

Scott Miles opened the meeting with an update on the recent Cherry Blossom Festival and with upcoming dates for community input on various topics, including the CIP, Eads St. Complete Streets, Earth Day Cleanup, and the JBG retail meeting.

Parisa Tafti, Commonwealth Atty, and Sgt. Lutz, ACPD joined the meeting to talk about recent crimes, crime statistics, and policy and philosophy re policing, charging, detention.

Across the country, there has been an increase in crime, incl. violent crime, although some sorts of violent crimes have not increased. There has been an increase in car thefts and car jackings throughout the DMV area and across the country. Ms Parisa discussed coordination between her office and ACPD to speed resolution of cases. The CA's office is not involved until there is a bond hearing; ACPD in conjunction with the magistrate judge are involved in charging; the magistrate decides whether to hold or release a suspect. CA will recommend holding if the suspect is a flight risk or a danger to him/herself or others. The CA's office does not ask for cash bail, but the determination is up to the judge.

Juveniles, because of COVID, Arlington has reduced the population of juveniles being held by 50%.

One of Parisa's priorities is to collect and analyze data.

In 2020 there have been 181 tampering incidents.

Re carjacking, 5 defendants have been charged (in 2 incidents). Sgt Lutz said that carjackings are largely crimes of opportunity and his team has been active in educating and patrolling to avert these opportunities.

Robbery has remained stable

Parisa also discussed what is meant by Restorative Justice, the purpose of which is to help the victim heal and to reduce recidivism. RJ can be used for many situations, from schools to re-entry, and can be used in place of or in addition to punishment. It has been used in 3 cases in Arlington. Her office has applied for a grant to track and improve efficacy.

Commented [GU1]: capitalize Justice

Motion:

“Direct DPR to reschedule games to other fields from Virginia Highlands Park softball field #4 (Hearts Field) starting this summer so that improvements to the Hearts field can be made to support community uses like; group exercise, events, daily casual uses and so that more durable fixtures such as shade, seating and games can be added.

Also that the County Board ensures that Virginia Highlands Park master planning and implementation is funded in the upcoming CIP.”

Vote 5 Yeas 1 Abstention 3 Nays

This is created by Ben D'Avanzo, AHCA's representative to the Pen Place/HQ2 project created a forum for sharing opinions about various aspects under planning. The link is.

<https://padlet.com/davanzo/6tx374fq6przus20> Share your thoughts about the issues by 'hearting' the topics that mean most to you and you prioritize. Comment on any post that you want to with whatever feeling.

The Helix's water feature will be for the public and some spaces in the surrounding area are open to discussion for how they will be used.

Any questions? Contact Ben D'Avanzo at bendavanzo@gmail.com and Natasha Atkins at natashaatkins1@gmail.com