

## **MEETING MINUTES: North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA) Monthly Meeting April 11, 2022 – Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

### **ACP Neighborhood Crime Report – Sgt. Tommy Ground**

ACP Sgt. Tommy Ground gave a rundown on neighborhood crime, noting there was an average number of reported incidents for the time of year. He said there were no additional catalytic converter theft reports.

### **Sheriff's Office Report – Sheriff Sean Casey**

Sheriff Casey reported that the Alexandria Sheriff's Office is scheduled for a 2022 assessment as part of a program that confers national accreditation by verifying professional standards. The effort is conducted by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). He said qualifying agencies must meet "state-of-the-art standards" in law enforcement policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services. Residents were encouraged to call in comments on Tuesday, April 12 (1:30 PM to 4:30 PM | Phone: 229.269.1531). Comments should address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available for review at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, 2003 Mill Road. For further information or questions, contact Accreditation Manager Gayle Reuter at 703.746.5027. Anyone wishing to provide written comments about the ability of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office to comply with these standards may send them to CALEA, 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

Q: Are you still doing tours of the jail facilities? A: Changed for COVID, but can follow up with NRCA.

Q: Is drag racing still an issue? A: Yes. There have been discussions with Alexandria's state lawmakers about introducing new legislation to address this ongoing issue.

### **Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes, then seconded. Action was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Regular Business/Updates – John Fehrenbach**

Brief discussion on membership. NRCA has had approximately 80-85 new members sign up by paying their annual household dues. Outreach continues.

### **Financial Report – Tack Richardson, Treasurer**

See addendum report. Budget proposal coming in May – same as last year. NRCA is going to introduce a new revenue stream around concept of sponsorships. This effort may offer more funding for neighborhood events, annual giving commitments, and so forth.

### **Planning & Zoning Update – Sunny Yoder**

See addendum report. Mr. Fehrenbach mentioned there is no shortage of concerning issues

around land use in the City of Alexandria. He encouraged anyone who wanted to help cover the P&Z issues to reach out and volunteer.

Ms. Sunny Yoder recommended a more extended conversation about zoning for housing.

Mr. Fehrenbach said the Board Member Sean Gallagher had been contacted by a group (Save Del Ray) to inquire about any NRCA interest in working together.

Various Board members presented input and questions on the current approach that the City is taking in regards to zoning for housing. Ms. Moira Buzby asked whether NRCA could be working closely with other civic associations through AFCA or some other forum in order to stop having the same frustrated conversations month and month about zoning. She asked if we could be joining with Del Ray, Old Town, or other organizations to come together to discuss.

Mr. Fehrenbach said that he is consulting attorneys about its legal options.

Ms. Jeanne Snapp asked whether there was a way to find out how the larger community feels about the issues involved. Mr. Fehrenbach said based on membership engagement, he felt that NRCA was on the right path in representing resident sentiment. He mentioned that he understood that top issues of concern of North Ridge include co-location, single-family zoning, and added/increased density. Moira Buzby added an issue related to both: added/increased height limits.

Ms. Kay Stimson added that, according to the City's announced housing initiatives, there are several efforts still ahead (coming in 2023):

- Consider Increasing Permitted Units in Single-Family Zones
- Traditional Neighborhood Zoning Districts & New Housing Types

Mr. Lyn Gubser said that the City is increasingly only responsive to legal arguments.

Ms. Buzby said she agreed with seeking legal advice, as well as new collaborations.

Ms. Rachel Newhouse commented that if the City wants developers to foot the bill for affordable housing, then the only way to increase affordable housing is to increase density, adding, "We should weigh in on where density should increase."

Ms. Newhouse also commented that she did not feel that all density is bad. "If more housing is added to areas near Metro [stops] like Huntington and others, then that makes sense for good city planning/smart planning. The plans for Landmark, more housing/density, next to the highway makes sense to channel traffic straight to the highway."

## **Schools**

Mr. Fehrenbach noted that Crystal Merlino had agreed to take on the schools liaison role, but was not in attendance. Ms. Stimson offered to follow up.

### **Transportation**

Mr. Bruce Snapp gave an update on the Glebe Road bridge project. Work may be done by end of this year; no one is confirming. Work on Mount Vernon Bridge will be coming in 2023. South end of Shirlington Circle rotary is also going to be shut down in 2023 for work by the State. Could have traffic implications for commuters/residents, especially if Glebe and Shirlington are shut down at the same time.

Mr. Fehrenbach noted the official detour at southbound I-395 exit #7 would have drivers getting off at Seminary Road.

### **Taylor Run Update**

Mr. Fehrenbach noted the impressive report put together by Russ Bailey and Chuck Kent, which he circulated to the Board. Mr. Bailey said mediation over Taylor Run is ongoing. He said the report has been sent to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) for response.

### **New Business**

June meeting—Mr. Fehrenbach said that NRCA was inviting our two state representatives to address the June NRCA meeting.

Wheel Day 2022—The two co-chairs of Wheel Day have asked NRCA to identify two new volunteers to transition into replacing them as co-chairs.

Climate change letter—Jeanne Snapp discussed a draft letter to the City that will be sent around for consideration.

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

### **Attendance**

Board Members in Attendance: John Fehrenbach, President; Ashley Berrang, First Vice President; Tack Richardson, Treasurer; Kay Stimson, Scribe; Russ Bailey, Parliamentarian; Sunny Yoder; Don Bobby; Moira Buzby; Jackie Coleburn; Joe Costigan; Kate Crawley; Diana Day; Chris Gay; Lee Guerry; Lyn Gubser; John Hand; Katherine Markowski; Bob Miller; Rachel Newhouse; Julia Porter; Meghan Rainey; Bruce Snapp; Jeanne Snapp; and Sunny Yoder.

Respectfully submitted by KS  
May 6, 2022