

North Ridge Citizens Association
Minutes for May 13, 2019 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.

Sgt. Ground was not in attendance as he was involved with Police Week activities.

Jeanne Snapp made the Treasurer's report on behalf of Amy Krafft, who was not in attendance. Ms. Snapp reported that NRCA's bank account balance stood at \$19,300.50 as of May 11. She noted that the membership drive by Bill Clayton and Chuck Kent has been very successful. Mr. Kent noted that membership is now 220, which he believes may be the highest ever.

Ms. Stimson reported that she had attended the monthly meeting of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA). She found the meeting to be an excellent place to gather information about City plans and rationales for those plans and to exchange ideas and concerns with other neighborhood associations. She recommended that NRCA join the AACA for a trial period of one year, starting July 1. The cost would be \$30. Jeanne Snapp moved that this recommendation be accepted, there was a second, and the motion was approved by voice vote with no dissent.

Lyn Gubser reported that the Department of Planning and Zoning is seeking to change the way garages are constructed. The proposed amendments encourage the building of freestanding garages to the rear of dwellings. The proposal can be found on the department's home page on the City's website.

M. Stimson stated that she had spoken to the project manager for the firehouse construction project on Cameron Mills. She noted that the neighbors were still seeking a good contact within the City's hierarchy and that the need for the continuing search has been a point of frustration.

Ms. Stimson reported that the BEA Presbyterian Church at the corner of Braddock and Scroggins wants to update NRCA on the significant expansion of a small building on church property. Cathy Puskar, who is the zoning attorney for the church is likely to attend the Association's June meeting to discuss the project.

Ms. Stimson then reported on the City's proposal to modify Seminary Road. The Association has sent a letter to the City expressing its concerns about the proposal, as have a least four other neighborhood associations. In addition, more than 1,200 residents signed a petition stating their opposition to the modifications. Ms. Stimson said that she understands that the City is developing two new alternatives that it expects to present to share with the community at the end of the month. The next Traffic & Parking Board meeting is scheduled for May 20 and Kay would like to have NRCA have a representative there. Kay noted that she had added Bill Rossello to the Association's committee that is addressing this issue (*UPDATE*): *BR no longer lives in the NRCA community encatchment area and is not eligible*. James Luo volunteered to join the committee as well.

Bruce Snapp reported that on May 8 Chuck Kent and he had attended a meeting on the City's new transit vision plan. Two of the plan's key objectives are to maximize ridership and to expand coverage, objectives which seem to compete with one another. The City sent out a survey about the plan, but the response rate was low. Many Parkfairfax residents were at the meeting as they are concerned about reduced bus service. There will be another meeting in June.

Lyn Gubser made a motion that the Association send a letter supporting a four-way stop at the corner of Russell and Windsor. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote without opposition.

Chuck Kent noted that the City, at the request of a group of neighbors who live near Beverley Park, is going to do a study of the streets along the park to determine whether additional safety measures should be added. The City may place a camera at the corner of North and South Overlook to monitor car and pedestrian traffic as part of the study.

Amy Burwell reported that the City has set up a committee to advise on "swing schools" that will accommodate students from schools that are being rebuilt or replaced. The concern for the neighborhood is that George Mason is scheduled for major overhaul in 2023-2024. Amy is attempting to get on the committee.

Mary Farrah from the Natural Resources Division of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation addressed the meeting. She gave a slide show presentation on native plants that do well in Alexandria. Among these are beard tongue, thread-leaf coreopsis, Joe Pye weed, ironweed, narrow-leaf mountain mint, bee balm, wild bergamot, black cohosh, white turtlehead, bluebells, honey-scented fern, cinnamon fern, and low-bush blueberry. Ms. Farrah noted that the City is starting a backyard habitat program to encourage native plant gardens and will be working with neighborhoods to establish demonstration native plant gardens. She said that working with NRCA on setting up a demonstration garden in Beverley Park is something that would be of interest to the City. Ms. Stimson and several Board members expressed their interest in pursuing such a project.

Ms. Stimson stated that National Night Out would be Tuesday, August 6. Lindsay Automotive Group will be providing \$2,500 to sponsor the evening.

Ms. Stimson announced that the Board would be holding a social hour on Thursday, May 23 between 6:30 and 8:30 at Ramparts.

Ms. Stimson stated that NRCA should renew its annual \$1,000 donation to the Alexandria Scholarship Fund. Mike Oliver moved in favor. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote without opposition.

Jeanne Snapp stated that the Association is planning to keep the student citizenship award program the same this year but thinks the Association should consider expanding it to include the private schools within the NRCA boundaries in future years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Russell Bailey, Scribe