

**LHA Educational Forum: Heritage/Stratford School Interpretive Plan**

**May 19, 2018 – 9:30-12 noon at LHA**

**Meeting Minutes**

<p><i>Welcome, Update on LHPI, Introduction of Speakers – Sandi Chesrown LHA President</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Goal of LHA Educational Forums</b> – Push participants to ‘think forward’ during the LHPI – priorities 10-20 years into the future.</p> <p><b>Historic preservation and Cultural Heritage</b> – Supported by LHA’s Guiding Principles to contribute to a vital community. (Historic morning when the House of Windsor had an African American Bishop speak the powerful words of Martin Luther King at the wedding of a member of the royal family.)</p> <p><b>Lee Highway Planning Initiative (LHPI)</b> – Robust response &amp; numerous proposals submitted; still hoping for summer contract and September start date</p> <p><b>Introduction of Speakers – Sandra Green</b> – Member of Halls Hill Highview Park community; long active in LHA representing historic Calloway Church; Co-Chair, APS Committee on Historic Interpretation at Stratford Middle School</p> <p><b>Susan Cunningham</b> – Member of Donaldson Run community; LHA’s Planning Committee; Co-Chair of the APS Committee</p>
<p><i>Presentation of History and Stratford School’s Interpretive Plan - Sandra Green &amp; Susan Cunningham, Co-Chairs, APS Committee on Historic Interpretation at Stratford</i></p>	<p><b>Presentation by Sandra Green</b></p> <p><b>Arlington’s African American Schools</b> – Drew, Hoffman Boston, JM Langston - inferior to DC schools and to white Arlington schools (W&amp;L) in 1940’s and 1950’s; for higher quality education Arlingtonians forced to attend DC schools; 1947 Arlington’s African American families gathered 5000 signatures and created Arlingtonians for Better Communities; petitioned for equal opportunity through better schools, curriculum, and equipment. Petition went nowhere.</p> <p><b>Brown v. Board of Education</b> – Attorney Thurgood Marshall filed law suit on behalf of Brown, who was seeking admission to a white school in Topeka, Kansas; 1954 US Supreme Court – unanimous opinion - ruled that ‘separate is inherently unequal’ and that state laws establishing separate schools are unconstitutional.</p> <p><b>Virginia Legislature</b> - Tried to block school integration and Governor’s office set up road blocks and said could close any school that integrated</p> <p><b>Arlington School Integrated</b> –1955 VA Supreme Court set up process to gradually integrate over three years; Nazi Party headquartered in Arlington marched against integration/crosses were burned; 1956 seven pupils tested by the state-controlled student Placement Board and denied access; judge ruled four unjustly denied placement; February 2, 1959, four admitted to Stratford Junior High. Sandra was admitted as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader Fall of 1959. (<i>Jon Kinney was a hall guard and opened the door for the students- sharpshooters were on the hilltop outside to prevent violence.</i>)</p> <p><b>Integration</b> – Children were coached for integration; County wanted to ensure a smooth transition but did not provide buses; children walked from High View Park to Stratford; welcomed without animosity but always glad to return home to a nurturing neighborhood; only academic programs integrated; could not participate in extra-curricular activities (choir, sports, cheerleading), only at Hoffman Brown High School; earliest integration was sports for boys.</p> <p><b>Local Designation</b> – March 2015 Eric Dobson called Sandra seeking help with local historic designation for Stratford – 2004 designated on the National Register; important</p>

	<p>for civil rights and as one of the few buildings left from the International Style of architecture. June 2016 designated a Local Historic District.</p> <p><i>Kim Phillips from the Black Heritage Museum at 3108 Columbia Pike, noted the June 9, 1960, civil rights 'sit-in' at the Cherrydale Drug Fair, 3815 Lee Highway (now Hair Vogue). June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Cherrydale neighborhood will unveil a building plaque to commemorate the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary and an exhibit at Cherrydale Library commemorating Cherrydale Neighborhood's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary - 'Three Brushes with History' – the desegregation of Stratford Junior High, the sit-in in Cherrydale, and the contributions of the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department at the Pentagon on 9-11.</i></p> <p><b>Presentation by Susan Cunningham –</b></p> <p><b>Goal of Interpretive Design –</b> Provide education to students and general public; help middle school students think about diversity through story-telling, including interior interpretive wall, driveway gateway on Old Dominion to symbolize four students' historic entry to the campus, and reflective pathway down the hillside with timeline of events. Construction to be completed Summer of 2019.</p> <p><b>Future LHA Role –</b> Next phase to include expanded interpretive trail; LH can work with the neighborhoods and Stratford (new Principal Ellen Smith introduced herself and offered to work with LHA) to help link the school to Halls Hill.</p>
<p><b>Update –</b>  <b>Fire Station 8</b>  <b>Heritage Working Group (WG)</b>  <i>Edith Gravely, LHA</i>  <i>Board Member,</i>  <i>Member JMLCA,</i>  <i>Member WG</i>  <i>Richard Lolich, LHA</i>  <i>CAC Member,</i>  <i>President of ODCA,</i>  <i>Member WG</i></p>	<p><b>Edith Gravely &amp; Richard Lolich –</b></p> <p><b>History of Fire Station 8 –</b> Located in Halls Hill on Lee Highway; first African American volunteer fire department; 1918-1963 only Arlington fire station where African American fire fighters could work; being torn down and re-built as state-of-the-art fire station with an emphasis on the importance of its cultural heritage.</p> <p><b>FS8 Heritage WG –</b> 14 members appointed by County Manager February 2018 – 14; Edith and Richard are LHA's reps; first African American Battalion Chief was on the WG; divided into two sub-committees –exterior and interior recommendations; focus on historic significance to community and mindful of fire station's mission and work; not contentious but rather very agreeable group; Noah Simon chaired.</p> <p><b>Recommendations –</b>Exterior Subcommittee recommendations for eye catching/iconic architecture with connectivity to sculpture/park across Lee Highway such as pillars from the original house; interior to include elements of the past to tell the story of FS8 such as a replica of the original command board and living areas named for the early fire fighters (Captain Reed, Captain Clark). Look locally for artists to participate. Draft Report in May; will be posted on LHA</p> <p><b>LHA -</b> Will continue to work with the neighborhoods during the LHPI process to discuss FS8 facilities – perhaps community space in the grey house - and to expand the story and educational cultural heritage programs and interpretation.</p>
<p><b>Announcements of</b>  <b>Upcoming</b>  <b>Activities</b> <i>Lucia</i>  <i>deCordre</i>  <i>LHA Executive</i>  <i>Director</i></p>	<p><b>Up-coming events -</b></p> <p>May 23 - 8 am, PC/CAC/Transportation Committee Meeting with VDOT at LHA</p> <p>June 9 - 10:30 am Plaque Unveiling Sit-in (Hair Vogue, Lee Highway, Cherrydale);</p> <p>11 am Cherrydale Library, ceremony Cherrydale's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary</p> <p>June 16 - 8:30 am, Two Volunteers to LHA's Adopt a Saturday, Marymount FM</p> <p>June 21 – 6:30 pm, LHA Board Meeting at LH</p>