

**AFCA Meeting
April 18, 2018**

I. AFCA President Announcements – Allison Kennett

- April 21 Earth Month park clean up
- May 19 yard sale
- May 26 first Farmer's Market begins at Barrett
- Neighborhood reports
 - South side - traffic concerns
 - North side – paving of circle occurring
 - Greenbrier – lots of deer
- Holly tree replacement coming up in early May; will include plaque honoring Joe Cockrell
- Bikeshare survey – 85% of survey respondents liked the idea of having a Bikeshare station in neighborhood

II. Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Chair, Arlington School Board

- Schools approved Farmer's Market at Barrett under the condition that an accessible bathroom had to be available to the public. Market organizers will provide a porta-potty that will be open only during Farmer's Market hours.
- Busy year this year – finalizing budget. CIP year. 27,000 students a year now in public schools – highest student population Arlington has ever had. Looking at 32,000 in next few years. Will need more elementary schools.
- Every six years, the School Board develops a new strategic plan. Goals include being student driven; developing the whole child; healthy, safe and supported kids; strong staff and supporting teachers; and building great schools that are sustainable.

Questions and comments:

- What is the Arlington Tech? It's on the Career Center campus. Career Center has lots of skills training, tech, health sciences etc. 900 high school students take part time classes there using buses from their home school. It includes some full time programs, with the biggest being Arlington Tech, a full time, advanced diploma, college track, program with an enrollment of about 130 freshman and sophomores. Ultimately, it will have 800 students. Other programs includes those for 18-21 year olds; parent class for students who had babies; and English as a Second Language for ages 16-21 year olds who want to get a degree but need a flexible, part time schedule because they are working. Want to build more high school classes on this campus.
- Challenge to meet \$19,239 spending per student and capital facilities – how to meet this within budget? Reduced purchases, expenditures to reduce per student spending this year. Looking for ways to build cheaper buildings. Increased class size slightly. Paid parental leave – first school system in VA to do this, but it became unsustainable and had to be cut.

- “Great schools rating” declined for many Arlington schools – why? Test scores haven’t declined. Hasn’t looked at methodology of the particular rating system. No indicators, measures have declined that schools measure. Arlington County is getting richer and less diverse.
- Utilization of Ed Center? Building additional 1,300 high school seats. Ed Center moving this month to Sequoia Plaza. Last year, decision made to renovate Ed Center for secondary seats, build 700-800 seats at Career Center and elementary school at Reed.
- Commercial building use? Any student space has codes – room sizes, bathrooms, etc. Any commercial space would have to be renovated. Building owners weren’t lowering rents enough to include the renovations needed.
- Reed School – what will happen to Westover Library? New school will be next to it. Children’s school is non-profit – not APS. They are moving to Alpine Restaurant space. APS partners with them on integration station.
- Options for addressing disparities in APS among the schools? Resources, facilities.... There’s a formula for every school – planning factors. Every school has the same resources. Have schools that need renovation. PTA funding among schools is very different. Over time, this does have an impact.
- Some schools will get very best principals that have a poorer reputation. Lots of redistricting going on.

III. David Howell – presented stunning photographs he has taken of wildlife and plants in Arlington

Meeting adjourned.