

**Leeway Overlee Civic Association  
Minutes of General Membership Meeting  
Wed., April 3, 2013, at Westover Library (Conference Room)**

1. Civic Association (CA) President Kim Klingler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited participants to introduce themselves. Following introductions, CA Acting Secretary Rob Swennes summarized the minutes of the previous general membership meeting (January 23, 2013), and they were duly approved.
  
2. Treasurer Jenni Michener reported a CA current balance of \$2280.88, reflecting new receipts of \$315 and new expenditures since the last meeting of \$365.59. Ms. Michener mentioned that the civic association has for many years provided \$100 annually to the organization sponsoring the post-graduation party at Yorktown High School so that the young graduates can party w/o the risk of alcohol being present. There was general agreement that a \$100 donation should be made this spring as well. Kim Klingler explained that the civic association, along with three other neighboring associations, had authorized and purchased some signs that supported the community's weekly farmers market in the Westover area and its efforts to promote community health. She noted that some additional signs might be needed in the future in the event of sign loss or damage.

**ART Bus 53 Route Change**

3. Steven Yaffe, Arlington's Transit Service Manager, and another County employee provided those attending (~ 20 local residents) with information regarding proposed rerouting of ART Bus 53. He noted that both of the alternatives issued for public comment had been turned down based on the feedback received. The only change now planned to take effect July 1<sup>st</sup> is an additional small loop to be made by the ART 53 buses once they have dropped passengers off at the East Falls Church Metro station. Each bus will then head north again, turn right onto Washington Boulevard and head east to N. Patrick Henry Drive. The buses will then turn northbound on Patrick Henry Drive to N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left there. The ART buses would then drive along N. McKinley Road and back to Washington Boulevard. The buses would then return west to the East Falls Church Metro station again before resuming the historic Bus 53 route heading up Sycamore Street to the Williamsburg shopping center and then right along the bus route through Williamsburg and Yorktown back to the Ballston Metro station. No objections were raised to this supplemental proposal from the County's transit office.

**Westover Merchant Activities and Community Impact**

4. The main item on the agenda was consideration of recent changes in the kinds of vendors utilizing Westover and its positive impact on the broader community. Grace Shea from the Lebanese Taverna and Lisa Ostroff, the owner of Trade Roots, provided comments to illustrate the change in character in the Westover area. Kristy Peterkin and her father from the Ayres Variety and Hardware Store in Westover also were in attendance. Lisa presented a one minute

video on the Fair Trade movement. Grace then described the variety of First Friday events that various merchants in the Westover area were sponsoring to encourage nearby residents to become more engaged in the Westover area. First Fridays occur the first Friday evening of each month. Grace noted that the Arlington Economic Development Office was giving the consolidated Westover area merchants some financial support. Commercial interests in the Westover area support having a bike share station installed in Westover where local residents could rent bikes as needed through Capital BikeShare.

5. Rob Swennes suggested that the Westover merchants might want to press to also get two or so dedicated parking spaces on Washington Blvd. that could be utilized by ZIP cars to be used by local residents. Kristen Kelly wondered what would be required in order to get a full facelift for the businesses in the Westover commercial area. The merchants present noted that the buildings that house these businesses are owned by several different property owners. Thus there is little common incentive for these owners to upgrade their buildings.

6. Kim solicited general comments and announcements from those attending the meeting. A number of responses were offered to those attending. Kim led a short discussion regarding the civic association's new Facebook presence.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

--Submitted by Rob Swennes, Acting Secretary