

SPECIAL LHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2020 (Zoom meeting)

Directors Present (16)

Peter Bota, Mike Cantwell, Sandi Chesrown, Michele Cornwell, Elaine Furlow, Pamela Gillen, Edith Gravely, Lauren Harris, Ralph Johnson, Tom Korn, Jim Lantelme, Laura London, Richard Price, Matthew Weinstein, Michelle Winters, Tom Wolfe

Directors Absent (1)

Scott Matties

LHA Staff Present (2)

Ginger Brown, Executive Director
Maia Potok-Holmes, Communications Manager

Welcome & Call to order

This meeting was called to order by Pamela Gillen, President, at 8:34 am. Pamela welcomed Board Members.

Renaming Lee Highway

Matthew Weinstein, Chair of the Working Group On Renaming Lee Highway, provided the Board with a presentation on the renaming process (See attached Powerpoint presentation). The Working Group had decided on “Mildred & Richard Loving Avenue” as its top choice and “John M. Langston Boulevard,” “Ella Baker Boulevard,” “Dr. Edward T. Morton Avenue,” and “Main Street” as their four alternatives. Members of the Working Group felt strongly that the names “Mildred & Richard” be attached to the name “Loving” because the couple fought together to make legal interracial marriage. Many in the group also expressed concern about the name “Main Street,” explaining that it could create division between North and South Arlington.

Michelle Winters made, and Michele Horwitz Cornwell seconded, the following motion:

Move that we adopt the Working Group on Renaming Lee Highway’s top choice, Mildred and Richard Loving Avenue, and the 4 ranked alternative names: John M. Langston Boulevard, Ella Baker Boulevard, Dr. Edward T. Morton Avenue and Main Street, as our recommendation to the County Board to replace the name of Lee Highway.

The motion passed unanimously.

Pamela Gillen agreed to draft a letter to the County Board that would serve as the preface for the Working Group on Renaming Lee Highway report.

In January, LHA’s Transportation Committee would consider next steps for a process to change the name of “Old” Lee Highway.

LHA Challenges Discussion

Pamela Gillen interviewed LHA Board members about what they see as the greatest challenges LHA faces in the coming year. (Please see attached summary of those perspectives). While there were a range of perspectives on the greatest challenges that LHA faces, most centered around two categories: the ongoing effort of PLH and the organization.

The board focused discussion on removing state control of LH to the County and COVID-19 impact on County's budget and the critical need for LHA fundraising to replace loss revenue streams.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 am. Pamela thanked everyone for their participation.

Next Board Meeting – Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:30pm