

Leeway Overlee Civic Association
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at Westover Library (Conference Room)

1. Civic Association President Karla Brown opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Starting with old business, she encouraged those present to sign up for Leeway Overlee's discussion listserv—it has many useful information items. Treasurer Jennifer Michener reported on the Civic Association account balance as of 1/31/2011 of \$3,174.57. Reading of minutes was waived. Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Advisory Committee Representative Rob Swennes reported on NC Project Status:

- 1.) Nottingham Street (Lee Highway to 22nd St.) has been funded and digging has started, awaiting water main replacement (will take 8 to 10 weeks, on week 2, completion by June); then NC construction work will start.
- 2.) Illinois St.: Will start at Lee Highway, shifting of curb and gutter down to North 22nd Street. Will begin a year or so after the work on Nottingham.
- 3.) Illinois to Kensington: Will install a sidewalk on N. 24th St. This is next in line to be funded by NC after Illinois St. May be over a year or so until we get enough points to be funded.

2. Ms. Brown then invited Arlington County Police to speak. Detective Christine Everest explained that she was the detective assigned to the Leeway Overlee neighborhood. Police have been tracking a series of burglaries. The pattern has been forced entry (via small basement windows) in vacant houses in the early afternoon. Suspects appeared to be two white males in their 20s or 30s, driving a silver Nissan Rogue (small SUV) with temporary tags. If residents spot people or vehicle fitting the description, they should call emergency number 703-558-2222 and/or also fill out an online report. One burgled house had a dog, but it was not a deterrent.

3. Det. Everest advised that if residents see a suspicious person on their property, or signs of forced entry, they should call the police first, and watch from a distance, not accost the person. Det. Everest reminded residents to exercise preventive measures, such as keeping all entrances to houses and cars locked, ensuring adequate lighting around their houses, and taking photos of their valuables including serial numbers, where applicable. Regarding organization of a neighborhood crime watch, Officer St. John advised that these were only as effective as the neighbors who participated in the watch effort. Advice on organizing a neighborhood watch is available online. Det. Everest said that she can be reached at (703) 228-4180.

Overlee Community Association: Pool and Clubhouse Reconstruction

4. Turning to new business, Ms. Brown invited Chris Tai, Chair of Long-Range Planning for Overlee Community Association, and Pat Shapiro, Community Liaison and former Chair of the Association's Board, to provide an update on the Overlee Pool and clubhouse reconstruction. Mr. Tai reported that they were behind schedule due to the length of time for receiving all required County permits. To date, they had received 11 of 13 required permits. They had received all those needed for demolition, and that had begun. The plan was still for the pool to be completed in time for the regular season opening. The general contractor, Harry Braswell, was well-known for meeting difficult deadlines. Their efforts would be helped if weather continued to remain above freezing.

The bath house and lap pool in any case had been cordoned off, so that early season swimming in that pool, which is heated, could occur regardless of the construction.

5. The clubhouse, which will be in Cape Cod style, would be finished later than the pool. A few features of the old club house, such as special windows, were being preserved for re-use in the new clubhouse. Asked about effects on trees, Mr. Tai responded that the Association had made every effort to maintain the tree canopy on the property, since it was recognized as an amenity in the summer. Of some 36 oak trees, they expected only 2 or 3 would be lost due to the construction.

Choice of a Second Priority Neighborhood Conservation Project

6. The second item of new business was the choice of a second priority Neighborhood Conservation (NC) project. Currently, Leeway Overlee has a project for a sidewalk on Nottingham St., from Lee Highway to N. 22nd St., that is funded and under construction. A similar project on N. Illinois St. is approved and funded, with planning still underway. Leeway Overlee's first priority unfunded project is for a sidewalk on N. 24th St., from Illinois St. to Kensington.

7. Four proposals for next priority were presented:

1. N. 22nd St. between Lexington and Kentucky Sts. Residents explained that the lack of any curb or gutter was a problem because it meant there was more erosion than if there were hard infrastructure to channel the water flow. They want a proper curb and gutter. All the residences on the block were represented and supported the project, and they presented a petition signed by neighbors.
2. N. 23rd St. between Madison and Nottingham Sts. Ms. Brown described this project on behalf of her neighbor who was not able to attend the meeting. The block faced similar issues with water due to the lack of any curb to channel water on either side.
3. John Marshall between 23rd St. and 22nd Rd. Mr. Swennes described this project, but no resident had requested that it be pursued.
4. Madison St., between Lee Highway and N. 22nd St. A resident noted that Madison was one of the few north-south streets that lacked a sidewalk on either side. It was a high car and pedestrian traffic street since there is a school bus stop at the corner of 22nd & Madison.

Discussion ensued on each proposal. Ms. Brown asked meeting participants to vote. Votes were: N. 22nd St.:13; N. 23rd St.: 0; John Marshall: 0; Madison St: 2. Therefore, N. 22nd St. between Lexington and Kentucky Sts. would be designated as the second priority project.

8. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Submitted by:
Ladd Connell,
Secretary