

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2023 / 7:00 PM / VIRTUAL

ATTENDEES

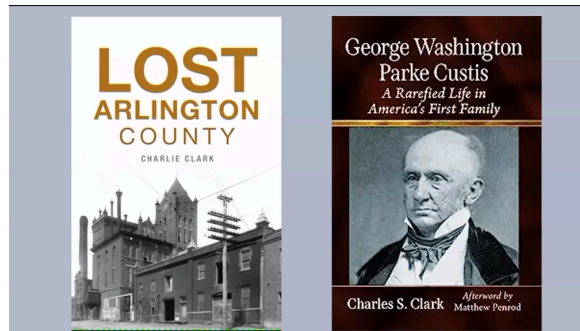
- See external list with approximately 20 participants.

CALL TO ORDER

- President Jim Rosen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Charlie Clark, Arlington Historian and Author



- A presentation was shared via video. Some features of the presentation:
 - o Ballston named after the Ball family - with important homes in Arlington, including Glebe House.
 - o The Ball family was one of the families that started Mt. Olivet Church, where some Union soldiers are buried.
 - o Balls Tavern - saw the vote on retrocession with residents of then Alexandria County. Many Arlingtonians were against it, but it did pass and it took effect in 1847.
 - o Arlington was a pass through community during the Civil War, with Union troops passing through. There was a skirmish in 1863 near

Bluemont, with the Confederates withdrawing and a handful of people killed.

- o Arlington's churches have been important including 1st Presbyterian - rebuilt on N. Vermont Street.
- o Railroad in later 19th Century was turned into trolley cars
- o Ballston had its first school built in 1914.
- o Ballston had a branch of the Klan with more than 100 members.
- o There was a semi-pro baseball team on a field near the current DARPA. And the Washington Redskins practiced on the same field.
- o Parkington was built in 1951 and was the largest mall on the East Coast - the overall space was 18 acres.
- o HQ of the American Nazi party was started in Arlington.
- o I66 faced major resistance in Arlington - originally Metro was to go down the middle of it with 12 lanes and no sound barriers. Arlington planners worked to have it moved and be undergrounded from Ballston-east.
- o Kann's department store was built in 1951 before being torn down in 2022 by GMU to make way for the new GMU buildings.
- o There are two Ball graveyards - near APAH/American Legion and at the Methodist property across from the Ballston.
- o Ballston Bid is a source of branding the community.



Ball Family Graves behind Baird Auto, Washington Blvd. near Virginia Square

- Discussion.

- o **Ball Family Cemetery.** The neighborhood has dealt with brick walls on the property. How to deal with access, improvement and caretaking? How do we deal with mechanisms to reach out the

family to obtain a representative – such as with the Methodist site, to maintain it? How to make it a semi-public space as the County claims they have difficulty in getting authorization on this? *Charlie suggests talking to Barbara Ball Savage – a descendent who might be able to help. There is an attorney and archeologist who worked with the Methodists and will try to get contact info to Paul. Robbi also has some background info on the site. A link to a related story:*

<https://www.arlnow.com/2016/11/03/letter-ball-family-members-want-ballston-graveyard-preserved/> Prior attorney for the Ball Family (could still be), Alexander B Berger, 703-994-8133, ab@berger-law.com.

- o Top 3 places to learn : Arlington House; Arlington Historical Museum on Arlington Ridge Road; Black Heritage Museum.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Ballston BID (Allyson Ugarte)

- Farmers Market – 3-7pm Thursday
- Mega Market – Thursdays

June Meeting Minutes

- Mallory moved to approve. Robbi seconded. No opposition. Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report (Giang Dang)

- None

Arlington Civic Federation (Sharon Valencia)

- No recent meetings/updates due to summer.
- We need to submit new CivFed rep names to CivFed.

Arlington Neighborhoods Program (Ken Hughes)

- New arrangements for small projects are being organized. In addition there is an issue with lack of staff to support items and funding is an issue.
- For BVSCA, Ken will work on a diversity/inclusion assessment sheet to keep things alive. Jim will connect on a 12th Road item to deal with improvement there – TBD.

Ballston Sector Plan

- The Executive Committee met with Anthony Fusarelli, Planning Director, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development and his colleague Jennifer Smith.
- Attendees discussed concerns to Planning:
 - The EC emphasized that there is a need for a comprehensive vision. The 1980 plan is very old and, as a result, there is a lot of piecemeal development. There was a Quincy Street plan from the 1990s and a retail plan later. EC members requested that we look at Ballston-VA Square together – not Ballston and Virginia Square
 - Action items from the meeting.
 - BVSCA should make a formal request to the Planning Commission and Board – close to the end of the year/beginning of new year, so Planning can look at putting it into the work program.
 - Advocate with the new Board members.
 - Work with neighboring CAs on this.
- Discussion
 - Kristine reminded members that during the 11th and Vermont approval – and how there was an issue with the stale Ballston plan(s). Jim explained that the Neighborhood Conservation Plan requires a certain percentage of residents to complete a survey. There was a discussion about the difficulty – shared in the past with the county – for a large CA to meet the survey requirements. Jim invited members to set up working group and also work with other neighboring CA's on this.
 - GMU bought some new property on Fairfax (or is purchasing new property) – and the state does not have to follow County planning. GMU has big plans and are calling themselves an 'Innovation District'.

Upcoming External Speakers

- Nothing lined up now. In the future we might have Mt. Olivet discuss their early plans for development. Having the YMCA speak could be useful as well – later in the fall. Parks and Recs representatives might be useful. A rep from 11th and Vermont might be useful.

Developments

- **YMCA.** Paul shared info about the renewed SPRC effort.
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Site-Plan/3400-13th-St-N-YMCA>. An updated plan has been submitted July 2023 with a meeting to be discussed Thursday, July 26, 2023. An SPRC is not yet started – but a Concept Plan is being shared to see the reception.
- Major substantive changes as per Paul:
 - YMCA building height reduced from 62’ to 35’ feet – with Tennis removed.
 - N/S connection between Residential and YMCA building widened for pedestrian/bike access.
 - YMCA building shifted 8’ off Kansas and 4’ off of 13th.
 - E/W connection: bike/pedestrian across whole site.
 - Open space – Western space slightly increased, no amphitheater
 - Continued emphasis on vehicular connectivity between Washington and 13th – not a change.
- Discussion
 - Transformer/electrical – It looks like the transformer might be put on 12th Road – a concern.
 - 12th and existing Kansas have been absorbing a lot of new traffic/parking issues and the broader neighborhood should also keep this in mind.
 - Solar – is it part of planning
 - Existing trees – has an arborist looked at this?
 - Native plants – any planning on this?
- **Quincy/Buck Site.** The buses continue to idle for hours daily – despite the State admonishing Arlington County for state anti-idling violations. There is an ART bus survey ongoing:
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Arlington-Transit-Strategic-Plan#PublicProcess>
- **Glebe.** VDOT survey: <https://www.publicinput.com/route120glebestudy>.
 Story re: Glebe Rd Survey from ArlNow:
https://www.arlnow.com/2023/07/13/vdot-seeking-public-feedback-for-possible-glebe-road-improvements/?mc_cid=13f08ee1d2&mc_eid=a9d68b8162
- **Staples/Ashton Heights.** There is a new day care replacing the Staples. BVSCA joined with Ashton Heights in relaying concerns around ingress/egress – and also noise.

- **Airport Noise group being formed.** We need a rep for the new committee.
- **11th and Vermont.** Construction is underway - hole/parking garage development, utilities, etc. Neighbors have a number of concerns.
- **1129 N. Utah Street** A duplex request has been placed, but we're not sure that it will go before the Planning Commission. Jim will check with Matt Pheiffer of Planning on whether there will be an SPRC.
- **Plan Langston.** We can submit comments on the draft plan and there is an open house the week of July 24th.
- **APAH building - recent murder.** BVSCA sent a letter to APAH - with cc to the County - on the recent murder about engaging with APAH on the situation.
- **Skanska.** A crane will be dismantled on a weekend of August 26/27 - closing off Quincy Street for the taking down.
- **Pickleball at Hayes Park.** Striping will occur in the next few months. We'll keep an eye on it.
- **St. Charles Church.** No updates.

Other Updates

- **Fairfax/Hunan restaurant area across from Metro.** This area will be redeveloping soon.
- **Membership Committee** - Jim, Randy, Sharon and Maurya will reconnect on the plan.

ADJOURN

- Jim Rosen adjourned the meeting at 9:05pm.