

Leeway Overlee (LO) Civic Association (CA)
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Tuesday March 20, 2018 - 7:30pm, Resurrection Lutheran Church meeting hall

1. **Welcome, Agenda:** LOCA President Kim Klingler welcomed all those attending shortly after 7:30pm and asked everyone to refer to the information packets which had been distributed around the meeting room. These included the draft agenda as follows:

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| 1.) Welcome, Housekeeping, & Thank You | 7:30 – 7:35pm |
| a. General Meeting Context | |
| b. Sign-In Sheet, Map, Meeting Materials | |
| c. Thank You | |
| 2.) Introductions & Recognition | |
| a. Parliamentarian (Chips Johnson) | 7:35 – 7:45pm |
| b. Bylaw Contributors (Chris Langelo, Jack Grimaldi) | |
| c. First District Liaison (Dave Giroux) | |
| 3.) Bylaw Amendments | 7:45 – 8:10pm |
| a. Context – Why? | |
| b. Discussion | |
| c. Vote | |
| 4.) Guest Speaker, Congressman Beyer’s Office (Noah Simon) | 8:10 – |
| 8:45pm | |
| a. Presentation | |
| b. Q&A | |
| 5.) Updates | 8:45 – 9:15pm |
| a. 7-11 (Rob Swennes) | |
| b. Lee Highway Alliance (Tom Wolfe) | |
| c. Reed School (Vanessa Paulos Guest) | |
| d. Next Meetings | |

2. **LOCA Information & Participation:** Finding no objections to the agenda, Ms. Klingler asked attendees kindly to review, as part of the meeting context, the background information on Little Ambassadors Academy on pages 6 and 7. She noted that LOCA did its best to keep in touch with the community, and encouraged community members to keep in touch with LOCA, including through Facebook, Nextdoor, the listserv, and the newsletter. Many CAs have stopped printing paper newsletters, but there seemed to be appreciation for the LO Leader. She noted that residents were welcome to contact and to volunteer for positions as LOCA officers, delegates or alternates to the Civic Federation, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), liaisons to Reed School and the Lee Highway Alliance (LHA), and LOCA communications—and please to note it on the sign-in sheet if interested. She also noted that LOCA had a neighborhood map with pushpins so that attendees could indicate where they lived and the CA could see what streets were represented or not. She said LOCA might in the future send door knockers to encourage unrepresented streets to participate in LOCA meetings.

2. Introductions, Police Info: Ms. Klingler introduced several participants: first, Chips Johnson, former LOCA President, as a neutral parliamentarian, since he is now a resident of Highland Park- Overlee Knolls, to assist on the by-laws vote and other matters as needed. Next, Ms. Klingler introduced Captain Dave Giroux, 1st district commander in the Arlington Police Dept. Capt. Giroux noted that since he is a resident of Leeway Overlee, he is around the neighborhood a lot, and even when off duty, he can still check out any potential public safety or crime concern His command includes a Sergeant and four officers. They usually start at noon and patrol till 10-11pm. They each work two weekends/month. Their main mission includes community engagement, providing briefings on safety, e.g. at businesses, faith-based institutions, with sports and Scout groups – for example on active shooters. They also do regular policing, canvassing for detectives. The Arlington Police have a Facebook page, and Capt. Giroux noted he is active on Nextdoor, or Twitter. Ms. Klingler said attendees could refer to crime statistics provided on p. 9 of the information packet. Ms. Klingler also introduced LOCA Treasurer Jenni Michener, who reported a starting LOCA account balance of \$781.87 and ending balance at 3/20/18 of \$803.56, reflecting income from ads and dues of \$579.21 and expenses, primarily for printing, of \$557.52.

3. By-law Amendments: Turning to Agenda item 3, Ms. Klingler referred attendees to pp. 6-7 of the [information packet](#) with background on Little Ambassadors and the LOCA letter submitted to the County Board on its use permit application. Following that, some CA members expressed the desire for a formalized process for weighing in on use permits and variances, to give LOCA residents more opportunity to consider options and express views. She thanked residents Chris Langello and Jack Grimaldi for their initiative in proposing by-law changes. Mr. Swennes, as a member of the LOCA Executive Committee, said that following discussion, the Executive Committee agreed ultimately proposed changes to two articles, first Article 2, to explain the Object of the Association in more detail (including “to ensure that its actions represent the expressed views and interests of its membership”). The second change, a new Article 10, was to provide greater explanation of both process and product when offering LOCA consensus views on use permits, so the county or school board have a sense of relative strengths of views in preparing letters of support. Mr. Swennes observed that the notice required under Virginia law for requesting use permits or variances is pretty minimal. Normally posting notices on a telephone pole is considered fair notice. This by-law change would require the applicant for a variance to notify all the immediately surrounding houses/properties, and for a use permit, to give notice to all residents within a block of the property. The procedure is then to try to obtain consensus at a general membership meeting. If the applicant doesn’t provide notice, LOCA could note the failure in any letter to the county. This puts some pressure on the applicant. While no other CAs have such a requirement in their by-laws, this process was reasonable.

3. Discussion and Vote: Resident Doug Watson commented that notices on telephone poles are inadequate, written notices as proposed ought to be in the law, perhaps the Civic Federation could propose such a change. Chips Johnson asked what the county protocol is for posting variances. Mr. Swennes noted the notices are normally yellow or orange – but

agreed it would be helpful to know specifics on the practice. Resident Vanessa Guest asked what kind of notice would be adequate, and what would qualify as evidence of it having been delivered. Mr. Swennes noted that an early draft of the proposed very specific provisions of type and evidence of notice, but that was deemed burdensome, both for applicants and for the CA to verify. The current draft set a reasonableness standard. Following further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to vote on the by-law changes as circulated. The vote, counted (and re-counted) by Chips Johnson, was 22 in favor, with none opposed. Residents were reminded that for the by-law changes to take effect, a second vote in favor at the next general membership meeting would be required.

Featured Speaker: Noah Simon, District Director for Congressman Don Beyer

4. Ms. Klingler then introduced Noah Simon, who heads Congressman Don Beyer’s District office. Mr. Simon, a former member of the Arlington School Board, noted that he lives in Arlington, and continues to have interest in local issues, serving as a member of the Fire Station 8 history/legacy task force. Mr. Simon explained that Congressman Beyer’s district covers all of Arlington, ½ of McLean, Alexandria down to Ft. Belvoir, a total of 66 sq. miles. It is the 2nd most educated district in the country, after only the upper east side of Manhattan. Mr. Beyer is in his 2nd term and serves on the Natural Resources and Science/Technology Committees. His priorities include combatting global warming, women’s empowerment, and transportation. He is working for a comprehensive transportation bill, to provide Metro funding, etc. He got \$250M appropriated for repair/maintenance of Arlington Memorial Bridge, and funding for the National Park Service for its maintenance of the George Washington Parkway. He is also promoting sensible gun legislation. Mr. Beyer held a town hall last week at TC Williams; 1600 people attended, most expressing the need for gun law reform, e.g. to reduce the chances of suicide, and many may join the March for Our Lives this weekend. In his last election, Mr. Beyer won 70% of the vote. “10 out of 10” calls the district office receives are concerned about the Trump administration, issues such as the assault on the EPA, the lack of funding for non-military programs. Airplane & helicopter noise is also a concern in the district, although difficult to fully resolve. Mr. Beyer and his staff are also focused on constituent services—they can help on Social Security, Veterans’ Administration benefits, tax refunds, emergency passport issuances, and the like.

5. **Q&A:** Mr. Simon then took questions. Resident Doug Watson asked for him to comment on Congress’ inability to accomplish much, and time spent making partisan points. Mr. Simon noted that a lot is posturing for TV cameras; also, he said, when Congress got rid of earmarks, ability to achieve compromises fell apart. Mr. Beyer knows that Republicans are in the majority and he has found ways to work with them; a small example was getting permanent bathrooms authorized at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Concerning legislation on gun safety, Mr. Simon suggested residents call both their US Senators – since they don’t necessarily vote the same way– and get involved in a campaign, making calls. Citizens should pick one issue to work on as a volunteer. Concerning minorities, Mr. Simon noted that Mr. Beyer had held a “Latino Summit.” The district includes pockets of poverty along

Rte. 1. The Congressman and his staff do outreach with black churches, the Muslim community, and others—it is a very diverse district. Thirty percent of district residents speak a language other than English at home. Asked about abatement of aviation noise, Mr. Simon explained that helicopters after 10pm are police helicopters. Big Marine ones are Ospreys—they can't land at the Pentagon; their use is restricted to 4 star generals and equivalents. They are also trying to limit B22s. DCA is federally owned – there is no curfew – but they have restrictions on amount of flights. Asked about I-66 tolling, Mr. Simon noted that VDOT is still learning, and he hasn't heard about plans for reverse tolling; he would expect VDOT to give us a long lead time if they plan to apply reverse tolling.

Updates

6. **7-11:** There being no further questions, Mr. Simon left, and Ms. Klingler turned to updates as the next agenda item. Asked about Little Ambassadors Academy, Ms. Klingler explained that because there is pending litigation on the use permit, it was not appropriate for further discussion. [Residents should refer to the information packet, posted [online](#).] Ms. Klingler said that as for the new 7-11 being installed in place of the former Lee-Lex Auto Service Center, the owners had received a construction permit July 22. It is a by-right development (zoned C1, 7-11 fits within that), so the use itself cannot be challenged. That said, the county can impact how it is developed. She noted having received concerns from residents about ingress & egress, and the loss of trees (black walnuts) from the site. None of us have seen the building plan – unlike Little Ambassadors, they are building a new building – so LOCA officers have called the County's planning division, and zoning division – have left messages, and written to the County manager's office– asking to be included in deliberations on the plans. LOCA also contacted the County arborist to petition for white oaks to be planted. The County acknowledged our contact, but has provided no substantive reply.

7. **Lee Highway-Lexington St. intersection:** Mr. Swennes advised residents that they can go to the public comment session of next County Board meeting, which will be on a Saturday morning, likely the 2nd or 3rd one in April, to ask what the County Manager can do –this is a good way to bring local issues to the Board's attention. Ms. Michener underscored that the more people who show up, the more the County Board takes note. Discussion ensued concerning the risks of increased vehicular traffic at the Lee Highway-Lexington St. intersection. Past LOCA President Vicki Howard suggested the County should have a traffic study. Concerns were also expressed about VDOT failing to notify the community of milling & paving on Lee Highway. Capt. Giroux said if residents have difficulty reaching a member of County staff, he can follow up on issues with staff. He has done this for bus & transit issues in the past and is glad to facilitate. Capt. Giroux noted that for use permits, the police department has an officer who specifically reviews them, to recommend renewal or modification. Concerning day care centers, the police don't enforce conditions of use permit, as it's not a criminal issue, nor do they enforce building code. The police can do night-time noise enforcement.

8. **Lee Highway Alliance:** Ms. Klingler then invited Tom Wolfe, LOCA's representative on the [Lee Highway Alliance](#) (LHA), to provide an update. Mr. Wolfe explained that LHA is a non-profit dedicated to promoting revitalization of the 5.2 miles of Lee Highway in Arlington. It currently has an annual budget of \$133,000. It requested \$90,000 from the County Board, and received \$60,000 last year. LHA's key activity is a planning study, undertaken in conjunction with the County Manager & County Development department. They have put out a request for proposals (RFP) for that study. Beyond the planning initiative, LHA conducts outreach and events, engaging VDOT on LHA concerns, and citizens and businesses to create their vision. Work is led by Lucia deCordre, the new Executive Director; she meets with VDOT regularly. LHA's office is at the Russell Building, 4620 Lee Highway, suite 208, Arlington 22207.

9. **Reed School:** Ms. Klingler introduced Vanessa Guest, LOCA representative to the Reed School Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC). Ms. Guest noted that as the BLPC rep, she prepares updates every two weeks. Currently, the School Board is considering three different concepts at three different price points to build a 725-seat elementary school. Budget estimates came in with the integrated concept, which has the smallest footprint in area and was favored by most local residents, at \$4-5M over-budget. Nonetheless, the BLPC was just informed that staff members are supporting the integrated concept. She encouraged anyone who cares about Reed to contact the School Board. Ms. Michener noted the higher price of the integrated concept was likely more than offset by the value of the green space/ park land that would be preserved.

10. **Next Meetings:** Ms. Klingler noted that the LOCA Executive Committee is trying to plan ahead more, to share information about its next meeting, in case folks want to attend. As for the next general membership meeting, she was trying to book a meeting room for the 2nd week of June. Mr. Watson thanked Ms. Klingler for her leadership.

Submitted by:
Ladd Connell, LOCA Secretary