

AHCA-ARCA Candidates Night
January 11, 2012, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 South 18th Street

Moderated by AHCA Vice President Nick Giacobbe

INTRODUCTIONS

1. Kim Klinger
2. Terron Sims
3. Audrey Clement
4. Libby Garvey
5. Melissa Bondi
6. Peter Fallon

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED

With the continued expected development in Pentagon City and Crystal City, what do you think Arlington needs to do to anticipate rather than react to traffic issues, and further, to ensure traffic concerns are fully and accurately addressed in the development and planning process? Specifically, would you support community level traffic and environmental studies to establish baselines so that the effect of future changes can be monitored and remedial actions taken, if needed?

Answering: Melissa Bondi:

Please describe for us the major issues that you think challenge our community, possibly in order of their degree of challenge, and describe in more detail how you would work with our community to address at least one of these issues including specific steps and measurable milestones. Areas to consider might include: development in and around our community, air quality, traffic, noise, transit, pedestrian issues, parks, trees, green spaces, open space, schools, and others.

Answering: Kim Klinger

Arlington has made progress in residential recycling and has efforts in place to encourage energy efficiency and reduce waste. Describe for our community steps you would take to specifically address the issues of energy efficiency and waste reduction in large scale apartment and condo buildings, commercial offices, retail businesses, and hotels as those seem to be the area of greatest growth and thus the best targets for the implementation of better practices. Specific examples

including targets for LEED certification, fee based incentives, etc would be appreciated.

Answering: Audrey Clement

While the recession has officially ended, we still face significant economic challenges. Please describe for us specific areas where you believe Arlington County Government could reduce costs and how those cost reductions would be achieved.

Answering: Kim Klinger

Answering: Terron Sims

Describe to us the changes that you are aware of in our local environment over approximately the last 40 years including areas of improvement and decline and describe what realistic view you would like to see emerge over the next 40 years. Areas to briefly touch on could include air quality, water quality, noise, tree canopy, natural habitat/biodiversity, sustainability, energy, and/or crowding/congestion.

Answering: Peter Fallon

Arlington is nationally recognized with awards for the Arlington Way as a model for citizen involvement. What changes will you make to give us confidence that we have an impactful voice in county decisions? What efforts will you take to ensure that information goes out to all Arlington citizens?

Answering: Melissa Bondi

Answering: Terron Sims

Answering: Libby Garvey

Many in our broader neighborhood (what is often referred to as the 4D-A bounded by I-395, the GW Parkway, and Four Mile Run) have expressed that our area is different from Arlington County on average in areas like our socioeconomic diversity, our ethnic diversity, the large retail and commercial elements, our very high percentage of residents who rent, our rapidly changing demographics, and we are sure many others. Please describe one way you agree that the 4D-A is different from Arlington County on average and describe how this is either a strength you would build upon or an opportunity that you will improve upon and what changes you would champion if elected to improve or build upon this difference.

Answering: Peter Fallon

Answering: Libby Garvey

The social safety net has taken a severe hit in recent years. Please describe for us, possibly in order of importance to you, your concerns and how you would address those concerns when it comes to supporting our entire community. Specific areas to address could include: affordable housing, homelessness, hunger, healthcare, children specific issues, senior specific issues, veteran specific issues, or others.

Answering: Terron Sims

Answering: Audrey Clement

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

1. Regarding so-called “vanity projects” Audrey Clement mentioned in the previous question, like Aquatic Center, Street Car, Artisphere, Long Bridge Park, and so on, what are the candidates’ positions on those? Answering: all candidates answered in one minute except for Clement who spoke about this earlier. Garvey, Klinger, Fallon, Bondi, Sims.
2. What will you do to make sure that Arlington County staff members actually start listening to people? (one minute response). Answering: Sims, Bondi, Klinger, Garvey, Clement.
3. As chairman of the long range planning you worked on Pen Place. Some residents have major concerns and questions about your guiding principals and feel that they violate the spirit of our community. The questions have not been answered. What would you do to remedy situation, and what is your stand? Answering: Peter Fallon.
4. As a young professional who lives in this community I sometimes feel like the board does not represent me. How do I know you’ll be an independent voice on the board and can you give me an example of a decision that you disagree with, since many of you have been endorsed by current board members. Answering: Bondi