

7 August 2021

Dear Residents,

We hope this finds you well and enjoying the summer. The SRCA Board held its monthly meeting on 5 August and it was agreed that the Draft minutes of the Board meetings will no longer be sent out via newsletter. Instead, key issues will be summarized in a newsletter within a few days of the monthly meeting and the full minutes will be sent out via separate newsletter and posted on the website (as always) once they have been approved by the Board.

So here are a few important upcoming events (in chronological order) we want to bring to your attention:

* SSSAS will be co-hosting a training exercise with the Alexandria City police on Wednesday, **11 August**, 3:30-8:00pm. Expect a large police presence and know that this is a planned event. SSSAS classes will resume on 7 September.
* Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) will open this year on **24 August**, 2 weeks earlier than has historically been the case. Please be sure to register as soon as possible, especially those who have children entering kindergarten. Classes will be held in-person, 5 days a week, with all students and staff required to wear masks.
* The SRCA **annual meeting** will be held Sunday, **19 September**. The agenda will include a report on activities over the past year and the election of a new SRCA Board. There are currently plans to host a **picnic** immediately prior to the meeting with boxed food and appropriate activities, considering the uptick in Covid cases in Alexandria. Plans will be finalized at the 2 September Board meeting and will be sent out to all residents via newsletter by 4 September.
  + The format and exact time of the annual meeting will be decided on 2 September. The meeting may be held in-person (inside SSSAS or outside, under one of its tents) or by Zoom. If the meeting is held in-person, it will also be offered on Zoom for those not wishing or able to attend in person.
  + Be on the lookout for additional information on submitting a proxy if you are not able to participate in the meeting and for annual dues collection. For the first time this year, it will be possible to pay your $50.00 dues either by check or using PayPal. More information will be forthcoming!

Here are some other points from the August Board meeting that we think you may find of interest. Again, additional details will be available in the Minutes once they are approved.

* Anyone interested in running for a position on the SRCA Board for 2021-22 is encouraged to contact Jeanne Jacob by 15 August. Please be sure to indicate one to three positions you are interested in; she will pass this information along to the nominating committee and a slate will be presented at the 2 September Board meeting.
* On the theme of elections, the SRCA Board is considering whether to host a candidate forum for mayor and City Council (as it did prior to the June primary). We’d be interested in your opinion: would this be something you would like to have SRCA sponsor?
* The entire School Board is up for election this year. Seminary Ridge falls into District B; there are 6 candidates running for 3 slots to represent this district. The PTAC will host a forum, likely in late September, for the public to meet the candidates. SRCA will pass along information about this forum as soon as we learn the details.
* MacArthur elementary school is currently on schedule and on budget for reopening in January 2023.
* ACPS has also purchased a former office building on N. Beauregard, which will provide swing space for students as schools are renovated, as well as room for administrative offices. Plans for the redevelopment of Minnie Howard are proceeding, including for the building of a competitive swimming pool for the Alexandria City High School. It has not yet been determined which students will be located on the Minnie Howard campus.
* The City’s survey for Duke Street in Motion closed as of 31 July. The City will then begin to consider incorporating these inputs into its vision of what should happen on the Duke Street Corridor, including the best means of having Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). It is anticipated that additional public engagement will begin in the coming months.
* Seminary Hill Association is petitioning the City Council to re-vote on the proposed rezoning of INOVA on Seminary Road, in light of a previous agreement between SHA and INOVA on zoning in that area.
* The City is now actually measuring the amount of phosphorous in the banks of Strawberry Run (rather than using a predictive model). If the measured amount is small, the pollution credits the City would receive may be too few to justify the expense of Natural Channel Design (NCD) restoration. The City will also investigate why NCD failed in the southern portion of Strawberry Run and has agreed to consider alternatives to NCD. Finally, the City is assessing whether it can earn the pollution credits it is mandated to achieve by means other than stream restoration. If so, NCD restoration in Strawberry Run would not be necessary and it would only be necessary to protect private property from stream erosion. These processes will continue until October-December 2021.
* Our Screen on the Green (movie night) was a great success, with more than 90 people attending. Thanks to all who came out! Some even said they’d love to repeat this in the coming months.
* While SRCA did not organize anything specifically for Alexandria Night Out on 3 August, we might consider organizing an event next year. As always, it would be the first Tuesday night of August.
* Looking ahead, SRCA will definitely plan to have another Halloween house-decorating competition in October. It was a tremendous success last year! Other events, such as the traditional pizza party prior to trick-or-treating and the December holiday party, will be determined later, taking into consideration whatever the Covid trends are at the time.
* A reminder to all to kindly adhere to the Deed and Covenants requirements not to have trash cans in front of garage doors or otherwise directly visible to all.
* Finally, as always, all residents are welcome to join the SRCA Board meetings. The next one will be Thursday, 2 September at 7:30 via Zoom. The invitation and agenda will be sent to everyone via newsletter a couple of days prior. Hope you can join us!

Sincerely,  
SRCA Board and Committee Chairs