

NRCA Sept 2022 Meeting
Draft Minutes - S. Yoder

Ashley Berrang 1st VP, chairing, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone back after the summer.

Crime Report - Sgt Tommy Ground

Over the summer North Ridge had 59 cases, just about average. Concerns: (1) two vehicle tags were stolen and found in DC. (2) Five cases of identity theft - an uptick. Check your accounts regularly, even frequent flyer accounts. Call police non-emergency number if you detect problems.

Q: Catalytic converters? A: Only one was reported stolen in this period, which is down. There was an arrest in Baltimore of someone with millions worth of catalytic converters.

Q: Shooting on Old Dominion across Glebe from North Ridge? A: Actually, it was a stabbing. He will check for more information; it may not have gotten into the system yet.

Sgt. Ground reported that he was better after rupturing a spinal disc and being out of commission for a while.

Sheriff Sean Casey

Councilwoman Bagley joined the meeting for this part. The Sheriff's report focused on gun safety and City efforts to support gun safety. The Sheriff's Office manages the jail and security of the local courthouse, and serves civil processes out of that courthouse. These are state-mandated functions. The Office recently received a very high rating on the inmate data system as part of its accreditation process. Sheriff's Office has been out in the community of late, e.g., National Night Out.

City agencies are putting together a gun safety system to inform people how to keep guns safe in the house, and save lives. Sheriff's Office has free gun locks and lock boxes for medications. APD, Health Dept, DCHS, and the Clerk of the Court also have them to give away. Multiple studies have shown that suicides are 3 times as likely if guns are available. Sheriff Casey provided a link about this initiative. It isn't entirely new, but is more visible and widespread now than in the past:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff/free-gun-locks-and-medication-lock-boxes-available-at-sheriffs-office>.

Ms. Bagley: Thanks to Sheriff Casey for this. The Clerk of the Court has been giving out locks to people applying for gun permits - very successfully. 60% of firearm deaths in the Commonwealth are suicides.

Q: What are gun laws in VA? A: Citizens can own any type of gun; certain people are supposed to be prevented — domestic violence, etc. Age 18 - rifle. Age 21 - handgun and rifle. Q: Carrying guns? A: No guns may be carried in City open spaces such as parks, or in City facilities.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from June 2022 NRCA monthly meeting
Approved.

Treasurer report - Tack Richardson

Balance about \$23,000. Three new members.

Expenses:

Reimburse Kay Stimson for J. Fehrenbach gift card

Reimburse Cam Vogel for Wheel Day

And Citizenship Award check has been cashed.

Planning and Land Use - Sunny Yoder

Redevelopment of MOM center is off—again.

The large affordable housing project at the former Safeway site is still on track. NYTimes article reports on residents in Connecticut opposing new developments as too large, potentially changing the character of their towns.

Redevelopment of property at 3113 Circle Hill - tear down house and build a much larger house. SUP not required; no public input. The neighbors are very concerned - trees, stormwater, size of house, etc. NRCA doesn't have a voice so we are helping neighbors find city staff who can provide information. We will draft a letter of support for review by the Board.

Planning Commission and Council - nothing of great interest to NRCA in the current dockets.

Schools - Ashley Berrang

George Mason PTA has reached out seeking a working refrigerator for leftovers that are donated.

Transportation - Bruce Snapp

Demolition on the W. Glebe Rd bridge is well along. A pedestrian walkway is there. Expected to be complete in the late spring or early summer 2023.

Mt. Vernon Avenue has a new dedicated left turn lane that eases congestion at the intersection with Glebe Road. The bridge over Four Mile Run is to be rebuilt after the West Glebe bridge is replaced.

Metro has shut down service below National Airport to connect the new Potomac Yard station.

Residential permit parking districts: Area around Bev Hills Methodist there are lots of vehicles parked by people who live on the other side of W. Glebe. Many of these are commercial vehicles with Maryland plates. They sometimes block driveways, create noise, and litter. The Tennessee and Old Dominion and N. Overlook intersection is especially an issue, with cars blocking visibility that already is impaired by its configuration. Neighbors are interested in residential permits. Even though the problem here isn't as large as other areas, e.g., near the High School, it is very real for people who live near this intersection. Minimum of 200 spaces are required to create a district; 2/3 of residents have to agree. To be eligible, 25% of vehicles parking there have to be established to be not from Alexandria residents—this was easier when tax stickers were required. One possible fix would be to convert parking on Old Dominion to angle instead of parallel, providing more spaces. Bruce is reaching out to people about this.

Alexandria City High School construction prevents students from parking on Chinguapin Loop, so students are parking elsewhere, especially on Scroggins Road. Although this area already is a parking permit district, but there is a need to allow child care workers to park temporarily.

Other

Lyn Gubser reported that Beverly Drive is about to be repaved, but at the same time American Water is announcing the replacement of water pipes under the road. He and others are concerned that the paving will take place before the pipe replacement. Letters and phone calls to the Mayor and City Manager from neighbors may have some impact, Bruce suggested.

The NRCA Climate Change letter was submitted to the City last week. The Mayor has acknowledged that our perspective is in tune with what the City is pursuing.

Taylor Run - Russ Bailey

Saturday, at long last, City staff and the community were convened all day, facilitated by a U. of Virginia team. Jim Parajon was there and kicked off the meeting with a whole new tone and new approach that was encouraging. He said the project will no longer be tied to Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction credits. The park has an ecological value to the City. Whatever is done will be by consensus.

Russ and Bill Gillespie presented their findings showing no nutrients in Taylor Run. Staff presentations looked a lot like their earlier proposals that had been rejected—it seems they did not get the memo from Parajon.

Facilitated discussion was good, although there is yet some distance between staff and community. Still, Parajon's framework was encouraging.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor will come to the October meeting. Ashley and John Fehrenbach will send him a list of NRCA issues for discussion. Any suggestions? Sunny Yoder - Zoning for Housing and rewrite of the zoning code. Tack Richardson - solicit suggestions from the Board by email? We will want to reiterate points NRCA has made over the past months and years.

Volunteers are needed for Wheel Day 2023 Memorial Day weekend. We also need a Facebook liaison to update the NRCA page - this isn't a lot of work.

Survey of NRCA residents. Originated from Kay Stimson, inspired by a survey and report from an Arlington neighborhood that NRCA might emulate. Some steps have been taken. Sunny Yoder and Bill Corin reworked the Arlington survey to create a first draft. Kay came back suggesting a much longer survey, and that's where it has gotten to. There needs to be a larger group, and the survey should be institutionalized. Input from the whole neighborhood would increase the voice and clout of North Ridge in the city. It could help increase NRCA membership as well. We need a team to advance this effort, including the logistics of survey announcement, distribution, and analysis. Ashley will take this off line and discuss it with John Fehrenbach.

A NRCA position statement on land use distilled from our correspondence with the City could help engage with the Mayor. Kay, Moira Buzby, and others might contribute - Tack Richardson.

NRCA leadership is still working to schedule a North Ridge tour with Jim Parajon, hopefully this fall.

Adjourn.

Attendees:

Berrang, Ashley
Richardson, Tack
Bailey, Russ
Yoder, Sunny
Snapp, Bruce
Bobby, Don
Coleburn, Jackie
Gubser, Lyn
Snapp, Jeanne