

Westover Village Civic Association
Meeting Notes, issued January 10, 2017

Date: *Wednesday, January 4, 2017*

Location: *Westover Library, Large Meeting Room*

Attendees: *Bob Orttung, President*
Lilith Christiansen, Vice President
John Marsh, Treasurer
John Egge, NCAC Representative
Beth Lennon, Arlington County Police Department
Kirit Mookerjee
Marie Muller
Nathan Risdal
Bill Johnson
Annie Algoso
Lisa Garcia
Aleksandr Belinskiy
Pauline Kusiak
Jim St.Pierre
Audrey Clement
Bob Galvin
Glenn Taylor
Shana Rothman

1. Introductions

- 1.1. All attendees provided brief introductions, including how long they've lived in Westover and their past involvement with the WVCA. It was noted that attendance was much higher than any meeting in years past!
- 1.2. Beth Lennon, of Arlington County Police Department, introduced herself and provided information on "coffee with a cop" event being hosted by APD. Event information has also been posted to NextDoor. [Beth is POC between APD and WVCA and she welcomed feedback and questions; her email is \[elennon@arlington.us\]\(mailto:elennon@arlington.us\)](#)

2. WVCA Bylaws and Elections

- 2.1. [John Marsh will provide the WVCA bylaws to the group for review. Glenn Taylor and Aleksandr Belinskiy volunteered to review the current bylaws and provide comments for any modifications to procedures, definition of available board positions, and election process for consideration at a future WVCA meeting. Bylaws will also be posted to the updated WVCA website \(see item 4 below\).](#)
- 2.2. Given the lack of activity over the past few years, elections for Board Members have not happened regularly. According to the bylaws, elections should occur every two years. There was discussion that future elections could be better advertised with those running for office being submitted to the community prior to the meeting, and it was agreed that for future elections this will be considered as neighborhood outreach and communications are increased and strengthened through NextDoor, updated website, and hopefully increased participation.

- 2.3. Election of New Officers was proposed and approved by members in attendance
 - 2.3.1. Lilith Christiansen – President
 Bob Orttung – Vice President
 John Marsh – Treasurer
 Lisa Garcia – Secretary, in 9-5-2 vote vs Audrey Clement
 - 2.3.2 Volunteer Positions were approved for County Advisory Delegates and Surrounding CA Coordination; in the future these roles could become elected positions after review of bylaws.
 - John Egge – NCAC delegate (Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee)
 - Kirit Mookerjee – CivFed delegate (Arlington County Civic Federation)
 - Pauline Kusiak – Greater Westover Outreach Coordinator (Event Coordinator)
- 3. Action Items for 2017
 - 3.1. There was a lengthy discussion on how to advertise renewed activity of the WVCA and encourage participation by more residents.
 - 3.1.1. NextDoor and an updated website will both act as forums to advertise events and WVCA contact information.
 - 3.1.2. Canvassing – either through direct conversation with neighbors or by handing out fliers to all residences – was supported as a way to make sure all residents are notified of the WVCA’s activities at least once a year.
 - 3.2. Currently the WVCA has approximately \$500 in available funds, but a membership drive to collect dues was encouraged to (1) increase the ability of community outreach and events, and (2) gauge commitment and interest from residents within our community. Dues could be collected by application forms attached to a paper flier as well as through a paypal account link on the website.
 - 3.3. The status of the Conservation Plan was discussed; a formal update has not been approved by the WVCA and County since 1991. [John Egge and Lisa Garcia have begun to work on taking the rough outline that has been in process since 2008 and organizing it a point that it can be shared with the rest of the WVCA for comment.](#) John noted additional volunteers are welcome and needed to help make the update reflective of all the issues currently facing the community. Aleksandr Belinskiy noted he had a copy of a 2003 Amendment to the 1991 Westover Village Neighborhood Conservation Plan that he found through the County, which no one else seems to have seen, that he will share with John. [\[Received.\]](#)
 - 3.4. It was noted that the Historic Designation study will be an ongoing topic that the WVCA will need to discuss further in conjunction with Planning Department’s outreach to community.
 - 3.5. APAH’s role in the community was also discussed, and they have expressed interest in attending and participating with the WVCA.
 - 3.6. There was a meeting on 1/3/17 at McKinley focused on the capacity issues, where the Reed School was discussed. It was noted that Arlington County would like for Reed to open in 2021; planning and design will begin soon. [Lilith Christianson has been reaching out to surrounding Civic Associations, McKinley PTA, and the School Board to monitor those developments.](#)
 - 3.7. Outreach to the Beer Garden and Market were discussed. A potential relationship between the Farmer’s Market and the Market’s produce section was seen as one way the Market could strengthen its offerings to the community, as could updating the quality of the dairy section coolers.
 - 3.8. The next WVCA meeting, on Wednesday January 11th, will focus on the widening of 66 and a representative of VDOT will be in attendance. Some portions of Westover do not have any sound barrier in place along 66, and the impacts to Washington Blvd’s traffic loads, the commercial and school zones, and bike paths can all be topics of discussion.

4. Website Development

- 4.1. Bill Johnson has taken the lead to update and re-organize the WVCA website; <http://www.westovervillage.org>
- 4.2. Adding a tab for WVCA documents – bylaws, agendas, meeting minutes, and budget statements – was agreed to.
- 4.3. A neighborhood spotlight for businesses and residents, and a history section that will pull from the Historic Designations and finalized Neighborhood Conservation Plan were also discussed as future additions to the website depending on volunteers to help create content.
- 4.4. The website is now managed through a WordPress platform that will allow for multiple users to share access, and hopefully encourage volunteers to help develop content. Making updates will be much more manageable.
- 4.5. The WVCA will setup a Paypal account and a plugin can be used to accept dues through the website.
- 4.6. It was noted that the Westover Library – currently the banner for the website – is technically not within the Westover Village boundary; Bill suggested getting new photos of our neighborhood in the Spring to freshen up the site.
- 4.7. A plug in to sign up for the WVCA email newsletter, as well as board member emails, will also be available to encourage new membership.