

Leeway Overlee (LO) Civic Association (CA)
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wed., June 23, 2015, 7:30pm at Westover Library (community room)

1. Leeway Overlee CA President Greg Rusk opened the meeting at 7:30pm and noted that since the CA's featured speaker was available only till 8 p.m., his presentation would be the first order of business.

Time	Topic	Presenter
7:30-8:00	Update on Re-visioning of the Lee Highway Corridor	Scott Matties
8:00-8:15	General Business (Treasurer's Report, updates)	Greg Rusk, Jennifer Michener
8:15-8:30	Election of Officers	Greg Rusk

Update on Re-visioning of the Lee Highway Corridor

2. Scott Matties, President of the American Institute of Architects Northern Virginia chapter and principal of an Arlington-based architectural firm who has been involved in the citizen-led portion of the Lee Highway corridor re-visioning process, reviewed the evolution of the process from its start in spring 2013. A series of mini-charrettes were held last fall; these involved putting up maps about zoning, transportation, and housing to gather information and generate ideas, with the corridor being divided up into 3-4 focus areas, although it is recognized that many people who live here drive along the whole Lee Highway corridor, hence its consideration as an integrated unit.

3. Mr. Matties explained that Arlington County has now put out a Request for Proposals (RfP) for consultants to run the full charrette, a multi-day event (2-4 days). A charrette advisory group will inform the process from the community's point of view. The RfP responses were due in July. The charrette itself will likely take place in the fall. The goal of the charrette is to produce a set of documents laying out the potential for the Lee Highway corridor's re-development. Arlington benefits from having the analogy of the Columbia Pike corridor. That started with nodes, intended as more urban areas. The output of the charrette can become changes in zoning, although that is a separate step in the process. Other steps coming up include a "live-work-play" forum about retail. Retailers are also in touch with Street Sense, the advocacy group for the homeless. There had already been a series of topical meetings to understand existing conditions and development constraints. Concerning Fire Station #8, across from Heidelberg and Langston-Brown, is likely to be re-located in light of criteria for response times that the current location doesn't meet. For more general information, [Lee Highway Alliance](#) has a website, as does Arlington County, with a Lee Highway "briefing book," that details existing conditions. It should be noted that Lee Highway itself is controlled and maintained by the Virginia Dept. of Transportation (VDOT).

4. Mr. Matties then answered questions. First was: What is the definition of the Lee Highway Corridor, length and width? Mr. Matties said the length is defined as running from EFC to

Rosslyn lengthwise. However, the width varies; details are in the County's briefing book. The area includes more than the first property in from the arterial; it can connect with other transit facilities including Metro and commercial areas such as Lee-Harrison. A resident asked why the group did not combine the mini-charrettes. Mr. Matties explained that they are inputs, not a finished or complete product. The charrette advisory group will orient the consultant. The charrette consultant will ask "how could it evolve." Another resident commented that this sounded like it is designed to pull developers in. Mr. Matties replied that eventually, that is likely. He added: "In Arlington, there is a lot of planning going on. If you're interested, participate. Many community members are opposed to any change. But if you see something positive, it is worth encouraging." Another member asked, what ideas had been raised so far? Mr. Matties replied that there had been some suggestions for higher density and for developing more continuity. Currently, the corridor does have some big pockets of single family homes.

Leeway-Overlee Reports, Election

5. Mr. Rusk then requested the Treasurer, Jenni Michener, to give her report. She reported a starting balance of \$1,670.75 as of April 29 and an ending balance of \$1,157.58, or a net change in assets of -\$513.17, due primarily to expenses for printing the Leeway Leader and organizing the annual yard sale, which exceeded income from dues. Mr. Rusk also noted that Leeway Overlee minutes are approved by the Executive Committee and posted on the LO website.

6. Greg Rusk turned to the next agenda item, election of Leeway-Overlee officers. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee included Chip Johnson (19th St.) for President, Emily Costin (22nd St.) for Vice-President, and incumbents Jenni Michener for Treasurer and Lawrence (Ladd) Connell for Secretary. Mr. Rusk read a prepared statement from Chips Johnson, who was unable to attend. The slate was then unanimously elected. Kim Klingler and Jerry Auten volunteered to continue serving as Leeway delegate/representative to the Civic Federation meetings, and the new President and Vice-President become delegates *ex officio*. Rob Swennes had agreed to remain as the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee representative.

7. In closing, a resident asked if a problem with the light at Lee Highway and Lexington not turning green for Lexington St. traffic could be fixed. This was noted for possible follow-up by the new President.

Submitted by:
Ladd Connell, Secretary