

**MINUTES**

**SRCA BOARD MEETING**

**November 4, 2021 – 7:30 PM by Zoom Conference Call**

**In attendance:**

Jeanne Jacob, President; Richie Weiblinger, First Vice President; Kate Hennigan, Second Vice President; Susan Clark-Sestak, Secretary; Maria Browne, Treasurer; Don Frahler, Immediate Past President; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Laura Plati, Chair SRCA Welcome Committee; Mike Brookbank, SRCA Historian; Beth Chase, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Liaison; Jeremy Flachs, Temple Beth El Liaison; and Natalia Vasylenko, ACPD.

1. **Welcome and President’s Report – Jacob**
   1. Jacob confirmed with Pritzker that a quorum was established and called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. There were no non-board SRCA residents on the Zoom call, so the open mic session did not occur.
   2. **Reports from SRCA’s ACPD Liaison/Alexandria’s Sheriff’s Liaison**
      1. Officer Vasylenko represented the Police Department at this month’s meeting. In response to a question about the traffic accident at the intersection of Ft Williams Parkway and Seminary Road the morning of 2 November, Vasylenko reported that the accident involved only property damage, no injuries. The Board discussed the difficulty of turning from Ft Williams Parkway onto Seminary Road due to the fence at the corner property blocking a clear view. Noting that the location of this fence was grandfathered in, Vasylenko still promised to contact the Traffic Safety Officers to determine how many accidents have occurred at this intersection and if something can be done to improve safety.
      2. Officer Houston was unable to attend this month’s meeting, but his office had provided information on Operation Elf, a program run through the Sheriff’s Office to help the children of incarcerated inmates during the holidays. This information was distributed to SRCA in an earlier newsletter.
      3. Jacob expressed her appreciation for ACPD’s presence at the annual meeting in September.
   3. **SRCA Committee Chairs, 2021-2022** – Jacob

Jacob reviewed the Chairs of SRCA’s Committees. All remain the same as for 2020-2021 with the exception of Richie Weiblinger replacing Joe Sestak as Alexandria City Liaison. No members of the Board objected to any of the Committee Chairs. Jacob noted that, although the SRCA ByLaws do not require Board approval of Committee Chairs, she asked that there be a motion to approve the slate of Committee Chairs for 2021-2022. **Clark-Sestak motioned to approve the slate, Browne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously**.

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

2.1 **Approval of October 7, 2021 Minutes**

The draft minutes for the October Board meeting had been distributed earlier and all changes were incorporated. **Pritzker made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Frahler. The minutes were unanimously approved**.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Browne**

3.1 **Dues Income/New Members Through September**

Current 2021 dues that have been received: $ 7,877.54. This total reflects payments from 150 households to date. This still reflects a lower number of households than at this time last year. The Board discussed, and agreed, that those planning to attend the upcoming Holiday Party (which is the most expensive event SRCA sponsors each year) who have not yet paid their dues should be required to join before the event or bring their payment to the Holiday Party. Consideration will be given after the Holiday event whether to send personalized reminders to SRCA residents who have still not paid at that point.

3.2 **Total Assets and Recent Expenses**

As of November 4, SRCA has a balance of $17,866.56 (this is after the pending deposit of 2 checks and subtracting an outstanding check of $520 for some of the picnic expenses). During this month, the annual insurance premiums to Chubb (Directors and Officers) and Travelers (Commercial Package), $382 and $500, respectively, were paid. Browne also reported that the annual picnic came in slightly under its budget of $2,600 (actual: $2,468). The Holiday Party budget has been approved at $3,500.

1. **SRCA Committee Chair Reports – Committee Chairs**
   1. **Recent and Upcoming Events/Activities – Hennigan**
      1. **October 19 Mayoral Forum** – Weiblinger

The SRCA-hosted Mayoral Forum was very well done and greatly appreciated by SRCA residents and others in the City. There was consensus that this was a worthwhile undertaking and would be useful to do again for future elections.

* + 1. **Halloween Events** – Hennigan

SRCA’s Halloween house decorating contest had only four participating homes, but the Board believes that many people enjoyed the various decorations on display throughout the neighborhood.

A number of families participated in fun-filled drive through event: SSSAS’ Spooky Spectacular on 30 October.

Finally, SRCA hosted a Halloween parade on October 31, starting in Hardee Place. There was a fire truck on hand and 90 goodie bags were distributed to the children. Several had asked about pizza, which had been served in previous years, but the Board felt packaged goodie bags would be more appropriate given COVID concerns. It is certainly hoped that pizza will return as part of the celebration next year.

4.1.3 **Holiday Party** – Hennigan and Frahler

The Frahlers have graciously offered to open their home to SRCA’s annual Holiday Party on Sunday, 5 December, 6:30-8:30pm. Frahler promised to provide Hennigan information from previous years about caterers and the types of food often served, alcohol, and other planning details. He noted that typically about 120 SRCA residents attend, but in 2019, there were only about 90. Leftover food is then taken to the fire department. He suggested that at least one planning meeting is necessary among all the volunteers, with a great deal of follow-up thereafter. As in previous years, because this event will have alcohol being served, it is open for adults only.

It was agreed that getting an accurate head-count will be important. The following communication approach was agreed upon: a “save the date” email will be sent out in the next SRCA newsletter; it will include a link that can be clicked on to RSVP. A flyer will also be prepared for distribution to all covenant SRCA households and to all non-covenant households. The flyer will note the need for all attendees to have paid their annual dues (check can be brought to the event). The flyer will be provided to block captains by 20 November and distribution requested by no later than 27 November. There was also discussion about this being an indoor event with food and beverages, which will make wearing masks challenging at best. It was agreed that the flyer will also include wording to the effect of people taking this into consideration when making the decision whether to attend the party.

* 1. **Home Sales in Seminary Ridge – Hennigan**

Hennigan reported that there was one sale this month (3916 Terry Place, listed at $1.225M, which sold in 3 days). There is one home on the market at 3700 Templeton Place. There continues to be a slight softening of the market, which is the case throughout the DMV.

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

Judge was unable to attend the meeting. Jacob noted that VDOT has installed car counters along Quaker Lane and Seminary Road. Such counts are apparently done every three years.

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

Chase reported the dates for the Fall play in early November 5 as well as girl’s and boy’s basketball tournament dates in late November and December. Due to COVID considerations, attendance at these events is limited to SSSAS students and their families.

* 1. **BEHC Update – Jeremy Flachs**

Flachs left the SRCA meeting early to attend a Temple Beth El meeting, which would review how and whether the temple would open more for meetings. No food or catering is yet allowed, but there is discussion of building rentals (without food) resuming.

Flachs mentioned that Temple Beth El has a preschool, which is open to all (not just members of the temple).

Flachs also noted that he has had no further word on walking the Karig property to confirm which trees will be saved.

In response to a question about whether there were any issues at Temple Beth El during voting on 2 November, Flachs said he had heard nothing and therefore assumed everything had gone smoothly.

* 1. **City of Alexandria Liaison – Weiblinger/Jacob**
     1. Duke Street: The City plans to change the timing of lights, January – March 2022, to enhance traffic flow along Duke Street during the evening rush, 4-7:00pm. This will involve increase signal timing from Quaker Lane onto Duke Street and closer to the Duke-Telegraph intersection while also shortening the light cycle for cars turning from side streets onto Duke. The aim is to decrease cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets. If successful, a second phase of the Duke Street effort would begin later in 2022; it would reinstate these signal changes and would close off access to the Telegraph Road ramp from West Taylor Run. If implemented, vehicles will have to turn left onto Duke Street from West Taylor Run, then proceed to Dove Street to cross back over Duke and access the Telegraph ramp via Dove Street. These plans are explained in a recent ALXnow article, posted on seminaryridge.net in the “issues of interest” page under Duke Street.
     2. Strawberry Run: Jacob reported that she had attended a meeting with the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) in October. The City has hired a facilitator/consultant to work with the City and the EPC to come to a resolution on Strawberry Run and Taylor Run. SRCA has nominated four residents to be engaged in this effort; the City will decide who, if anyone, will be selected. In addition, the City has taken soil samples to test for phosphorous, but has yet to release the results of these tests. It will also be sending a team to examine the lower portion of Strawberry Run, where stream restoration work was done previously but failed, to determine why it failed.
  2. **Welcome Committee for New Residents – Laura Plati**

Plati has delivered copies of the printed Directory to some new non-covenant members. The only new household is 3916 Terry Place, and that sale has just occurred, so she will deliver welcome package to them shortly.

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

Clark-Sestak asked if Board members were routinely receiving the newsletters. All indicated they were. As some residents have noted they are not receiving them regularly, Clark-Sestak has suggested to them that they check SPAM folder and also put [news4srca@gmail.com](mailto:news4srca@gmail.com) into their contacts list. It may be useful to add “SRCA” as the last name on the account for this address.

Following a request for input from other Board members, it was agreed that as more materials are placed on the website, it will be important to archive documents (so that they can still be accessed, but searching for the newest information will be facilitated by older items being archived). For the Photos page, all generic photos (e.g., of the different seasons) will be retained, but photos of events (e.g., Halloween) will be updated each year and the older photos deleted.

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

Brookbank had no information to report.

1. **Old Business – Jacob**

There was no old business to report.

1. **New Business – Jacob**

The next SRCA Board Meeting will be Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7:30pm on Zoom.

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

**Frahler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm; the motion was seconded by Browne and unanimously approved.**