

North Ridge Citizens Association
Minutes for Monday, January 13, 2020 Meeting
Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church
3512 Old Dominion Boulevard

Call to Order: 7:30 by Kay Stimson, President. The signup sheet showing those in attendance is attached.

Ms. Stimson noted that the Association of Alexandria Citizens' Association will have a member on the Mobility Planning Commission and Bill Rosello has been designated fill that role.

Police Department liaison Sgt. Thomas Ground reported that in the November-December period there were 31 reported cases in North Ridge. This was up six cases over the same period last year but "still good." From December 10 through today there were 35 total call to the police, 2 stolen cars, 3 cars broken into, and two cars "tapered with." Sgt. Ground reminded the audience to "please lock." Ms. Stimson presented a gift card to Sgt. Ground to note the Association's appreciation of his services.

Bruce Johnson reported that Sherry Gallery had recalculated the revenues from the Christmas tree sale and NRCA's share was determined to be \$3,100 rather than the \$3,400 that had been reported earlier. The reduced share, however, remained a record high for a tree sale.

Amy Burwell reported that a pocket park on Woodbine Road will be refurbished as part of the "Whitaker's Wish." The park will be given a handicapped access surface. It is expected that the plan for the park will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Department in February and work will commence immediately after presentation.

Helen Lee, Environmental Program Manager with the City's Transportation & Environment Services Department (T&ES), made a presentation on Alexandria's recycling program. Ms. Lee noted that T&ES collects recycled items from approximately 2020 single-family homes and from the City's schools and from some businesses and non-profit organizations. She gave a detailed survey, item by item of which materials the City will accept for recycling and what it won't. The presentation was accompanied by a slide show which can be found on the City's website.

Ms. Lee did emphasize certain items that should NOT go into the recycling bins: bubble wrap and multi-material envelopes; styrofoam; dirty pizza boxes (clean ones are ok); plastic bags; sanitary wipes; clam shell plastic containers; food; batteries; silverware; straws; anything smaller than a credit card. Labels can be left on plastic and metal cans and caps can be left on plastic containers. In response to questions she said aerosol containers are OK if empty; waste cooking oil can be dropped off at

the City's hazardous waste site; the City needs to be called to pick up scrap metal; and the best way to ask the City a question about a specific item is through the "call-click-connect" system.

Also, in response to a question, Ms. Lee explained that after January 15, 2020, the City would no longer be accepting glass in recycling bins and will be putting reminder tags of this policy on bins that do contain glass. Glass can be put in the regular trash containers or can be dropped off at the purple bins at five locations around the City including one behind Mom's food store on Mt. Vernon Avenue.

Ms. Stimson reported that the residents of many side streets did not get notice of the City's plans to install speed bumps on Monticello Avenue and to remove several parking places along the road. NRCA is working with affected neighbors to develop a letter to the City asking it to better communicate over street projects. Ed Arza, a neighbor who supports the City's plans, noted that the plans for Monticello have been on the City website since 2018. Ms. Stimson emphasized that the proposed letter will not be in opposition to the plans but will be asking for better communications with residents who will be affected by City actions.

Amy Burwell noted that the construction of the new firehouse on Old Dominion appears to be on schedule.

Ms. Stimson reported that Alexandria had held a forum this past weekend about development in the City. Many housing advocates from both the City and outside the City were in attendance as were several building development companies. Among the topics discussed were public/private partnerships, as were the development of "accessible dwelling units" (ADUs). One of the messages from the City was that increased building density is good and that the City "needs to build up and more." Mayor Wilson mentioned that the City is looking at modifying its zoning rules and will be issuing information on this in the near future.

Ms. Stimson said that there was not time at the forum to get into the details of various concepts, nor were there details provided on the timelines or details of potential new zoning regulations. Megan Rainey, who also attended the forum, noted that there was no real discussion of infrastructure issues such as the development of transportation options and schools that would accompany increased density.

Lyn Gubser reported that the City is looking at making special use permits (SUPs) for businesses an administrative matter that will be voted on by staff rather than something that has to be voted on by the Zoning Commission.

Mr. Gubser then gave an update on the application for a SUP by the individual who wants to tear down and replace the house at 3202 Old Dominion. After City staff recommended that the application be denied, the owner submitted a second plan in which the height of the proposed house is reduced, but the width is increased.

Several neighbors are opposed to the revised plan. A new staff report will be coming out on January 24 and the SUP request and the new staff recommendation will be before the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZP) on February 4. Mr. Gubser believed the new staff recommendation would oppose the request for a SUP and made a motion that once the recommendation is posted that - if the recommendation did in fact oppose the application - the Association send a letter to the PZP supporting the recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed.

Ms. Stimson reported on the Association's "Deck the Hills" holiday yard decoration contest. The contest was, in sum, a whopping success and Ms. Stimson expects that the contest will be held again this year.

Ms. Stimson noted that it was time for NRCA to consider its contribution to the Alexandria Scholarship Fund. Bill Clayton moved that the Association make a \$1,000 contribution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chuck Kent moved that the Association make the same contribution to Beverley Hills United Methodist Church that we made last year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Stimson reported that George Washington Middle School had requested a donation of \$50 to \$100 for gifts or student/teacher prizes for spelling bee participation. Mr. Kent suggested that the Board leave it to the Executive Board to decide on how to address the request.

Ms. Stimson reported that the nominating committee for Board officer candidates will include herself, Jeanne Snapp, Chuck Kent and John Fehrenbach. Ms. Stimson encouraged all Board members and other meeting attendees to submit recommendations to the committee.

Ms. Stimson adjourned the meeting at 9:00.

Russ Bailey, Scribe