

AFCA February 2021 Minutes
February 17, 2021
7:00 pm (via Zoom)

Esther Bowring (President) called the meeting to order.

Guest Speaker: Arlington Police Department Officer JP Montoya (Community Outreach)

Officer Montoya introduced himself to the neighborhood. Esther Bowring asked about the status of the investigation into the AF Shopping Center break-in and how crime rate statistics for AF compare to prior years. Officer Montoya did not have the data and Esther Bowring requested that he get back to her with the requested information.

Meeting attendees asked about the crime rate in Arlington, circumstances under which to call the police, pedestrian and traffic safety, and recruitment efforts by the Arlington County Police Department. Arlington Forest residents with questions or comments for Officer Montoya should email jmontoya@arlingtonva.us.

Guest Speaker: Charles Head, Arlington Muncipal Broadband/ArlFiber (Arlington Fiber)

Arlington Fiber is an advocacy group seeking the establishment of an Arlington County Broadband Authority (similar to a public utility commission) to offer and regulate municipal broadband service in competition to commercial internet service providers. The group has no connection to any company. Mr. Head stated that his presentation was to let Arlington residents know what the group is proposing and to encourage them to help advocate before the County Board when the time comes. He noted that the Commonwealth of Virginia has a number of Broadband Authorities already. He said deployment and service offerings would be neighborhood by neighborhood and that more affluent neighborhoods would pay more to subsidize running fiber to affordable housing in less affluent parts of Arlington. Meeting attendees asked a number of questions regarding pricing and regulation.

The Arlington Fiber petition is available at arlfiber.org and the group can be reached at ArlFiber@tutanota.com. Charlie's email is CharlesRHead65@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Reports

[Hutch, I think you have more info on this topic. Joel Yudken discussed the crossing at Henderson Rd. and Arlington Blvd., and Jeff Horwitz noted he had a question about this in the Conservation Plan]

Greenbrier section (Tom Smialowicz): Edison Park is finished and being utilized regularly.

Civic Federation Report [I do not have a record of who presented this]

The CivFed meeting included a report on vaccine distribution and discussion of open spaces/parkland and densification of the County.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan (Hutch Brown):

There is one section of the plan remaining, and it should be ready for an April vote.

Meeting attendees asked whether the NCP could include discussion of Route 50. While this is a state road, AFCA will coordinate with the County to see whether a request to work with the state should go in the NCP. Meeting attendees differed as to whether narrowing the road would be advisable. [I think Liz Kauffman separately drafted something on this for the newsletter]

Hutch Brown, Liz Kauffman, and Liz Grossman were recognized by AFCA for their work on the NCP.

Missing Middle (Joel Yudken):

The Committee has reviewed the documents released by the County and is drafting a letter with a series of questions for the County Board/County Manager/staff on information that is not included and questions that are open. The letter will address concerns regarding Arlington's role in the larger region as well as tradeoffs such as quality of life, green spaces, and historical preservation.

Lubber Run (Esther Bowring):

Esther Bowring had a conversation with Parks and Recreation staff about where they are on the budget and when the new Lubber Run Community Center will open. When the proposed operating budget comes out in the next couple of months, AFCA will send a letter either expressing thanks for a plan to open the LRCC or urging the County to open it as soon as possible.

Parks and Recreation also has been surveying for a replacement pedestrian bridge. While the money has been allocated, there is no time frame yet for the bridge replacement. Esther will update when she knows more.

The next AFCA meeting will be March 17.