

## **Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)**

### **Minutes of the Membership Meeting, November 17, 2016**

*Recorded by Sue Super ([thesupers@comcast.net](mailto:thesupers@comcast.net); 703-892-1846)*

ARCA President Arthur Fox opened the meeting at 7:15 pm. The meeting was held in the library of Oakridge Elementary School, as the regular meeting site at Aurora Hills Community Center is unavailable due to its ongoing renovation.

#### **“Miracle on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street” Holiday Tree Lighting at Linden Resources, Friday, Dec. 2, at 6 pm**

Tina Azcuy from Linden Resources provided information on the schedule and events for this popular holiday tradition, which attracted some 400 people from the neighborhood last year. She encouraged ARCA members to attend and spread the word to friends and neighbors.

#### **Information Program on Culpepper Garden—Affordable Apartment Complex for Seniors**

Linda Kelleher, executive director, gave an overview of the history, current operations, and planned phased renovation of the apartment community; provided a helpful fact sheet; and answered questions from meeting attendees. The 340-apartment community was built in three phases with HUD financing to provide quality independent and assisted living housing for low-income seniors. Current residents' average income is less than \$19,000 and almost 70 percent of the 357 diverse residents are women. The County provides a number of residents with financial assistance and is also supporting the upcoming renovation by providing \$9.9 million. Volunteers from the community, local schools and colleges, and organizations provide a wide variety of programs at the complex.

#### **Approval of the Proposed 2017 ARCA Budget**

Treasurer Bob Hyde presented the proposed ARCA budget for 2017, which was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **Updates by ARCA President Arthur Fox**

\* I-395 Sound Wall: VDOT's noise study, conducted during this past summer, determined that the ARCA neighborhood adjoining Army Navy Drive is adversely impacted by highway noise and therefore entitled to a sound wall. Following an engineering study this coming spring and summer, owners of affected residences will be sent ballots to vote whether or not they favor construction of a sound wall. If the vote favors a wall, residents will thereafter have the opportunity to weigh in on the type of wall. Details are not yet known regarding the wall design, feasibility of retaining current trees, and whether a wall is also being considered on the far side of I-395 adjoining the Army Navy Country Club.

\* AirBnB: At the December 10 meeting, the County Board is scheduled to vote on the contentious issue of whether to legalize AirBnB's in Arlington. ARCA has not taken a position on this issue, but has encouraged residents to provide input to the county through its online survey and via other communications. The Virginia General Assembly is expected to enact legislation on AirBnB's in early 2017, and Arlington is hoping to have local provisions already in place before action at the state level.

\* Proposed Development of “Block Q” in Crystal City: Commonwealth Crystal Holding, Inc. announced its intention to begin redeveloping a “mega-block” in Crystal City, bordered by Crystal Drive, Route 1, 23rd Street, and 26<sup>th</sup> Street. While the proposal adopts the block's layout set forth in the Crystal City Sector Plan already approved by the County, details of the developer's proposed residential tower to be located in the northeast corner of the block will be fleshed out soon before the Planning Commission's Site Plan Review Committee.

\* Vornado's River House proposal: Vornado's withdrawn 2015 proposal was essentially re-submitted to the County without the affordable housing building, although its site will be “earmarked” for later development of such a building. ARCA has developed Talking Points which were distributed to

attendees and it will keep the membership informed of the status of this proposal once it emerges from County staff review and moves into the Planning Commission review process.

### **New Business: Additional Updates**

\* Car2Go: Sue Super reported that the case for proposed amendments to the County Code that would make permanent the current, temporary regulations applicable to car-sharing businesses is also scheduled to be voted upon at the December 10<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting. She noted that there has been no community outreach to inform citizens about the proposed exemption of these vehicles from many County parking restrictions, including the 24-hour parking limit in Residential Parking Zones, and urged members to communicate their concerns to the County Board.

\* Impact of High School Boundary Changes on Wakefield: Beth Hicks gave an update on the options being considered for new high school boundaries. An important concern is the future socio-economic composition of Wakefield's student body which already has the highest number and percentage of lower income students who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs. Based on considerable analysis, she recommended Option #3 and urged members to provide input to the School Board which will take up the boundary options at their December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.