

WCA April, 2004 Minutes

Welcome by our President.

Naiem read the message printed in the April 2004 newsletter headed A Message from WCA President.

Paul Ferguson, Arlington Co. Board, and Susan Bell were introduced.

Ms. Bell gave a presentation on Group housing in Arlington Co.

Group housing falls under the States' authority. (Buy right uses.)

Exception use permits are allowed. Community and Co. officials work together on

exceptions. The overall health & welfare of the community is taken into account.

Examples of current exceptions in Arlington Co. are; battered women, priest house, college housing, and runaway children.

More than 4 unrelated occupants require a special use permit.

Special use permits require an application, a public hearing, and then approval by the Co. Board.

An advisory group of community residents is set up to oversee a review period during the beginning of such granted permits. Concerns from the community can be addressed through this group. At the end of this period the permit can be granted, rejected, or the review period can be extended.

Representative questions from the floor and answers of Ms. Bell.

Q. What is the current status of the group homes of 24th St.?

A. Preliminary applications for special use are in for the 2 houses in question.

Q. What issues concerning the physical house are considered in the granting of permits?

A. Safety of the occupants and local citizens, parking, visitors.

Q. How does the review process work?

A. The permit is assigned to co. planner, the community is notified of the permit and a staff person from the zoning office is assigned to the application to work with the community.

Q. How many permits are accepted?

A. Very few are denied.

Q. Is traffic taken into consideration?

A. Yes.

Q. Is the Cedars currently operating legally?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there ever a hearing on the Cedars?

A. It had administrative approval. It operates consistent with zoning.

Q. What has the county done to protect the neighborhood from recent break-ins? Have they increased patrol in our area?

A. Don't know.

Q. What are the building codes for group houses concerning the number of occupants?

A. Sleeping space is taken into account when determining the number of residents.

Q. It is said from 25 to 30 have occupied the house at any one time. How is that currently monitored?

A. During the application for use exceptions there is no monitoring. If approved an oversight group would be the place to raise violations.

Elections were held for WCA delegates.

The results were:

Delegates to the Arlington Civic Federation:

Sharon Rogers, David Thacker, Roy Cook, and Art Lindsley

Alternate delegates to the Federation:

Norm Mosher, Lee Rooker, Bill Santry, and Michael Chellman

Representative to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Comm.

Amy Millen

Announcements

Steve Baur gave a report on airport noise. There will be 3 public hearings on there recommendations. The FAA has final say if any are implemented. Helicopter noise is a separate issue.

Carla Von Bernewitz reported that through the conservation plan our neighborhood could have up to \$12,000 for projects. A letter of intent needs to be in by May 17, 2004.

A resident asked the committee to check into having an ARC stop in our neighborhood. Michael Chellman offered to call about the possibility.

The Memorial Day picnic is on for May 31, 11:00- 1:00 in Fort C F Smith Park.

Scott Deibler announced an art show to be held at the park the weekend of April 16-18.

Meeting adjourned.