



## Open Space Committee

Date: Thurs, April 23, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Location: ZOOM virtual meeting set up by Emily Sullivan via Town Zoom account

### Minutes

Attendance: Emily Sullivan, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ann LeRoy, John Pickle, David White, Wendy Richter, Brian Kelder

Members Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictis

1. Minutes
  - Reviewed and approved minutes from 1/23/2020 Meeting. Motion to approve by Elisabeth Carr-Jones and second by David White. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.
  - Reviewed notes from 2/27/2020 Meeting. A quorum was not present at the 2/27 meeting so the Committee did not hold a vote.
  - No meeting held on 3/26/2020 due to COVID-19 guidelines.
2. OSC Administration/Communications
  - New member announcement still posted online
  - The Committee continues to consider content and photo updates to the "Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces" web map. Members should send updated photos or suggested text edits to Brian Kelder. Brian will compile them and work with Adam to make updates all at once.
  - Wendy Richter continues to monitor the Facebook page for the group.
  - Any member who has not completed the required Review Ethics, Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest materials should do so ASAP. Emily will remind those who have not yet done so.
3. Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces – publicize during COVID ??
  - Emily spoke with officials including the town Health Director seeking guidance on whether the OSC should actively promote the Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces materials during the COVID-19 outbreak. She was advised that the Town will not promote on the town website at this time, but that the OSC could promote these outdoor options on a limited basis through social media including the Committee Facebook page and Arlington Email List.
4. Picture Post
  - Prepare new posts for spring, possibly at Spy Pond, Wellington Park and along Mill Brook, Robbins Farm and Magnolia Community Gardens, etc.

- Database and website have been moved and are up and running at the University of Oklahoma - they have updated the app so it works with their infrastructure. A new phone app is required.
  - New posts have not been installed.
  - Need to update signs on existing posts to link to a new phone app.
  - Elisabeth noted Robbins Farm fence posts that can be used are in but not fully set. John will coordinate with Elisabeth to install the two post caps.
5. Open Space and Recreation Plan
- CPA has recommended \$35,000, but all meetings on hold for now.
  - Start research on possible consultants for RFP once approved - We have some information on some consultants that other towns have used. The town will go through an official RFP process when the time comes. We will need to work on the RFP during the summer.
  - Revised Plan due to state DCS by May 2022
  - Continue tracking projects, actions, accomplishments
6. CPA/CDBG projects in progress
- Arlington Reservoir – Beach status - Still under construction; pilot path on the Lex Farm side of the Res will be done this summer.
  - Wellington Park – There was a virtual public meeting on April 22nd to discuss the proposals. A public survey will give people an opportunity to provide comments prior to next public meeting which is in May, date TBD
7. Other News and Reports
- Envision Arlington annual survey results - Survey is finished, but the results are not yet out. Elisabeth is not sure what the results are for the OSC aspects and has not heard anything. Emily has seen the raw data, but there are a lot of open-ended questions for the OSC, so the analysis will be summarized. The process started right around Covid, so will be delayed.
  - Arlington's Great Meadows planning for development and access - Some visitor parking for public access to AGM is proposed for the townhouse development still in planning stages.
  - Arlington Reservoir Plant Survey and Management Plan – SOLitude will do the survey with funding from the Water Bodies Fund.
  - Mass. Open Space Conference in Greenfield, Sat, April 25 (virtual) - Wendy is signed up for at least one of the sessions
  - Sustainable Transportation Plan public meeting on April 20 (virtual) - Wendy and Ann attended. Wanted to be aware of what is going on to see if there was anything that might be relevant to the revised Open Space Plan. Wendy thinks the OSC should be aware of what is being considered, especially issues such as lighting on the bike path.
  - MyRWA Earth Month Ecofest during April - Arlington has been holding many online virtual events during the COVID closures
  - VA Memorial Park exploratory meetings – on hold
8. Other Business
- Wendy offered to be a "treasurer" going forward to save others from needing to request reimbursements through a complicated approval process.

- Roughly \$150 or half of the fiscal year 2020 funds remain in the OSC budget. John will coordinate with Elisabeth to purchase materials for picture posts with these funds prior to the June 30 end of fiscal year.

9. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

(Minutes submitted by Brian Kelder)

**2020 Meeting Dates:** May 28, June 25, July and August TBD, Sept 24, Oct 29, Nov 12, Dec 10