the draft March meeting minutes to the Board last week. Scott Matties moved to approve the March Board meeting minutes with a few changes as recommended by Sandi. Mike Cantwell seconded the motion, and the [revised minutes were approved.](#)

## **Events Committee**

Sandi (Events Committee Chair) updated the Board on the June 1 annual fundraiser, An Evening at Broadview/Ginger's historic house, thanking the Board for their generous donations at members of the Host Committee. She predicted that more than 100 people would attend and that the goal of \$15,000 would be met. Sandi also updated the Board on the Dorothy Hamm Middle School Urban Planning project, which is being done with Taylor Reich as the Youth Representative on the Plan Lee Highway Community Forum. The school's principal has approved the concept, and it is anticipated that implementation will begin in the fall.

## **Finance Committee**

Michele H. Cornwell, Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's report, updating the Board on the [budget \(see attached\).](#) She noted that the credit line with ACFCU has not yet gone through, and LHA awaits more information on the fee structure and whether or not ACFCU might donate

the fees (Chris Sundlof was not present as he is on vacation). She also reported on the savings of \$400 as LHA switched its Directors insurance policy.

### **Transportation Committee**

Richard Price reported on the success of the May 4 Bike Ride with the Bicycling Advisory Committee on a Saturday morning. The ride on and off the Lee Corridor to explore existing conditions was followed by a discussion at LHA with about 20 participants, including representatives from AECOM (PLH consultants).

### **Chamber of Commerce Report**

(Tom Wolfe, LHA's Liaison to the Chamber, did not report as he had to depart early from the Board meeting.)

### **Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)**

Jim Lantelme, also a member of the County's Planning Commission and Chair of the PFRC reported on the Fire Station 8 meetings that are on-going over the summer. He noted LHA's rep to the PFRC for Fire Station 8 is Sandi Chesrown. Along with others from John M. Langston CA, including Edith Gravely, Sandi and Jim attended the May meeting to begin the discussion of the design of Fire Station 8. Jim noted that the architects are famous throughout the US for their portfolio of successful fire stations. Upcoming meetings will be held on June 12 and July 10 at Langston Brown Community Center.

### **Civic Federation**

Ginger noted that LHA has formally joined the Civic Federation, and both Tom Wolfe and Mike Cantwell have offered to serve as delegates. Ginger will update CivFed on LHA's activities at their June 4 meeting.

### **Kiwanis Club**

Sandi reported that Paul Holland, Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, and she will present an update on LHA and Plan Lee Highway to the Arlington Kiwanis Club on June 5<sup>th</sup>. She also mentioned that in April Natasha and Sandi were featured on This Sold House, Arlington Independent Radio, which focused on the history of LHA and the current Plan Lee Highway study.

### **Planning Committee Report**

Scott Matties, PC Chair, reported on the Goddard School daycare application. The facility will be housed in two re-purposed buildings – one the former Capitol One bank site on George Mason, which Goddard is leasing, and the other attached to the United Bank site on Harrison across Lee Highway from Lee Harrison Shopping Center, which Goddard is purchasing. One site will serve parents with infants (6 weeks – 24 months) and the other site will serve 2-5 year olds. LHA met with Goddard representatives and presented the application to the CAC/PC meeting. Goddard is proposing to use the existing on-site parking and access points and to build outdoor playgrounds. The PC recommended that the LHA Board submit a letter in support of the application to the County Board and staff, as Goddard's application is in keeping with LHA's Guiding Principles. It was noted that soon there will be day care centers serving each activity node along the corridor and that Little Ambassadors' Lexington street facility is now operable and serving 99% local kids and 30% of the parents are walking, not driving, to the facility. [Scott moved and Edith Gravely seconded that the LHA Board provide a letter in support, and the motion was unanimously approved \(letter has been sent to the County\).](#)

### **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report**

Ginger Brown, Chair, reported on the May 2, 2019, CAC/PC joint meeting, where there was relatively robust participation. Discussion focused on Plan Lee Highway, including LHA's April Existing Conditions Walking Tour which was submitted to AECOM, the April Neighborhood Focus Groups in which there was light participation from the CAs (blamed on late notice from the County), and one past educational forum – the March 30<sup>th</sup> EScooters forum at LHA – and three future forums to which all were invited: the May 4 Bike Arlington event at LHA, the June 5 AHS Leckey Forum at Central Library featuring a speaker from Minneapolis on affordable housing and the elimination of single family zoning, and the June 8 Planning and Zoning forum at the County. Also discussed were the VDOT briefings at LHA, the day care proposals including Goddard and Montessori School in Cherrydale (not yet formally submitted to the County), and an upcoming murals project in the Lee Corridor with AED. Michelle Winters discussed the upcoming County Board vote on allowing new construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which needs support to increase affordable housing options in Arlington.

### **Plan Lee Highway Report (PLH)**

Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, CPHD Project Manager on PLH reported on the current activities and schedule. She noted that the Existing Conditions Analysis is on-going and should be completed this summer. In addition to the Neighborhood Focus Groups, conversations are being conducted during June with developers and property owners. There have been and will continue to be monthly Working Group meetings on the nine key planning elements, in which LHA has significant input. Online, the County received 290 responses to their survey furthering stakeholder engagement in the fall. Natasha continues to hold Open Studios at LHA every other week, and the number of participants has grown. Upcoming studios include June 14, June 28, July 12 and July 26. Natasha also updated the Board on the Housing Conservation District report, which will be released in late May, and their findings will be discussed at the June 8 educational forum at the County.

### **Other Business**

Matt Weinstein reported that a Swim Box has opened by right in Garden City on the lower level. Mike Cantwell, as President of the Yorktown CA, noted that he had discussed the Lee Harrison Shopping center application with Roni Robbins, VP at AJ Dwoskin, Owner. YCA has no objection to the proposed by right application for a one story three unit retail building that will replace the Cardinal Bank building. Edith Gravely reported on Neighborhood Day at Halls Hill, and expressed appreciation to LHA for the \$400 contribution and bringing free Sloppy Mama's barbecue to the event. Sandi noted that the Marymount Farmers Market (MFM) opens Saturday, May 25, from 9-1 pm, and that LHA has Adopted A Saturday on June 15, if anyone would like to volunteer to join Sandi and Paul in spreading the word on Plan Lee Highway. LHA's Oktoberfest at MFM is scheduled for September 28.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Ginger thanked everyone for their participation and reminded members that the next Board meeting will be held at LHA in September. She invited everyone to a wonderful Evening at Broadview on June 1. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

***(The June 12 VDOT briefing and the June 20 CAC meeting were both cancelled in late May. The next VDOT briefing is scheduled for September 11, followed by a CAC/PC meeting on September 12, and the LHA Board meeting on September 19.)***

Sandi Chesrown, Reporting  
(Secretary's seat on the Board is vacant to be filled in September)