

ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 10 & 13, 2011  
Report for the Arlington League of Women Voters

PUBLIC COMMENT: Among the usual complaints and complainants the following concerns were raised:

- A resident of the Concord Mews condominium asked for help from the Board regarding the difficulties residents and visitors have in entering and exiting from So. Quincy & So. Randolph Streets off and onto So. Walter Reed Drive. Because of the steep hill there that descends to the 4-Mile Run valley, traffic is very fast, and the left turn lane that was there has been removed.

- A request was made to include the restoration of Library hours into the budget process so that this issue can be discussed in context instead of having to fight a rear guard action after the fact.

- A thank you to the Board was given by a representative of Youth Soccer for the work already done on the Long Bridge Park, with an encouragement to complete all plans. One thousand young people are involved in Arlington soccer programs now, and seven thousand are anticipated in the near future if facilities are available.

REGULAR HEARING ITEMS *(Saturday)*

1. After one hour of exacting discussion, the Board passed an amendment to the County Zoning Ordinance to permit temporary sidewalk signs, (a-frame, not over four square feet) in front of businesses and parking facilities, provided they do not interfere with pedestrian right of way; and to allow commercial messages on the umbrellas within permitted outdoor cafes.

2. The Board approved a Site Plan Amendment for Live Entertainment (indoors) and electric signs (TV in the windows) for "Velocity 5" located at 2300B Clarendon Blvd., Jerry Burhart, COO. The Live Entertainment was approved, and the electric sign issue was postponed to the Jan. 21st. meeting. Mr. Burhart with the Clarendon/Courthouse Business Assn. pledged cooperation in picking up litter and dealing with drunk customers.

3. The Board approved the 5-Year Review of Arlington County's Comprehensive Plan, including the General Land Use Plan; the Master Transportation Plan; the Storm Water Master Plan; the Water Distribution System Master Plan; the Sanitary Sewer Collection System Master Plan; the Recycling Program Implementation Plan and Map; the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and Plan; the Public Spaces Master Plan; and the Historic Preservation Master Plan.. Also:

The Board approved the reprinting of the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) in-

cluding a booklet and map to incorporate revisions and other changes since 2004

The Board adopted a Resolution certifying that the GLUP, an element of the Comprehensive Plan of Arlington County, accomodates growth in a manner consistent with the requirements of Virginia Code. para. 15.2-2223.1, requiring Urban Development Areas.

4. A request for a Use Permit to expand the enrollment of a child care center from 50 to 68 children for Maria Teresa Desaba, located at 825 23rd St., South, was deferred to the June, 2012 meeting.

## TUESDAY MEETING

Three Consent Items deferred from the Saturday meeting were passed:

1. Use Permit for a Fitness Facility at the Washington Golf & Country Club.
2. Use Permit for a sign (Fairlington Arbor) at 3412 A-1 So. Utah St.
3. Increase funds to reconstruct Long Bridge Dr. (formerly Old J. Davis Hwy.)

## REGULAR HEARING ITEMS

1. The Board deferred to the February meeting an application for a Use Permit to modify set back and yard requirements on a pipe stem lot adjacent to 2615 No. Nottingham St. This hot topic, complete with enraged neighbors and cool lawyers was before the Board first in November, and continues to ferment in the local press.

2. At 12:30 AM, Sunday morning, the County Board approved a Resolution to purchase the land and improvements at 2020 14th Street, North (Thomas Building) from the owner, if a fair price can be agreed to; or to exercise the Acquisition by Eminent Domain. This property, across the street from the Police Dept. and within the Courthouse area is planned to be used for the storage of county vehicles, office space expansion, a permanent comprehensive homeless services center, and year-round homeless shelter.

The Board Room was packed with interested citizens... 68 of whom signed up to speak in favor, or against this motion. Three of our own Leaguers spoke in favor: Pat McGrady, Marj Hobart, and Ann Rudd. Other supporters included neighbors, former and current homeless people, social workers, etc. The vastly outnumbered opponents, many of whom lived nearby, had a number of arguments regarding safety and security, as well as the comparative cost of a building in this neighborhood to one much farther away from the center. The most egregious opposition was presented by two elementary aged girls, who raised the specter of harm and danger to school children who might be frightened or kidnapped by shelter residents. These arguments ignored the uneventful presence of the temporary winter shelter nearby.

The property in question has been on the market, on and off for the past four years. The County Manager has been negotiating with the owner since the Fall of 2010. Your reporter went home, exhausted, at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Madeline Jarvis