

**MINUTES**

**SRCA MEETING**

**September 8, 2022 – 7:30 PM by Zoom Conference Call   
and**

**SRCA Community Committee Meeting  
September 18, 2022 via electronic vote**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 meeting:**

**In attendance:**

Jeanne Jacob, President; Susan Clark-Sestak, Secretary; Maria Browne, Treasurer; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Laura Plati, Chair SRCA Welcome Committee; Mike Brookbank, SRCA Historian; SRCA residents: Patricia Evans, Antonio and Tere Longo, Sonia Pilot, Krista Ludwig Poretz, and Scott Sutherland.

1. **Welcome and President’s Report – Jacob**
   1. Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
      1. Jacob noted that there would be an open mic session at the end of the meeting.
   2. **Reports from SRCA’s ACPD Liaison/Alexandria’s Sheriff’s Liaison**
      1. Sgt. Moore was unable to attend the meeting.
      2. LT Houston was unable to attend the meeting.

1. **Secretary’s Report – Clark-Sestak**

**Approval of 4 August 2022 Minutes**

Clark-Sestak noted that some minor edits had been incorporated to the draft August minutes. **Brookbank moved to approve the amended minutes; Pritzker seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved**. In addition, it was noted that approval of the **slate of officers** for 2022-2023 was conducted via email on 4 September; there were no objections.

Clark-Sestak suggested that, because new leadership for SRCA will take effect at the annual meeting, the current SRCA leadership should review and approve the minutes from this September meeting prior to the end of September.

Clark-Sestak noted that many residents find it difficult to work with the Directory and Addendum, so while the Addendum is up-to-date, she suggested that a **new Directory** be created in 2023, particularly because there have been so many new residents in the last 2 years. There was agreement to raise this idea at the annual meeting and to discuss whether to create another hard copy or to send a PDF to each individual email on file. The previous publication cost $5,700, and SRCA should determine whether a free PDF version (which could be updated every quarter) or a printed version that will cost about the same amount should be pursued. Both Jacob and Pritzker offered to assist in editing the next version of the Directory. It was agreed that, in addition to raising this issue at the annual meeting, input from SRCA members should also be solicited via a newsletter – specifically whether to have a printed or a PDF version.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Browne**

Browne reported a balance of $16,198.40. Since the envelopes for the annual meeting were distributed, a total of $574.37 in dues for next year has been collected via PayPal. In addition, a number of checks have been returned in the picnic/annual meeting envelopes, which are being returned to Clark-Sestak. She will give these checks to the Treasurer just prior to the annual meeting.

1. **SRCA Committee Chair Reports – Committee Chairs**
   1. **2022 Recent and Near-Term Events/Activities – Kate Hennigan**

Hennigan was unable to attend the meeting.

**Annual Meeting and Picnic**: The annual meeting and picnic will be held 18 September, with the picnic starting at 4:00pm and the annual meeting at 5:30pm. It was agreed that several signs to remind people would be useful. **Clark-Sestak moved to approve up to $250 for 5 signs to be printed, Brookbank seconded, and it was unanimously approved**.

For the picnic:

* Jacob asked that all Executive Committee members plan to take turns at the welcome/registration table.
* Plati confirmed she has ordered the same games as last year for set-up at 3:00pm. In the event of rain, some (such as the moon bounce) would not be ordered and alternative indoor games can be ordered instead if the company is given 2-3 days’ notice. The company will then pick the games up at 6:30 (It is a set fee for 6 hours, but it was agreed that the games would not be needed beyond 6:30, especially as an adult must look after them.) Plati asked for assistance in monitoring the games as she will need to leave at 5:00.
* Clark-Sestak will place the order for boxed lunches on 13 September, for delivery at 3:45pm on the 18th. She will also remind all in the next newsletter that the picnic form must be returned so we know how many to order. (A few extras will be ordered, just in case.)
* Jacob confirmed she is working with SSSAS to ensure set-up of sufficient tables and chairs.

For the annual meeting:

* Clark-Sestak will confirm that attendees are eligible residents and keep a head count. She will have a Directory and latest addendum on hand.
* Pritzker will collect all proxies and ballots and will ensure a quorum (at least 24, which is 10% of the 237 Covenant households) are represented, either in person or by proxy. Additional copies of the ballots will be available if anyone has forgotten to vote.
* Poretz suggested that a portable microphone and speaker would be useful as it was hard to hear people last year. Browne confirmed she has such equipment that SRCA may borrow for the meeting.
* Based on a review of the SRCA Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order, Pritzker reported that votes require 2/3 approval of all those attending, which would include all ballots submitted ahead of the meeting, all proxies, and any votes collected at the meeting itself.
* There was a discussion about when the new officers would assume their responsibilities, consistent with the Bylaws requirement that they "take office immediately." It was decided that this should be interpreted to mean at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.
* Nominating Committee: As noted above, the slate of officers was approved by email earlier in the week. Since the slate was distributed in the annual meeting materials, Karen Meade has volunteered to serve as Secretary; Clark-Sestak included this information in a recent newsletter. The full slate is therefore:
  + Richie Weiblinger, President
  + Krista Poretz, First Vice President
  + Katie Dominick, Second Vice President
  + Karen Meade, Secretary
  + Scott Sutherland, Treasurer
  + David Pritzker, Parliamentarian
  + Jeanne Jacob, Immediate Past President

**4.2 Homes Sales in Seminary Ridge**: Hennigan was unable to attend the meeting.

* 1. **Seminary Hill Association (SHA) Liaison – Judge**

Judge was unable to attend the meeting. He provided an update from SHA President Carter Flemming via email prior to the meeting, which focused especially on changes to Duke Street: as of 12 September it will no longer be possible to access the Telegraph Road ramp from West Taylor Run directly (traffic must turn left on Duke Street, then loop back at Dove Street) and planning meetings of Duke Street in motion, which have been focused on bus and bicycle lanes. Other issues included stream restoration meeting on 10 September, continued problems of check washing, the “zoning for housing” initiative, and the relocation of the playground at Fort Ward Park.

* 1. **SSSAS (St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School) Liaison – Chase**

Chase was unable to attend the meeting. She did, however, inform SRCA that SSSAS’ homecoming game will be on 1 October, so there will be more traffic and parking in the neighborhood that day.

* 1. **BEHC Update – Flachs**

Flachs was unable to attend the meeting.

* 1. **SRCA Parliamentarian – David Pritzker**

Pritzker incorporated his report into the discussion about the annual meeting.

**4.6 City of Alexandria Liaison – Richie Weiblinger**

Weiblinger was unable to attend the meeting.

**Seminary Road**: There was no update on Seminary Road and when the City’s report would become available.

**Duke Street:** Sutherland noted that there will be a series of meetings on the Duke Street corridor project this fall. The next **Duke Street Advisory Committee** meeting will be on **15 September** at 6:30pm in the first floor conference room of the Police Department’s Wheeler Ave. building. The website says there will be additional public engagement this fall, but so far no details are available. The focus to date has been strongly oriented toward Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and bicycle lanes.

Jacob will attend a City-led meeting on **Strawberry (and Taylor) Run**, 10 September, 8:30-3:00. It will be held in-person, but a Zoom option will also be available. A number of SRCA residents will also attend. This information was shared with all in a previous newsletter.

* 1. **Welcome Committee for New Residents – Plati**

Plati noted that she will shortly deliver a welcome packet to the new residents of 4115 North Garland Street.

* 1. **Communications – Susan Clark-Sestak**

Clark-Sestak reported she will be meeting with the new Secretary and Communications Chair within the next week.

* 1. **SRCA Historian – Mike Brookbank**

Brookbank had nothing to report.

1. **Old Business – Jacob**

Jacob noted that neither City Manager Jim Parajon nor Coucilwoman Alicia Gaskins was able to attend the annual meeting. Both had expressed interest in meeting with SRCA. As a result, the new SRCA leadership should contact both to set up a mutually convenient time for these meetings.

1. **New Business – Jacob**

Jacob asked if someone would be able to attend the **West End Coalition meeting**, being held 10 September starting at 10:00am via Zoom. Councilwoman Sarah Bagley will be the speaker. Poretz offered to attend.

During the open mic session, Patricia Evans mentioned her interest in hearing about a recent NextDoor posting by a former SRCA officer about the proposed Bylaw changes and objections to the SRCA First Vice President being designated as the liaison to Seminary Hill Association. This posting also argued that SHA is a “political organization,” which SRCA is not. Several members were aware of this posting. Jacob offered to send the email exchange between this SRCA resident and SHA President Carter Flemming to all the Executive Committee and all those attending this meeting since the issue was raised.

The next SRCA Meeting will be the annual meeting on Sunday, 18 September starting at 5:30pm.

The next monthly SRCA meeting will be Thursday, 6 October 2022 at 7:30 pm.

1. **Adjournment of SRCA Meeting – Jacob**

Pritzker moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm; it was seconded by Brookbank and unanimously approved.

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 Community Committee Meeting**

On September 18, 2022, SRCA President was contacted by SRCA resident Kate Hennigan, 3721 Fort Worth Avenue about a planned home renovation. She requested review and approval of these plans by the Community Committee and noted that she will be in touch will all affected neighbors.

The five Community Committee members (Jacob, Weiblinger, Browne, Clark-Sestak, and Pritzker) reviewed the plans and unanimously approved the request via electronic vote. As Hennigan is the sixth member of the Community Committee, she did not vote. She was notified electronically by Clark-Sestak of the Committee’s approval on September 18, 2022.