

**MINUTES**

**SRCA MEETING**

**December 2, 2021 – 7:30 PM by Zoom Conference Call**

**In attendance:**

Jeanne Jacob, President; Richie Weiblinger, First Vice President; Susan Clark-Sestak, Secretary; 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; Paul Judge, SHA Liaison; LT Lemuel Houston, Sheriff’s Department Liaison; and Sgt. Tony Moore, ACPD Liaison.

1. **Welcome and President’s Report – Jacob**
   1. Jacob confirmed with Pritzker that a quorum was established and called the meeting to order at 7:33 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. As a result of the discussion at the SRCA November meeting, Sgt. Moore reported that the Police Department has sent a request to T&ES to determine whether it would be worthwhile to put a mirror at the intersection of Fort Williams Parkway (FWP) and Seminary Road to address poor visibility issues.

While there were no crime concerns to report in the SRCA area, Sgt Moore was asked about the recent barricade situation off Quaker Lane, near King Street. He explained that this was a road rage incident, with the suspect firing at another driver. He then returned home (to the location of the barricade) and fired at officers. No officers returned fire. He cautioned that reporting the evolving situation to the public had to also take into consideration the suspect’s ability to monitor this information. SRCA expressed its appreciation for ACPD’s handling of this challenging situation.

Sgt. Moore reported that there was a three-car accident on Seminary Road since the last SRCA meeting. In response to an SRCA request, Sgt. Moore said that he would seek to obtain information on accident rates on Seminary Road, specifically in the road diet area, since the road diet was implemented.

In response to a question from SRCA, Sgt. Moore stated that the Chief of Police plans to attend the SRCA January meeting to discuss whether the Police, as first responders, will take a position on the Duke Street in Motion initiative.

* + 1. Newly promoted LT Houston attend this month’s meeting, and cautioned being especially aware during the holiday season of the potential for theft, especially with many packages being delivered to homes.

SRCA requested a greater presence in the neighborhood during the annual holiday party on 5 December. LT Houston promised to work with Sgt. Moore on having a patrol car drive through the neighborhood during that time.

Jacob thanked both for their support of SRCA and invited Officer Moore, LT Houston, and their guests and staff who work with SRCA to attend the SRCA Holiday Party.

* 1. **Leaf Removal on FWP Center Islands** **– Jacob**

Jacob reported that she has asked the City to remove the leaves along the median strip on FWP, but this did not happen during the first two leaf collections of 2021. The concern is that grass will not properly grow and the leaf accumulation detracts from the aesthetics of this area. Jacob requested, on behalf of the Beautification Committee funds to blow the leaves off the median strip prior to the final leaf collection starting 13 December. She received an estimate of $75.00 for this work. **Judge moved that up to $100 be authorized for this work; Clark-Sestak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously**.

* 1. **Scooter Request from SRCA Resident** **– Jacob**

One SRCA resident, who had previously raised the issue of improperly parked scooters and scooters left in the neighborhood for an extended period of time, thanked the SRCA for its discussion of the issue, but noted that not enough has been happening to rectify these problems. The resident requested that SRCA email City Council, the Mayor, and State Assembly representative with a series of suggestions, to including: that scooter companies be held liable for customers wearing safety helmets; that it be illegal to park scooters on sidewalks; if scooters are left for a long time in one place, that they be impounded, which the scooter company would have to pay; and traffic enforcement should be empowered to write tickets for such offenses.

This request was discussed and a number of additional issues were raised (such as: how does one know when a scooter is parked illegally? What is the definition of a scooter being left in place for too long? What is likely to be the city’s response given that this is still a “trial period” for scooters?). It was decided to suggest that the resident pursue these ideas as an individual, SRCA will also continue to monitor this issue, and will raise this as an issue to Seminary Hill Association (SHA) to see whether SHA would like to consider sending a consolidated response from all the neighborhoods it represents. Judge will ask SHA to add this item to its January agenda.

* 1. **Updated Contact List and Bylaws Terminology - Jacob**

Jacob noted that there had been one correction to the list of Community Committee and Executive Committee chairs, which she had distributed at the November meeting. She requested any additional clarifications or changes within one week and then she will redistribute to the group.

This list (and previous meeting minutes) prompted a discussion, led by Pritzker, on the need to clarify terminology. Having reviewed SRCA documents as Parliamentarian, Pritzker noted that there is no “SRCA Board” in the Bylaws. What has been commonly referred to as the “Board” is, in fact, the “Executive Committee.” The Executive Committee consists of all the elected officers of SRCA as well as the Committee Chairs and Immediate Past President of SRCA. The “Community Committee” is strictly the elected officers of SRCA. Thus, the term “Board” will no longer be used.

Pritzker further proposed a review of the Bylaws and SRCA Restrictions and Covenants to determine what, if any changes or updates should be made. Any such changes will require the approval of the majority of all SRCA covenant households. Pritzker and Brookbank will work together on this review.

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

2.1 **Approval of 4 November 2021 Minutes**

The draft minutes for the November SRCA meeting had been distributed earlier and all changes were incorporated. **Brookbank moved to approve the minutes; Weiblinger seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved**.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Browne**

3.1 **Dues Income/New Members Through 2 December 2021**

Browne was unable to attend the meeting, but reported that, since the November meeting 13 additional households have paid dues in the amount of $632.58.

3.2 **Total Assets and Recent Expenses**

As of 2 December, SRCA has a balance of $18,037.88.

1. **SRCA Committee Chair Reports – Committee Chairs**
   1. **Recent and Upcoming Events/Activities – Hennigan**

4.1.1 **Holiday Party** **– Hennigan and Frahler**

It was reported that 76 responses had been received as of 2 December; Frahler noted that usually 50% more people show up, without having RSVP. It was agreed, however, that for food ordering purposes, planning for 75-80 would be sufficient. Outdoor heaters will be available, and nametags will be provided. Those helping to set up are asked to arrive about 5:00pm. As in previous years, any leftover food will be brought to the Fire Department.

Frahler requested that a check be written in advance so that it can be provided the evening of the party to the one hired assistant (who helps prepare, re-stock, and cleanup). The amount agreed upon for anticipated 5 hours of work is $220.00.

4.1.2 **SRCA Events for 2022** **– All**

There was a preliminary discussion about planned activities for 2022. Some ideas were for a second movie night that would be family-friendly, but not specifically kid-oriented; holiday light competition; a document shredding day, perhaps combined with a clean-up day; Flag Day or 4th of July parade. Those who suggested or supported a specific idea were tasked with researching costs, to be presented at the January meeting. One suggestion was to consider spacing out events over the course of the twelve months and to be cautious in thinking about additional expensive activities.

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

Hennigan was unable to attend this month’s meeting, so there was no report on recent home sales.

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

Judge reported that SHA deferred its December meeting until January. He will propose both the scooter issue (see item 1.4, above) and “right turn on red” (see item 6, below) to be included in the SHA January agenda.

Weiblinger reported that there was a small discussion on Strawberry Run at SHA’s November meeting, but there were no additional developments to report.

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

Chase reported the start of the school’s basketball tournament, the dates for chorus and instrumental will be 8, 9, and 10 December, and the wrestling tournament will begin 18 December. Due to COVID considerations, attendance at these events is limited to SSSAS students and their families. SSSAS will be on Christmas break 17 December – 2 January.

* 1. **BEHC Update – Jeremy Flachs**

Flachs was unable to attend the meeting, but subsequently noted outreach to the developer to walk the Karig-Beth El property line and the Karig property itself to discuss what trees might be saved.

* 1. **City of Alexandria Liaison – Weiblinger**

Weiblinger mentioned the openings for various City Committees, which were also noted in an earlier SRCA newsletter; deadline for applications is 3 December.

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

Plati planned to deliver welcome packet to 3916 Terry Place within the next few days.

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

Clark-Sestak reported that, after many years of service, Ann Henshaw has decided to step down from her role as Block Captain for a portion of Fort Worth Avenue. Subsequent to this meeting, Laura Plati volunteered to assume this role, with Maria Browne offering to act as back-up.

Clark-Sestak asked for input on website archiving. It was generally agreed that having one full year of materials on the “active” pages would be appropriate, with all previous years appropriately archived. Clark-Sestak indicated that she needs assistance in developing sections for archiving and had asked the website developer for a cost estimate to do so. He estimated $250-375 for this work.

**Clark-Sestak moved that up to $375 be authorized for development of archival sections on the Seminary Ridge website; Brookbank seconded. It was approved unanimously**.

* 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, 6 January 2021 at 7:30pm on Zoom.

Clark-Sestak raised one item as new business. As an individual (i.e., not representing SRCA in any capacity), she raised with the City’s Traffic and Parking Board the possibility of adding “when pedestrians are present” to the current “no turn on red” sign at the intersection of Seminary Road (heading east) and St. Stephens Road. Chase noted that SSSAS had made the same request at the time of the road diet being implemented on Seminary Road. Judge offered to request that SHA place this issue on its January agenda to determine if it would be interested in taking a position.

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

**Clark-Sestak moved to adjourn the Executive Committee portion of the meeting at 9:24 pm; it was seconded by Brookbank and unanimously approved.**

**8. SRCA Community Committee Meeting – Jacob**

The Community Committee remained on the Zoom call to discuss exterior modifications requested at 800 St. Stephens Road. **The four Community Committee members present (Jacob, Weiblinger, Clark-Sestak, and Pritzker) unanimously approved the request**.

The Community Committee noted its appreciation for the residents submitting the request for exterior modification, as required by the SRCA Restrictions and Covenants. It was agreed that many residents (especially newer homeowners) may not be fully aware of this and that the “welcome letter” provided to each new resident should point out page B-1 of the Covenants.

Subsequent to the December meeting, the Community Committee voted via email on another request for exterior changes to 535 Fort Williams Parkway. **Jacob sent the request to all six Community Committee members on 21 December and it was unanimously approved**.

9. **SRCA Community Committee Adjournment – Jacob**

**Clark-Sestak moved to adjourn the Community Committee at 9:48 pm; it was seconded by Weiblinger and unanimously approved.**