

# **ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOODS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ArNAC)**

## **Meeting Minutes**

February 13, 2025

7 PM

Bozman Government Center

### **ArNAC Representatives in attendance:**

- Gretchen Carter (Alcova Heights)
- Karen Sullivan (Arlington-East Falls Church)
- Eileen Janas (Arlington Heights)
- Stephen Finafrock (Arlington Mill)
- Carter Echols (Arlington View)
- Regina Wheeler (Arlington View)
- Ken Hughes (Ballston – Virginia Square)
- Don Bennett (Barcroft)
- Claudia Fetter (Bellevue Forest)
- Chris George (Bluemont)
- Bernie Berne (Buckingham) (Virtual)
- John Kirkpatrick (Columbia Forest / Chair, ArNAC)
- Sarah McKinley (Columbia Heights)
- Kristen Gilley (Dominion Hills)
- Josue Bastidas (Douglas Park)
- Ed Hilz (Fairlington) (Virtual)
- Jamie Lockhart (Foxcroft Heights)
- Kathy Reeder (Glencarlyn)
- Inumidun Obikoya (Green Valley)
- Cliff McCreedy (Highland Park-Overlee Knolls)
- Tabitha Ricketts (Lyon Park)
- Ben Keeney (North Highlands) (Virtual)
- Liz Weir (Old Dominion / Deputy Vice Chair, ArNAC)
- Darcey Cuffman (Penrose)
- Bill Braswell (Tara-Leeway Heights)
- Alex Luchenitser (Waverly Hills)
- Audrey Clement (Westover Village)
- David Haring (Yorktown)

### **Staff in attendance:**

- Anika Chowdhury (CPHD – NSD, Arlington Neighborhoods Program)
- Hannah Nicely (CPHD – NSD, Arlington Neighborhoods Program) (Virtual)
- Prudence Sheffield (CPHD – NSD, Arlington Neighborhoods Program)
- Naudy Martinez (CPHD – NSD, Arlington Neighborhoods Program)
- Sally Zehaye (CPHD – NSD)

## **February ArNAC Meeting**

### **1. Brief Neighborhood Report**

- Arlington Heights – Eileen Janas shared that construction of a new school building at the Arlington Career Center site is still ongoing. The civic association continues to closely monitor it.
- Green Valley – Inumidun Obikoya shared that the neighborhood will be hosting a 2025 Feel the Heritage Festival, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon-5:00pm at the Charles Drew Community Center.
- Old Dominion – Liz Weir wanted to highlight the coordination efforts between ArNAC and ANP regarding the Kenmore Middle School new field turf redesign.

### **2. Public Comment**

- No comments submitted.

### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approve the January 2025 minutes. Motion was made by Bill Braswell, second by Kathy Reeder  
i. Approved unanimously.

### **4. Officer and Staff Reports**

Officer Report:

- Chair John Kirkpatrick informed the committee that the County is addressing an anticipated budget shortfall for FY2026, and has raised concerns with the County Board.

ArNAC Subcommittee/Liaison Updates:

- Neighborhood Complete Streets Advisory Commission (NCSAC) Liaison Kathy Reeder – no updates
- ArNAC Equity Subcommittee Chair Kathy Reeder – Kathy asked for those interested in participating on the subcommittee to contact her. The subcommittee will meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to each ArNAC monthly meeting. They will communicate primarily by email in between those monthly meetings. Sometime during the next month the subcommittee plans to have a brainstorming session in advance of ArNAC's March meeting. The subcommittee plans to contact and meet with all ArNAC Representatives in civic associations with an equity emphasis area, and Representatives are encouraged to submit equity project requests by the February 28 deadline.
- ArNAC Representative on the Transportation Plan Advisory Group, Bill Braswell informed the committee that the County is working on an update their Master Transportation Plan (MTP). Any Representatives with interest or suggestions for how to improve safety and the County's network of pedestrian and all other modes of transportation, please contact or provide them to Bill. To submit feedback anonymously, this can be done through the County's webpage on Transportation.

Staff Report:

- The County Manager will present a proposed budget for FY 2026 to the County Board at their meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by adoption of a final budget by the County Board on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The funding request for the two (2) ArNAC recommended projects from the Fall 2024 Funding Round is scheduled to go before the County Board for approval on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ANP Bond Funds for new projects is \$6 million, which will be available for all “Qualified” projects at ArNAC’s 2025 Spring Funding Round.
- All Representatives are asked to review their civic association’s project on the DRAFT of the new 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Project List. If anyone has an appeal/correction to the information posted or points allocated, please submit those by March 3<sup>rd</sup> to Anika and Laura.

## 5. Discussion/Action Items

- **Black History Month Acknowledgment**

Chair John Kirkpatrick announced ArNAC’s recognition and celebration of Black History Month through the showing of 2 videos during the meeting.

- i. A video on Green Valley, providing an overview on the African American history within Green Valley. There are several historic preservation projects going on right now to advocate, promote and enhance the history of this neighborhood.
- ii. A second video about Columbia Pike and its civil rights history. The video highlighted the Pike as an extension of Freedman’s Village and a convergence of many different cultures.

- **ArNAC Electronic Meeting Policy**

An updated draft Electronic Meetings Policy was reviewed by the Committee. Chair John Kirkpatrick informed the committee that all Arlington County commissions and committees are required to adopt a new Electronic Meeting policy once a year in order to allow for virtual meetings and/or virtual attendance.

- **ArNAC Membership and Quorum**

The Executive Committee and ANP Staff provided a memo with clarifications of, and recommendations for updates to, the definitions of Membership standing and calculation of the total number of member civic associations.

Due to the many questions and comments raised during discussion, the Chair determined additional time will be dedicated at another meeting to further discussion before voting on any process improvements or policy changes.

- **Understanding ArNAC's purpose**

Liz Weir gave a presentation on ANP & ArNAC's history and overall purpose, along with a summary of feedback gathered from representatives at last month's meeting. The objective is to clarify both ANP & ArNAC's purpose, clarify roles/responsibilities, and improve the efficiency of meeting/processes. This was followed by discussion of the topic by the committee.

## **6. Motion to adjourn the meeting**

Motion was made by Cliff McCreedy, second by Carter Echols

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**