

**Leeway Overlee Civic Association
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2009 at Rivendell School**

Reports

1. Civic Association President Jenni Michener called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited Treasurer Carolyn Connell to report on Civic Association funds. The Civic Association had a decrease in net assets of \$294.82 to \$4,346.27 as of 4/16/09, reflecting \$139.62 in income (mostly membership dues) and expenses of \$434.44 (printing January and April newsletters). The assets include a certificate of deposit of \$3,026.79 and checking account balance of \$1,319.48. Ms. Michener then reported on **new business**:

- (a) 6015 Lee Highway: The in-home daycare center at this address wants to renew its use permit. Members were asked if they had any objections; none did.
- (b) National Census: Census employees are going door-to-door to update address list nationwide. Recruitment for census takers needed in 2010 begins in the fall. The Census Bureau will mail questionnaires to homes in March 2010; Ms. Michener urged everyone to participate when they receive them.

2. Turning to **old business**, the Secretary, Ladd Connell, encouraged members to read minutes of the January 29 meeting on the Leeway Overlee website. He also summarized a letter that the Civic Association had posted on its website for comment and intended to send to the East Falls Church (EFC) Study Task Force to express Leeway Overlee views. While supporting the overall Task Force vision, the letter expressed concern about the high density proposals for redevelopment and requested that Leeway Overlee be granted membership on the Task Force. A question was posed as to the problem of a possible underground bus depot; the concern was that it was unnecessary and would impose expense without improving traffic flow. The draft letter was circulated among those present to solicit further comments.

Invited Speaker

3. Ms. Michener then invited Kristen Rannels, Arlington County Solid Waste Planner from the Solid Waste Bureau (SWB) of the Department of Environmental Services (4300 S.29th St., Arlington, VA 22206; 703-228-6486; krannels@arlingtonva.us) to speak.

4. Ms. Rannels described the facilities and programs of the Solid Waste Bureau (703-228-6570). She challenged listeners to think about the phrase “throw it away:” “There is no ‘away.’” The options used for Arlington’s solid waste—set out in its Solid Waste Management Plan—are first to reduce it, by using less or re-using materials; second to recycle; and third, waste energy production. The goal is 100% re-use and recycling. The power plant using trash for fuel is in, and jointly owned with, Alexandria, on Eisenhower Ave. It produces enough electricity to meet the energy needs of some 23,000 homes, with air emissions well below EPA standards;

this energy is sold to Virginia Dominion Power. Ash goes to a landfill in Springfield; Arlington itself does not have a landfill.

5. Recycling takes place at the Materials Recovery Facility, operated by Waste Management in Elkridge, Md. (off I-95 en route to Baltimore). Yard waste (leaves and brush) goes to Arlington's own recycling yard, where it goes through a grinder to become leaf or wood mulch. Inorganic material (concrete and asphalt) goes through a crusher to produce aggregate and remaining dirt is used as clean fill. Arlington's goal is 100% recycling of recyclable materials; SWB audits performance. Of Arlington's total waste, 40.3% was recycled in 2007, compared to a statewide average of 38.5%. Recycling Centers are at Quincy Park and at S. Four Mile Run Dr. & Columbia Pike; these are mostly used by businesses and multi-family dwellings, but available to all residents. Arlington also offers on-street recycling along the Columbia Pike bus route and in Rosslyn. A Leaf Storage Site for mulch is on N. 26th St.

6. Ms. Rannels described the changes being implemented over the next few weeks in Arlington's residential curbside recycling to make it easier for residents to recycle more. For single family homes, this means new, larger wheeled carts for recycling, with no sorting necessary. Ms. Rannels noted that an increase of 20% in the amount of recycled material would end up saving the County \$614,000.

7. Recycling Do's: Items residents are now able to recycle in the single stream recycling program include plastics 1-7 (wide-mouth tubs, cups, & jars), rigid plastics (buckets, flower pots, toys), aluminum foil & trays, milk & juice cartons, empty aerosol cans, metal & aluminum food cans, glass bottles & jars, cereal & food boxes, cardboard containers and boxes (boxes do not have to be cut or broken down), paperback and hardcover books, mixed paper, newspaper & junk mail (including envelopes with and without windows, post-it notes, self adhesive paper, paper bags), and wire hangers. Plastic bags including drycleaning covers can be recycled if multiple bags are bagged in one bag; this is needed because the thin film would otherwise risk getting stuck in the sorting process.

8. Recycling Don'ts: Despite the expansion, a few types of packaging materials are still not available for recycling: clamshell plastic containers (e.g., those used for berries), styrofoam, or bubble mailers (mixed paper and plastic), for example. Other items that might contain some recyclable material but cannot be recycled include: plastic food trays and cups, paper plates and napkins, flashlights (unless fully disassembled), light bulbs, glass other than bottles & jars (e.g., glassware, sheet glass), and pots & pans. E-waste (TVs and computers & monitors) can be placed at curbside if you call in advance for special pick-up. Similarly, containers that once held toxic or hazardous materials, including automotive products, herbicides and pesticides, medicine, chemical cleaning products and paint solvents,

and batteries should not be included with recyclables. Batteries can be recycled at any of Arlington's fire stations. For full lists, see www.arlingtonva.us/recycle.

Neighborhood Conservation Projects

9. Ms. Michener then invited residents to present requests for Neighborhood Conservation Projects. Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative Rob Swennes explained that the County's Neighborhood Conservation Program limits a neighborhood to two projects that can be waiting for future funds. With the final funding of N. 22nd St. (Powhatan to Quantico) due this summer, the Civic Association needs to inform the County of the two it would like to follow. During the wait period, projects can be designed and budgeted. Projects can be re-prioritized before funding, but this risks losing the Civic Association's place in line for funding.

10. Nottingham St.: Karla Brown spoke on behalf of residents of N. Nottingham St. for a sidewalk project between Lee Highway and 22nd St. This project has been on Leeway Overlee's priority list since 2001 and has been through partial design by the County. It is already petition-qualified. The street has no existing sidewalk. The street is 36 feet wide while the right of way is 40 feet; sidewalk installation (with a planting strip) would thus entail narrowing the street (i.e., to 32'). Because parts are hilly, visibility can be a problem. The street did qualify for traffic calming (based on volume and speeds) when studied in 2001, but no traffic calming project has been prepared or funded. Traffic has increased, and new homes are being added by Suburban Builders, which has put funds in escrow for a sidewalk on the lots where it is working. One resident, John Mauer (Nottingham & N. 22nd Road), spoke against the project, saying that it was unnecessary, and that he would refuse a sidewalk on his property. Others spoke in favor.

11. John Marshall Drive: A resident proposed that a sidewalk with curb be installed on the block along the Greenway between 22nd Road and 23rd St. The reasoning is that this street has significant pedestrian traffic, notably en route to Overlee Pool, and is a missing link since there is a sidewalk from 23rd St. up to Lee Highway.

12. Illinois and 24th Streets: Residents proposed a sidewalk from Lee Highway to 22nd St. on Illinois and from Kensington to Illinois on 24th, to connect with the proposed Illinois St. sidewalk. The residents have communicated with County planners to determine that, as contiguous blocks, the whole project could be classified as a single project. Illinois St. has been in County plans for sidewalks since 1993, given its proximity to the Lee-Harrison shopping center, but never got funded. Illinois St. also has \$25,000 allocated for sidewalks and related improvements from Toronto Dominion Bank, which is building a branch on the former Pure gas station site at the corner of Lee and Illinois. Although this funding would expire after roughly two years, the time limit does not require that the funds actually be used by then, only that a project be under development.

13. Vote: Following questions and answers, a motion was made & seconded to rank Nottingham St. first, following the anticipated funding of the final piece of the 22nd St. project. This motion was approved, with 32 in favor and 13 opposed. A motion was then made & seconded to rank Illinois and 24th Streets second. This motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:30 p.m.

--Submitted by Ladd Connell, Secretary