

**Leeway Overlee Civic Association**  
**Minutes of General Membership meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 7:30 p.m.**

Civic Association News

1. Karla Brown, civic association president, opened the meeting, held in the Reed School main floor classroom, and introduced Arlington Police Officer James A. O'Daniel to brief on local **crime and safety concerns**. Officer O'Daniel advised local residents to be more vigilant about locking their houses and their cars when parked. While the neighborhood had few, if any, burglaries or break-ins, there were thefts of unsecured items, notably purses, computers, and GPSs left in unlocked cars. Officer O'Daniel related that a group of three people had broken into over 20 cars in the area, had stolen three, and used one to store stolen items—the basis on which they were apprehended. Asked about graffiti, he said there was not much, but noted residents could scrub it off themselves. He also advised residents not to be afraid to call in activities that look suspicious, or loud parties, using (703) 558-2222 for any non-emergency reports.

2. Following reports of the Treasurer (a balance of \$4,292.89, down from \$4,522.85 at previous report) and of the Minutes for the general membership meeting of June 23, both accepted without change, Ms. Brown then provided updates on **old business**.

-- The Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association had decided not to pursue the idea of cutting off the quarter round section of street between Lexington and Kentucky and adjacent to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street; they are pursuing improvements to Patrick Henry instead.

-- Concerning East Falls Church re-development, Bob Moore reported that County staff had posted some changes to the draft plans previously circulated. The County is planning community fora and completion of revisions by early 2011; there is concern whether this timing will work.

-- Concerning the proposal to start a discussion listserv for Leeway-Overlee, it would be organized as a Yahoo group to offer an online forum for discussion of neighborhood issues; the civic association would need a moderator. Rob Swennes said a request for a volunteer would be sent on the announcement listserv.

He also announced that candidates' night would be held October 28 at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

-- Concerning civic association meeting speakers, Ms. Brown noted that the executive committee is always looking for ideas and invited members to offer suggestions any time. Doug Watson suggested inviting a representative of the Traffic Calming Committee; another suggestion was to get a member of the County Board to discuss, in particular, responses to the County's budget shortfall. Mr. Swennes noted that the traffic calming budget has been zeroed out.

-- Mr. Swennes also answered a question regarding the Neighborhood Conservation (sidewalk & gutter) project on 22nd St. between Powhatan and Quantico. He reported that a final meeting on it was scheduled for the following week, and if all went well, work could start soon thereafter.

3. Ms. Brown reported that the civic association (Ms. Brown, Jenni Michener, and Vicki Howard) had had its annual meeting with **Rivendell School**, along with a county parks and recreation representative, as provided for by the memorandum of agreement (established under its use permit) between the County and the school governing its use of

Lee Center grounds. Issues relating in particular to use of Lee Center Park were addressed; the civic association welcomes hearing any concerns.

4. Turning to **new business**, Ms. Brown noted that John Reeder (former Green Party county board candidate) was pursuing the idea of a farmers' market for Westover. Although some local merchants may be opposed, the main issue seemed to be where the market would be held; possible locations may include the Westover Baptist Church parking lot, Overlee Community Association parking lot, and the John Marshall/Ohio Greenway. A straw poll was taken of those present to determine members' interest in having a farmers' market in the neighborhood. A majority were supportive; one or two were opposed.

5. The invited speakers, Larry Tomlinson, construction engineer, and Bud Siegel, program manager, both of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), then were given the floor to discuss the **I-66 spot improvement program**. The program's objective is to improve the ability of cars to merge in so as to improve safety and reduce congestion for westbound traffic. It is being implemented in three spots in Arlington east of Sycamore St., within specific constraints: 1) VDOT can't take any extra right of way or land rights; 2) it is only authorized spot improvements that have safety and/or operational benefits; and 3) nothing it does may preclude transit options. The three "spots," all on the westbound side, are from Exit 73 (Lee Highway just west of Spout Run) to Exit 71 (Glebe Road), Exit 71 to Exit 69 (Fairfax Drive to Sycamore St.), and Exit 69 to Exit 67 (Westmoreland Blvd. to Haycock/Leesburg Pike).

6. The speakers invited questions; the first was about the promise at the time of its construction that I-66 would not be widened in Arlington; Mr. Siegel said this was overridden by subsequent legislation. Responding on other topics, Mr. Siegel said:

- a) He wasn't aware of any impacts on East Falls Church re-development, or on Metro, i.e. room for adding an additional track for the Orange line.
- b) On eastbound traffic, the improvements were designed strictly to improve the flow out of D.C., including for any potential evacuation.
- c) As to the construction schedule, only spot improvement 1, from Fairfax Drive to Sycamore, is currently funded and underway, with a scheduled (contract) completion date of December 5, 2011. Planning for this work dates back to a public hearing held in 2007. Spot improvements 2 and 3 will await the results of a multi-modal study and funding. The study is in response to a mandate to maximize use of other modes of transportation within Arlington.
- d) The improvements are designed to accommodate existing traffic more effectively. As for increased traffic resulting from the improvements, this is expected, but Mr. Siegel didn't know how much; growth would reflect not only the improvements, but also regional economic growth and real estate development.
- e) On extending the sound barrier/retaining wall along 14<sup>th</sup> St., which ends at McKinley/Nicholas Sts., VDOT has ordered a study of wall gaps to assess the need; residents responded that there is a need. Mr. Siegel noted, however, that VDOT does not take into account the presence of children or noise generated by Metro; rather, the critical

factor is the increase in ambient noise level generated by motor vehicle traffic. This in turn reflects proximity and topography. VDOT has not yet decided on extending the sound barrier wall.

- f) Concerning the earlier Idea-66 study recommendation that any additional lane be designated for HOV/buses, the upcoming VDOT multi-modal study is a technical one to address feasibility rather than to make any policy recommendations.
- g) To express concerns, residents should write Mr. Tomlinson's boss, Helen Cuervo at VDOT.

7. Having addressed the questions of general interest, the speakers were thanked, and the meeting concluded at 9:05 p.m.

-- Submitted by Ladd Connell, Secretary