

**Leeway Overlee Civic Association
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at Lee Community Center**

Association Reports

1. Civic Association President Suzanne Kray-Idziak called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting agenda was adopted, and minutes of the prior (September 2006) meeting were waived, given the absence of the Secretary from that meeting. Treasurer Carolyn Connell reported a decrease in the Association's net assets of \$46.24 to \$3,586.89 as of 1/10/07, reflecting \$292 in income from newsletter advertising and membership fees, offset by \$338.24 in newsletter printing and website renewal expenses. Ms. Kray-Idziak invited Association representatives to provide updates on ongoing issues. Chips Johnson, as Building Level Committee representative, spoke on the Westover Library/Reed School reconstruction project, now on the County's fast track. He presented a schematic of Reed School. Construction is to start later this year. Rob Swennes, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee representative, reported on the Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation, which had scheduled a community workshop January 23 at Washington-Lee High School to discuss spot improvements on I-66 that would improve traffic flow without requiring widening of the right of way. A notice is on the Leeway-Overlee listserv. Ms. Kray-Idziak reported that the application for WAVA to get a new tower approved was set to be heard by the County Board January 27.

Tuckahoe Overcrowding/Re-Districting

2. Ms. Kray-Idziak then gave the floor to Marjorie (Meg) Tuccillo, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Arlington Public Schools (APS), to address the issue of re-districting, specifically with respect to Tuckahoe Elementary. She provided a presentation on APS "Enrollment, Projections, and Capacity." Tuckahoe currently has the highest capacity utilization, 113.8%, of any Arlington elementary school, projected to increase to 125% by 2011, i.e. enrollment of 625 vs. capacity of 499. Some solutions that might normally be seen as logical answers don't make sense in this case. One would be to add capacity by building a further extension at Tuckahoe. This doesn't make sense because overall APS elementary enrollment is only 85.5%, and projected to reach only 88.6% in 2012. This means that APS will still have over 1200 empty elementary seats (more than two average schools' worth) in the highest year projected. Adding "temporary capacity" at Tuckahoe can't be done because there is no space for additional trailers.

3. The other solution that normally would be proposed is re-districting. However, Ms. Tuccillo noted, apart from the problem of overcoming families' resistance to having school districts switched, APS faces the problem that all the neighboring elementary districts (in NW Arlington) are also projected to be oversubscribed. In 2011, Nottingham is projected to be at 115%, Ashlawn at 110%, and McKinley and Glebe at 105%. So any redistricting would have to cascade across multiple districts. Another possibility is to sidestep re-districting by going to "team schools." This means grouping schools to broaden to several districts the ones which students may attend, and to which they may be assigned. Related to this is the "cluster school" which offers special programs open to students from several or all APS elementary schools. Given the complexity, and multiple possibilities, APS is starting with a survey of residents (planned for March) to help refine enrollment projections; review possibilities for moving specific in-school programs; and develop

options through a task force, set up with PTA participation, that will work September-December and make a recommendation to the School Board by January 2008. [Ms. Tuccillo may be reached at 703-228-6008 [or mtuccill@arlington.k12.va.us](mailto:mtuccill@arlington.k12.va.us).]

WAVA Tower

4. The next agenda topic was the proposed re-building of the WAVA radio tower located on a .88 acre parcel at 5232 Lee Highway, between Harrison St. and George Mason Drive. Ms. Kray-Idziak introduced Abby Denham, an attorney representing Lenkin LP, owner of the WAVA tower. The tower is being replaced to eliminate the guy wires that currently extend 150 feet in radius (300 feet in diameter) from the tower's base, a change made necessary by development of the neighboring property, which hosts the unrelated AT&T microwave tower, where 16 single family homes are being built. The new proposed WAVA tower will be 426 feet tall, the same as the current one, but its base would be widened to 38 feet, with the tower gradually narrowing as it goes up. The new tower would be located closer to the center of the lot, and there will be no change in parking (e.g. for the neighboring Whitman-Walker Clinic) or in broadcast wattage. Re-building the tower requires a use permit because the property is zoned R6 (single family residential). If a permit is denied, Lenkin would plan to leave the existing tower in place, although it is in litigation over the presence of the guy wires on the neighboring property. The current tower cannot be supported without guy wires. It also needs underground wires for AM broadcasts.

5. Ms. Denham acknowledged that the overriding concern expressed in the last community meeting was broadcast interference, i.e. WAVA signals coming through neighbors' radios (regardless of tuning), televisions, and cordless telephones. She noted that the station, which has a 50-year lease dating from 1982, is responsible for mitigation under FCC rules only in the first year of operation. To respond to this, Lenkin proposed to set up a toll-free number for requests to fix interference from WAVA for a year once the new tower goes into operation. A technician would come to neighborhood houses to fix problems, free of charge, including installation of equipment such as filters on telephones. Ms. Denham noted that if any additional other broadcasters used the tower, the FCC would require them to offer "information and assistance" on mitigating interference. However, not every problem is fixable, she added. The tower owners also have no control over the programming; WAVA is owned by ClearChannel.

6. Many neighbors expressed dissatisfaction, given especially the nature of WAVA's programming, and suggested a longer mitigation period. Rob Swennes proposed that the use permit be drafted to include neighborhood protections, similar to those for the WETA tower located further south between Harrison and George Mason. Following discussion, he proposed a motion, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved, that the Leeway Overlee Civic Association oppose the current use permit application until such time as the Association, affected residents, the County and the applicant meet and agree on conditions for the use permit. Concerning the programming quality, it was suggested that residents write the FCC concerning WAVA's license renewal. For further questions, Ms. Denham may be reached at her firm, Walsh Colucci Lubeley Emrich & Walsh, P.C.,

Courthouse Plaza, 2200 Clarendon Boulevard 13th fl., Arlington, VA 22201-3359, tel. (703) 528-4700 (Ext. 5462), fax (703) 525-3197. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.