

**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**

**April 12, 2023 via Zoom**

**Opening & Approval of Minutes**

President Cory Giacobbe opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome to the membership and an overview of the agenda for the evening. The group approved the minutes for the March meeting that had been posted to the AHCA web site for review.

**Arlington County Solid Waste & Recycling – Eric Grabowsky**

Cory introduced Eric, the chief of Arlington’s solid waste bureau for a presentation on how trash, recycling, and compost are processed. The key to a successful program is for each of us to do the right thing as we sort out our refuse and if we do we will be able to achieve the goal of diverting 72% of the waste to recycling and compost.

Material from our black bins goes to the [Covanta Waste-to-Energy Facility](#) in Alexandria where it is converted to electricity (the remainder of what is not burned goes to an ash monofill). The County has a contract for use through 2038.

The recycling in the blue bins goes to a material reclamation facility run by Recycle America in Dulles. It’s a complex facility that is able to sort out the various materials and get them on their way to reuse. The plastics that are recyclable are generally tubs or containers with necks, if looking for numbers they would be 1, 2, or 5. They cannot process plastic bags, they should be returned to the grocery stores for processing, otherwise they tangle up the sorting equipment. The other things to avoid are straws, just don’t use them, they cannot be recycled.

Compost goes to [Freestate Farms](#) near Manassas, where it is composted for reuse in gardens and farming. Some of it even returns to the [Trade Center](#) in Shirlington, where you can pick it up for use in your yard. Leaves and clippings from your yard can also go into the green bin.

There were questions about glass, which can be deposited in the purple and green bin at the corner by the library (at 18<sup>th</sup> and South Hayes Streets). The glass is consolidated and goes to [CapGlass](#) near Pittsburgh, where it is processed for reuse. No problem if the glass is broken!

Finally, Eric mentioned a free service offered at the Trades Center – you can bring your carts for a thorough cleaning and they will be returned to you as good as new.

For more information on Arlington recycling, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash/Residential/Curbside-Recycling-Trash>.

**Les Garrison – CERT – Community Emergency Response Team**

Les presented on the history of the Arlington CERT, founded on 9/10/2022. They currently have about 300 volunteers and have trained about 1,000 people since the start. The goal is to help Arlington become more resilient through preparedness. The team members assist in everything from major

disasters down to smaller emergencies after completing about 24 hours of training over the course of an eight-class program.

A class is just getting underway. If you are interested in learning more about the CERT or signing up for a course, please visit [ArlingtonCERT.com](http://ArlingtonCERT.com).

### **SPRC Reports – Crystal Towers 3**

Ben D’Avanzo gave a briefing on the second and final SPRC meeting on the infill residential building on the Crystal Towers site. The dead end alley was resolved with the opening of a passage through to 18<sup>th</sup> Street South, which will result in another four crepe myrtles coming down (the project also destroys many mature canopy trees). A couple of outstanding issues that will need to be followed as the project moves through the Planning Commission and then to the County Board for approval:

- Mid-block crossing on South Eads Street – the site is a superblock with a lot of the pedestrian activity at the middle of the block. There is going to be a need for a safe crossing at the middle of the block, particularly as pedestrians seek to use the tunnel under Richmond Highway (especially if the safe crossings at 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets are returned to grade). The County staff is opposed to this proposal but will be giving it another look.
- The size and design of the pocket park at 15<sup>th</sup> and Eads Street are still unresolved. The sector plan calls for a 6,000 square foot parklet but due to the design of the new stores and the fact that the adjacent Lofts 590 has separate ownership, the goal is unlikely to be met. The design is also still unresolved, such as whether it includes picnic tables, benches, or a boardwalk.

### **County Requests for Comments**

No new requests to consider. Cory briefed on the two outstanding items from last month:

**1) Veritas Collegiate Academy** has updated their application to request a use for 125 students and it will go to the County Board on June 10.

**2) Westpost (Pentagon Row) Renovations** will be considered by the County Board on June 10.

### **New Business/Announcements**

**Brookfield Properties** - Nick Giacobbe briefed on a 4/10 meeting with Rich Fenicola from Brookfield along with Crystal City Civic Association on their plans to redevelop 601/701 12<sup>th</sup> Street South (the x-TSA HQ where Avis is temporarily setting up operations in the garage). Brookfield has studied the Pentagon City Sector plan and will create 11<sup>th</sup> Street from Fern to Hayes, deed a .5 acre open space (at the Metro entrance at 12<sup>th</sup> and Hayes) and connect the green ribbon (Brookfield has an on-site staff that works to keep open spaces active and programmed). They are still in the preliminary planning phase but the site will likely be predominantly residential (carefully looking at condos), possibly a hotel, and commercial office space if the market warrants. They will have retail/restaurant space at ground level and on-site affordable housing in the range of 10%. This project will have no impact on the adjacent DEA HQ complex, which is separately owned and was recently renovated in conjunction with a 15-year lease renewal.

**Volunteer Exhibit at Arlington Central Library** – great photo exhibit highlighting volunteers at work (including many neighbors) by Mac Cosgrove-Davies Wes using the historic wet plate collodion (or

tintype) photography technique. Open through the end of April, details at:  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Events/Arlington-Volunteers-Exhibition>.

**Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale** - Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, details at:  
<http://www.northernalexandrianativeplantsale.org>.

**Family Fun Day in the Park** – Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Virginia Highlands Park (sponsored by Arlington County), details at:  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Programs/Family-Fun-Day-in-the-Park>.

**National Landing Pink in the Park** – \* New date \* Sunday, April 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Long Bridge Park, be sure to RSVP. Details at: <https://nationallanding.org/pink-in-the-park>.

**Tree Canopy Fund** will be launching soon, Natasha Atkins will get out the details.

**Noise** – there is a high pitched noise that is possibly coming from the airport from a single type of aircraft. Heather Spence noted that we need to look at the frequencies and may need a spectral analysis. Cory suggested forming a committee in collaboration with the other two adjoining civic associations.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.  
Recording Secretary