

MEETING MINUTES: North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA) Monthly Meeting May 10, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. This meeting had 45+ individual virtual attendees.

Board Members in Attendance

- John Fehrenbach, President
- Amy Burwell, 1st Vice President
- Jennifer Dougherty, 2nd Vice President
- Chuck Kent, Past President
- Tack Richardson, Treasurer
- Kay Stimson, Scribe
- Jeanne and Bruce Snapp
- Sean Gallagher
- Lyn Gubser
- Chuck Kent
- Russ Bailey
- Chris Gay
- Diana Day
- Jackie Coleburn
- Kate Crawley
- Amy Krafft
- Sunny Yoder
- Bill E. Clayton
- Bill F. Clayton
- Lee Guerry
- Joe Costigan
- Moira Buzby
- Tack Richardson
- Meghan Rainey
- Mimi Saunders
- Fowler West
- Rachel Newhouse
- Brad Kinder
- Ashely Berrang
- John Winstead

Sgt. Tommy Ground gave a police report. He said North Ridge is “back on track,” in terms of reported calls for service/incidents. NRCA President John Fehrenbach requested a meeting for tomorrow with several Board members to discuss a reported neighborhood concern.

Mr. Fehrenbach then introduced Acting Captain Sean Casey, who introduced himself as the new Alexandria Sheriff's Department liaison for North Ridge and urged residents to get in touch if they need anything.

Treasurer's Report – Tack Richardson

Treasurer Tack Richardson presented the updated budget report (see addendum). Mr. Richardson said he was grateful for all of the Board member input on the document, and that he would be following up with some members to finalize everything.

Planning & Zoning Update – Sunny Yoder

Ms. Sunny Yoder provided a brief update on the City's [Co-Housing Initiative](#), now called "co-living." NRCA sent a letter objecting to co-housing/co-living by right. She said the City has posted a new version of a proposal and gave an overview. Ms. Yoder said the new plan explicitly states there will be, "no changes to single family and two-family townhouse zones." She said the City is seeking comments on the new proposal and urged residents to give input. She added that enforcement was a big concern based on resident feedback from the City survey, as well as input into the NRCA comments letter to P&Z. She said the City seems to recognize that the new co-living initiative as well as ADU policy created concern for single family zoning. A new version of the proposal will be presented to the Planning Commission and Council in October.

Ms. Yoder noted that the City is updating its "Community Engagement Guide" to encompass virtual engagement, such as we have seen in the past year, and to ensure engagement with members of the community who aren't easily reached.

Ms. Yoder also mentioned a zoning text amendment approved by Council that would allow administrative approval of a greater variety of property uses than currently, but only in certain parts of Alexandria—not North Ridge.

506 N. Overlook Update – Jeanne Snapp & Chuck Kent

Ms. Jeanne Snapp said that neighbors are appealing a zoning approval for a home at 506 N. Overlook. As part of the April 8th approval, P&Z placed a condition supporting a request for access for the purposes of an historical determination. Neighbors are planning to attend a May 15th Council hearing to speak out. NRCA President John Fehrenbach noted that this is not a NRCA appeal.

Mr. Chuck Kent said the new staff report that came out today (May 10) includes a letter from City Manager Mark Jinks to approve the P&Z decision. The City Archeologist report could not find evidence of historic value to qualify it structurally or architecturally for its 100-year list of homes, which was disappointing to neighbors who signed the petition in support of the effort to save the home.

Schools Update – Amy Burwell

NRCA Vice President Amy Burwell said that ACPS did not meet its commitment to provide a memo on May 6th regarding the George Mason Elementary feasibility study. In response to a Board member question, Ms. Burwell described what the feasibility study might entail. Second Vice President Jennifer Dougherty added that it is also supposed to cover impacts of moving the school building to a different location on the property site. Ms. Burwell added that the school bus drop-off route and the historic façade to the building are also topics of interest, and a brief discussion on the need to identify swing space for the school would be necessary as soon as possible in order to inform the CIP, which is scheduled for approval in the fall.

A resident commented about too many GM teachers parking along Virginia Avenue, making it difficult for residents to get out of their driveways. Ms. Burwell said she would consult with the principal of GME and follow up.

Board Member Moira Buzby noted that the City is accepting applications from City non-profits and other volunteer groups for parks and recreation matching grant partnerships, and wondered if NRCA should be applying for funding to improve George Mason Park. Applications are due by June 25th. Mr. Fehrenbach asked Ms. Buzby to send the information to his attention, as well as other NRCA officers, for further review.

Mr. Fehrenbach said that he had an issue regarding colocation at school sites. He noted there was some conflicting information provided to the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) at the end of March. Mr. Fehrenbach said that he asked the City Manager during his budget presentation at that meeting whether there was any plan to put funding behind colocation for non-core, non-educational uses. He said that City Manager Mark Jinks said no. However, a subsequent proposal released by the City showed that a substantial amount of funding would be devoted to non-core uses for Department of Health and other types of funding. Mr. Fehrenbach asked, how far does the North Ridge position go?

Ms. Dougherty said that colocation happens at most ACPS campuses, citing a teen health center at the City of Alexandria High School and the Campagna Center's use of space for aftercare programs at George Mason Elementary. Ms. Snapp added that she was excited when the teen wellness center was established to help address the teen pregnancy rate in Alexandria.

Ms. Burwell said that it's important for North Ridge to weigh in on any decision to put housing on schools.

Mr. Fehrenbach said that stacking houses at Minnie Howard may have been the City's representation for the Upper King Street grant application, which referenced higher density in that location. Thusly, he believes that it may call into question any justification for certain aspects of that proposal.

Board Member Meghan Rainey said that there are better ways to use school property for student and educational purposes, as opposed to housing. She said that whatever they are thinking about at the Minnie Howard site has a direct impact to students. She added that a teen wellness center or an aquatic center make sense.

Ms. Buzby said that she was concerned about housing on school sites because of density, and how it reduces green space and potentially impacts the tree canopy. She hopes that NRCA continues to have an interest in preserving green space and its well-established tree canopy.

Ms. Burwell said that she sees GM students every day using the field space and the park space behind George Mason Park, and the community needs to continue advocating for this type of usage.

Transportation – Bruce Snapp

Mr. Bruce Snapp gave an update on the West Glebe Road bridge project. Funding to Arlington County has been allocated and approved, he confirmed. He also noted that the bridge will be kept open to alleviate traffic concerns.

Mr. Snapp added that funding from the new federal infrastructure initiative will be used to do a joint jurisdictional project to improve the Mount Vernon Bridge, between Arlington County and Alexandria.

Mr. Snapp reiterated design plans for the grant submitted by the City for the Upper King Street Multimodal Mobility Plan. A brief discussion of the City's decision to delay its grant request for this effort followed. The City wants to collect more public input, Mr. Snapp said.

Taylor Run – Russ Bailey

Mr. Russ Bailey said that a considerable amount of water runoff from Bradlee Shopping Center runs in the direction of Taylor Run.

He also reported that City Council recently delayed a vote on proposed stream restoration projects (Taylor Run, Strawberry Run and Lucky Run), but that it did not delay the projects altogether. He said that City consultants strongly supported moving ahead with the projects. Mr. Bailey said this was a disappointing result. He noted that now the projects are “bumped past the June 8th City Council Democratic primary date.” Ms. Dougherty thanked Mr. Bailey for staying awake past 1 AM in order to give remarks at the City Council hearing on this issue, which meeting attendees noted was a marathon session. A brief discussion of how the City would pursue accurate measurements of sediments/nutrients at the stream followed.

Membership Update – John Fehrenbach

NRCA President John Fehrenbach said that he met with officers Amy Burwell, Jennifer Dougherty and Kay Stimson about membership recruitment efforts following a tough recruiting year with the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that COVID restrictions were anticipated to change soon, and he would bring some recommendations to the next meeting.

Events - Wheel Day – Campbell Vogel

Wheel Day Organizer Campbell Vogel gave an overview of an “alternate route” for this year's Wheel Day, moving the parade down North Overlook to the Pit Park from Cameron Mills Road due to playground closures at the church playground at Beverley Hills United Methodist Church. She asked for NRCA financial support for ribbons, snacks, and other provisions, and asked for Board members and neighbors to volunteer to help. The date of the event remains the weekend of Memorial Day, on May 30th. Ms. Snapp asked Ms. Vogel to give a bit of history about the event. Ms. Vogel said that it's a neighborhood tradition since World War II to have children rolling their way around the neighborhood and showing patriotic, neighborly spirit.

Ms. Stimson made a motion to support funding for Wheel Day 2021. It was seconded by Ms. Snapp. Mr. Fehrenbach stated that up to \$350 would be available for this purpose. No objections were raised. A volunteer link was circulated to meeting attendees.

Mr. Fehrenbach noted that plans and budgeting still need to be done for National Night Out.

Budget – Tack Richardson

See addendum from Mr. Richardson. He noted the new line item for Monticello Park.

Ms. Burwell said that the Citizenship Awards would be tough this year, and alternative donations (such as the food bank) may be in order.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the budget. Ms. Yoder seconded the motion. Budget approval passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by KS
May 21, 2021

North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA) Budget Report

May 10, 2021

NRCA Board,

The North Ridge Citizens' Association Budget Report for May 2021 is as follows:

Balance:

- ~\$16,000

Transactions:

- None

Other:

- Wells Fargo has requested a signed letter from NRCA outlining the newly elected officers so that they can update signing authority for our account. Russ Bailey is drafting the letter for submittal.
- Wells Fargo Fern Street Branch has re-opened.

Regards,

V.B. "Tack" Richardson III

NRCA Treasurer

NRCA Budget Proposal for 2021

May 5, 2021

Revenues	2021 (Proposed)	Notes
<i>Description</i>		
Memberships	\$ 2,500.00	Projecting ~125 memberships, 101 as of 4 May 2021
Sponsorships	\$ -	Projecting \$0 for 2021; Possible New Program for 2022
Donations	\$ 750.00	Projecting \$750, \$430 Received to Date
City of Alex Parks & Rec Adopt-a-Park	\$ 300.00	Projecting \$300 based on Board Input
Spring Newsletter Ads	\$ -	Zeroed Out, Postcard Mailer
National Night Out Donations	\$ -	Pending Decision on National Night Out
Xmas Tree Sales	\$ 3,000.00	Projecting based on Past Sales
VA DEQ Grant for Taylor Run Monitoring	\$ 5,000.00	Reimbursement Expected Spring / Summer 2021
PayPal	\$ -	Line item moved to membership, sponsorship, donations line items.
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 11,550.00	
Operational Expenditures	2021 (Proposed)	Notes
<i>Description</i>		
USPS Box Rental	\$ 150.00	May Payment for the Year
Website Maintenance	\$ 300.00	September Payment of \$300/year
Insurance - Liability	\$ 1,310.00	September Payment for the Year
VA Corporate Commission	\$ 25.00	December Payment for the Year
Alex Federation of Civic Assoc	\$ 30.00	July Payment for the Year
Operational Expenses Subtotal	\$ 1,815.00	
Discretionary Expenditures	2021 (Proposed)	Notes
<i>Description</i>		
NRCA Membership Postcard	\$ 1,000.00	Projecting \$1,000 based on Board Input, July Expenditure
Website Upgrades	\$ 500.00	Projecting \$500 based on Board Input
Cloud Storage Solution (e.g. Dropbox)	\$ -	Zeroed Out, Using Existing Solutions for 2021
Membership Campaign	\$ -	Zeroed Out, Expenditure Included in NRCA Membership Postcard Line Item
ACPS Auditorium Rental	\$ -	Zeroed Out, Annual Meeting Virtual
Annual Meeting(s)	\$ -	Zeroed Out, No Expenses Occurred in March 2021
Wheel Day	\$ 250.00	Projecting based on Board Input, Past Expenditures (May Expenditure)
National Night Out	\$ -	TBD - Zeroed Out For Now, August Expenditure if Event Held
TCW Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00	Paid (March 2021)
BHUMC Donation	\$ 250.00	Donation for Space, September Expenditure
TCW Student Citizenship Award	\$ 100.00	Projecting \$100 based on Board Input, Past Expenditures
Citizenship Awards (3 @ \$30 each)	\$ 90.00	Projecting \$90 (3x\$30) based on Board Input, Past Expenditures
Tree Canopy Initiative	\$ 250.00	Projecting \$250 based on Board Input, Past Expenditures
Beverley Park (Pit)	\$ 250.00	Projecting \$250 based on Board Input
Monticello Park	\$ 250.00	Projecting \$250 based on Board Input
Holiday / Deck the Hills Event Promo	\$ 200.00	Paid to R. Colangelo (February 2021)
Christmas Tree Sale (e.g. Marketing)	\$ 250.00	Projecting \$250 based on Board Input, Past Expenditures
Projector Purchase	\$ -	Zeroed Out, Purchased in 2020
Charitable Contributions	\$ -	Zeroed Out, 2020 Expenditure = Hometown Heroes (e.g. Food Truck Donations)
COVID - ZOOM	\$ 202.40	Paid to Presidents (February 2021)
Taylor Run Watershed Monitoring	\$ 5,000.00	Payment for Taylor Run Watershed Monitoring Analysis
Candidate Campaign Forum	\$ 100.00	Projecting \$100 based on Board Input (If Held), May Expenditure
Discretionary Expenditures Subtotal	\$ 9,692.40	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,507.40	