

Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)

Minutes of the Membership Meeting, July 18, 2019

Recorded by Don Schlichtmann

VP Mike Pickford called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

The first order of business was the election of Board members for the 2019/20 year. A slate of candidates had been proposed at the May Membership meeting. Mike noted that the Secretary position was vacant and asked whether there were any nominations from the floor to fill it. There being none, Mike called for a vote on the slate, and the group was robustly endorsed as follows: Arthur Fox, President; Mike Pickford, Joe Hogler, Nancy Springer, and Sandi Amendola, Vice-Presidents; Bob Hyde, Treasurer; Maggie Gaffen, Communications; Robert Jamison, Transportation; Lauren Bailey, Neighborhood Conservation. The Secretary and Membership positions remain open.

Mike then updated the Membership on the Board's recent work regarding development issues. He cited a proposed new 19-story apartment building to be built on the northeast corner of 12th & Eads St., plans to double the number of apartments on the Crystal House block, the challenge of negotiating 'livability' criteria with developers and Arl.Co., and pursuing a County commitment for an independent '*infrastructure capacity*' study by an expert think tank.

Mike next introduced Sandy Newton, President of the Arl.Co. Civic Federation, who talked briefly about the composition and role of the CivFed. She noted that over sixty Civic Associations and roughly thirty other civic entities comprise the CivFed membership, covering all of Arlington Co.

Lastly, Mike introduced Brian Moore of Amazon to discuss the evening's main event, Amazon's plans to build the first half of its HQ2 campus on Met Park. Brian noted that there will be an SPRC meeting on Amazon's Met Park proposal on July 29. He also noted that Amazon had concluded a lease on 2345 Crystal Dr., where its first 400 hires in 2019 will be located.

Mr. Moore commented that Amazon seeks to be "part of the neighborhood, not a campus". Amazon expects more than sixty percent (60%) of its 25,000 projected employees in 22202 to "walk, bike, or take transit" to work, a greater percentage than at its Seattle headquarters. He said that the MetPark site will be split into two equal parts by putting 14th St. thru to Eads St. and Elm St. thru to 15th St. Each site will host a 22-story office building. A proposal for PenPlace has not yet been developed, much less submitted. Both the MetPark and PenPlace sites are expected to contain over two million sq.ft. of office space.

Following his comments, Mr. Moore introduced Brian Earle of ZGF Architects, who is the project's architect. Mr. Earle presented a slide show laying out details and views of the proposed structures and their relationship to the neighborhood. Following the slide show, the floor was opened for questions and comments from the audience, to which Mr. Moore, Mr. Earle, and Matt Ginivan of JBG/Smith responded. 'Traffic', 'livability', 'housing costs', and 'transit' were the issues most raised by the audience.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.