ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
8:00 to 9:30 AM

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Business
    - Approval of July Minutes
    - Chair's Report: Chair Nick Gregorios
    - AED Director's Report: Anna Nissinen
2. AED Staff Briefing: Hospitality Update – Emily Cassell, Director, Arlington Convention and Visitors Service (ACVS)
3. Panel Discussion on Arlington Non-Profits: "*The impact of direct service non-profits on the Arlington Economy.*"
    - Moderated by Commissioner Betsy Frantz, President & CEO of PathForward
    - With special guests Leslie Daigle (Arlington Free Clinic), Charlie Meng (AFAC), and Debby Taylor (National Capital Treatment and Recovery)
4. Programming and Engagement Update: Commissioner Meredith Sumpter
    - County/Regional Advisory Groups
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Commission Meeting: 8AM Tuesday, November 10, 2026 (Last meeting of 2026)

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ARLINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

July 14, 2026

The Economic Development Commission convened its meeting at 8:04 AM on July 14, 2026.

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)	Nick Gregorios Robin Adams Sara Barker Kate Bates Janetta Brewer Steve Cooper Stephen Fedorchak Ben Garthwaite Tracee Gilbert Phillip Green Timothy Jones Ben Joseph Charles Kachadoorian Brad Mason Kaly McKenna Evan Pritchard Paula Sorrell Brian Stout Meredith Sumpter Keith Willis
VIRTUAL	Praveen Meyyan
ABSENT	Andy VanHorn William Walsh

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Chair's Report – Chair Nick Gregorios
Chair Gregorios welcomed Anna Nissinen as Arlington Economic Development's new Chief Economic Development Officer and welcomed new Commissioner Keith Willis to the Commission. He also recognized Commissioner Steve Cooper, who was attending his final EDC meeting, and thanked him for his years of service and leadership. County Board Member JD Spain joined in expressing appreciation for Commissioner Cooper's contributions to the Commission.

Chair Gregorios emphasized the importance of Arlington's workforce and the broader regional talent base as a key competitive advantage. He also provided updates regarding the Commission's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) letter and reminded Commissioners of the July 21 deadline for legislative priorities submissions.

Kate Bates shared updates on regional discussions related to Metro funding, including potential state authorization for local jurisdictions to increase sales tax rates by up to one percent to address Metro's structural funding challenges. She noted that the Arlington Chamber of Commerce has begun engaging on this issue and highlighted the likelihood that localities will be required to help address future Metro funding shortfalls.

EDC Programming and Engagement Update – Commissioner Meredith Sumpter
Commissioner Sumpter facilitated updates from Commissioners representing County and regional advisory groups. Reports included:

- Sarah Barker provided an update on Arts Commission activities, including ongoing discussions regarding the establishment of a cultural arts center and recent artist grant application cycles.
- The Ballston Park/Buckingham Commercial Area Working Group requested volunteers to serve as one primary and one alternate representative from the EDC. Commissioners Brad Mason and Charles Kachadoorian volunteered to serve in those roles.

EDC Governance and Nominations Update – Commissioner Brad Mason
Commissioner Mason reported that the Commission continues to maintain strong membership levels and an active pipeline of applicants. He encouraged Commissioners to continue identifying prospective candidates and noted that onboarding for new members is expected to occur following the October meeting.

During discussion, County Board Member Spain noted the importance of continued conversations around arts and cultural investments, including a potential arts center, and remarked that the Commission's membership reflects the diversity and strengths of the Arlington community.

Climate Action Plan Information Item– Rich Dooley, CMO
Rich Dooley provided an overview of Arlington County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) process. He noted that the CAP will build upon and update the existing Community Energy Plan, expanding its scope to address broader climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience goals. He thanked Commissioner Paula Sorrell for volunteering to serve on the plan's advisory group.

Dooley explained that climate change impacts in Arlington include rising temperatures, increased extreme heat events, changing precipitation patterns, flooding risks, and sea level rise. He described ongoing efforts related to stormwater management, flood resilience planning, and risk assessment modeling.

The Climate Action Plan is being developed through an interdepartmental effort supported by an external advisory group and community stakeholders. Key objectives include:

- Updating the Community Energy Plan.
- Incorporating national and regional best practices.
- Developing climate goals, strategies, and implementation actions.
- Releasing a draft plan for community feedback during 2027.
- Finalizing the Climate Action Plan for County Board adoption by winter 2028.

Dooley reported that Phase One community engagement activities are concluding and that the project is moving into strategic analysis and priority-setting.

Commissioners discussed a range of climate-related topics, including equitable implementation strategies, flood resilience, urban forestry, environmental justice, greenhouse gas reduction goals, and

business community engagement. Commissioner Brewer emphasized the importance of protecting vulnerable populations in future implementation efforts. Commissioner McKenna discussed the value of strategic tree planting, while Commissioner Sorrell highlighted Arlington's longstanding leadership on climate issues and recent state investments in climate research and heat mapping efforts.

County Board Member Spain stressed the importance of intentional outreach and education, particularly for businesses and underserved communities, and emphasized the connection between economic development, sustainability, and climate resilience. Commissioner Sumpter asked how the County is engaging business organizations and commercial property owners in resilience planning, noting opportunities related to adaptive reuse, green building practices, and office vacancy reduction. Dooley referenced programs including Corporate Climate Leaders and C-PACE financing as examples of tools available to help businesses participate in Arlington's climate goals.

AED Director's Report – Director Anna Nissinen
Director Nissinen introduced herself to the Commission and described the region as being at a transformational moment marked by economic change, fiscal pressures, market shifts, and growing competition. She emphasized the need for bold community leadership and a long-term strategy that positions Arlington for future success. Nissinen identified several strategic priorities for Arlington Economic Development, including aligning systems and partnerships, reimagining the built environment, strengthening Arlington's competitive position, expanding demand generation efforts, and investing in talent, access, and community experience.

Nissinen described economic development as a foundation that supports broader community goals and noted that Arlington must continue creating places and spaces that attract employers, workers, residents, and investment. She highlighted opportunities for Arlington to become a national leader in innovation, placemaking, and future-focused economic development.

She also shared recent economic development successes, including Innovative Defense Technologies' expansion, Spatial Front's headquarters relocation, venture capital investment activity, and state grant awards supporting the National Innovation Quarter. Nissinen emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and discussed ongoing real estate strategy work, including a state-funded office market study, process improvements, and continued focus on placemaking initiatives.

During discussion, Chair Gregorios referenced the Commercial Vacancy Working Group's analysis and noted that adaptive reuse projects are repositioning approximately five percent of vacant office space, contributing to signs of increased market resilience and optimism.

Nissinen concluded by emphasizing that technology should be viewed as an enabler of future economic growth and community development.

New Business
No New Business

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

Commissioner Cooper moved that the Commission approve the minutes from the June EDC meeting. The motion was seconded, and the Commission unanimously supported the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Upcoming Events

Brunch on the Boulevard
October 8, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
3130 Langston Blvd., Arlington
https://www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com/News-Resources/Events/Brunch-on-the-Boulevard

The Pike Fest
October 10, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Penrose Square, 2597 Columbia Pike, Arlington
https://www.columbia-pike.org/pike-fest/

Arlington Restaurant Week
October 12 - October 19, 2026
https://www.arlingtonchamber.org/arlington-restaurant-week.html

Chefpreneur Chat: Together We Are More
October 13, 2026, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Central Library, Barbara M. Donnellan Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington
https://www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com/News-Resources/Events/Chefpreneur-Chat-Together-We-Are-More

The Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor State of the Market
November 10, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Three Ballston Plaza, 1100 N. Glebe Rd, Second Floor, Arlington
https://www.bisnow.com/events/washington-dc/state-of-market/the-rosslyn-ballston-corridor-state-of-the-market-9763

SPARK! – Not Your Usual Market
November 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
2700 Art Space, 2700 South Nelson Street, Arlington
https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Programs/SPARK-Market