

MEETING MINUTES: North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA) Monthly Meeting March 17, 2022 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President John Fehrenbach.

ACP Neighborhood Crime Report

ACP Sgt. Tommy Ground gave a rundown on neighborhood crime, including recent reports of four stolen catalytic converters from parked vehicles. There was also one burglary reported off of Richards Lane. Board member Chuck Kent noted that he is one of the catalytic converter theft victims (he has a Prius). He noted that Prius owners should be alert to this trend, as Prius cc's are valuable to thieves.

Special Presentation – Mr. James Parajon, City Manager

Mr. Fehrenbach thanked Mr. Parajon for joining the meeting, thanked him for hosting several NRCA officers [Mr. Fehrenbach, Mr. Tack Richardson & Ms. Kay Stimson] at City Hall for a meet and greet, and said that he would be most welcome to look for a home in the neighborhood. Mr. Fehrenbach noted that NRCA had left an overview of concerns, which was approved by the Board.

Mr. Parajon said that he appreciated the visit, adding that he was halfway through reading his copy of "*North Ridge Lore*." He noted that he has felt very welcomed to Alexandria, and he looks forward to the work ahead. He is focused on efficiency, retention, and outreach/communications. He noted that several constituencies, including North Ridge, had mentioned that there is a need to improve community engagement. He noted that he had already instructed staff to prioritize engagement to make sure that residents aren't the "last to hear" about City directives and initiatives. Mr. Parajon mentioned his proposed budget includes a focus on economic development efforts, which "can reduce the residential tax burden." He requested a tour of North Ridge, as was offered in the meeting earlier in the week, and he wanted to better understand the community and connect. He closed out by stating that he is driven by science, fiscally conservative, and focused on the following priorities to start: Improve stormwater infrastructure, not just maintain it. Streets are part of that. Recruiting and maintaining staffing/talent. Safety – police and fire assistance. Work collaboratively with schools. Meeting weekly with Superintendent to make sure they are in lockstep.

Comment: Bill Corin – Presented concern to Mayor and Council that two new buildings in Arlandria are totally out of scale and character for this area of the City. Mr. Corin said he was blown off and rolled over by the City's response.

Comment: Chuck Kent – One of his concerns about changes in neighboring community is lack of transit. Must match with increases in affordable housing and density.

Q: Matt Heckel – Called the City's main operator last week to speak with the person in charge of street paving. They took my name and number and said they'd get back. However, they never did. My question was going to be why Braddock Road between Russel Rd and Quaker Lane is NOT on the City's list of priority roads for being repaved. "Honestly, I think it might be one of the worst sections of paving in the City," he stated. "I can't understand how it is not on the list for paving this year or the next year. Clearly, something is wrong with the way roads are prioritized."

Mr. Fehrenbach added that he doesn't understand why so much funding is spent on road diets when there are roads and streets across the City that are critically in need of paving.

A: This is a formula-based effort, that is scientifically based, but please send an email to his attention: jim.parajon@alexandriava.gov and copy sermaine.mclean@alexandriava.gov. In response to a comment that Council holds a hearing on an issue at the same meeting when a vote is taken and this is much too late for residents to have any impact, he agreed that the process can be improved based on feedback.

Q: David Peabody – Thank you for giving up your evening to listen. Are we going to see the climate concerns raised in the recent letters to Council from three City commissions, and today, from Alexandrians for the Environmental Plan? Will these be addressed in the new budget? At the Council's annual retreat, you told the Council: you give me the vision; I will give you the plan. Has the Council charged you to create a plan to meet its commitment to half City greenhouse gas emissions by 2030?

A: Council's plan and their goals are there. Frankly, I have underfunded some elements of [that plan].

Mr. Fehrenbach thanked Mr. Parajon and his senior staff for their time.

Recognition of Service: Bill & Teddye Clayton

Board member Jeanne Snapp introduced the NRCA Resolution honoring the contributions of Mr. Bill Clayton and Ms. Teddye Clayton, who have spent 48 years taking care of Beverley Park, serving as election volunteers, and taking multiple leadership roles in the neighborhood civic association. Mr. and Ms. Clayton gave their thanks, with Mr. Clayton adding in his typical humorous style, "Thank you. I wish my mommy and daddy could hear you!"

Approval of February 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kent said that he had sent several corrections to the minutes. Subject to those edits, a motion was made to approve minutes, then seconded. Action was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Annual Report – John Fehrenbach

Mr. Fehrenbach thanked Board members and residents for their efforts during the past year. He ran through highlights of his annual report, noting some highlights that included (please see Annual Report for 2021-2022 posted online at www.northridgecitizens.org for full listing):

- Fall School Board Candidates' Tour of George Mason and Forum
- Planning Commission feedback and recognition that NRCA input is substantial
- Taylor Run initiative
- Wheel Day
- Tree Sale
- Christmas Tree Sale

Mr. Fehrenbach gave recognition to new Board members and officers, as well as existing Board members and volunteers. He noted there were thirteen guest speakers at this year's meetings. He said that Planning

& Zoning issues under Sunny Yoder and transportation issues continue to be a major focus. NRCA is also working through the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) to stay coordinated and involved with other neighborhood leaders throughout the City.

Planning & Zoning Update – Sunny Yoder

Ms. Yoder reviewed the past year's planning and zoning issues:

- the redevelopment of residential properties in North Ridge
- the introduction of Accessory Dwelling Units to North Ridge
- City approval of major redevelopments affecting North Ridge
- City practices that limit public input.

Ms. Yoder also gave an update on co-living proposals for the City. She addressed collective concerns around the re-writing of the Master Plan, as well as how the City is utilizing tradeoffs with developers for affordable housing in exchange for much greater density.

Schools

Mr. Fehrenbach noted that Crystal Merlino had agreed to take on the schools liaison role to the Board and he would work to get an update from her to share.

Induction of New Officers & Board Members for 2022-2023

Mr. Fehrenbach introduced the nominees for Board members and officers. Mr. Kent reminded people that Ms. Yoder could use help on Planning & Zoning issues. A motion was made to approve the slate of nominees and seconded. See ADDENDUM for list of new officers/board members.

New Business

Mr. Fehrenbach noted that there was an opening for a resident to be a Transportation Committee rep and urged resident to consider applying.

No other new business was introduced. Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Board Members in Attendance: John Fehrenbach, President; Kay Stimson, Scribe; Russ Bailey, Parliamentarian; Chuck Kent, Past President; Bill Clayton; Jaqueline Coleburn; Jeanne Snapp; Bruce Snapp; Lyn Gubser; Sunny Yoder; Lee Guerry; Kate Crawley; Rachel Newhouse; Jane Seward; John Winstead; Ashley Berrang; and Julia Porter.

Respectfully submitted by KS
March 31, 2022

2022-2023 NRCA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

	#	Name
<u>Officers</u>		
President	1	Fehrenbach, John
1 st Vice President	2	Berrang, Ashley
2 nd Vice President	3	Friedman, Jay (w/ help from Buzby, M.)
Scribe	4	Stimson, Kay
Treasurer	5	Richardson, Tack
Parliamentarian	6	Bailey, Russ
<u>Addit. Member of Exec. Comm. :</u>		
Immediate Past-President	7	Chuck Kent
<u>Committee Chairs :</u>		
Land Use / Zoning	8	Yoder, Sunny (w/ Gay, C.)
Schools / Co-location	9	Colangelo, Rachel (w/ help from Crystall Merlino)
Transportation & Safety	10	Snapp, Bruce (w/ Stimson. K.)
Communications / Facebook	11	Dols, Julia
Green Space / Beautif. / Canopy	12	Seward, Jane
<u>Other Board Members :</u>		
	13	Bobby, Don
	14	Buzby, Moira
	15	Byrnes, Julie Obermiller
	16	Clayton, Bill F.
	17	Coleburn, Jackie
	18	Costigan, Joe
	19	Crawley, Kate
	20	Day, Diana
	21	Gallagher, Sean
	22	Gay, Chris
	23	Gubser, Lyn
	24	Guerry, Lee
	25	Hand, John
	26	Markowski, Katherine
	27	Miller, Bob
	28	Newhouse, Rachel
	29	Porter, Julia
	30	Rainey, Meghan
	31	Saunders, Mimi
	32	Snapp, Jeanne
	33	Winstead, John
<u>Youth Advisor</u>		Buzby, Carter

Alexandria City Police Liaison, Sgt. Thomas Ground

Sheriff's Dept. Liaison, Sheriff Sean Casey