

**MINUTES**

**SRCA MEETING**

**June 2, 2022 – 7:30 PM by Zoom Conference Call**

**In attendance:**

Jeanne Jacob, President; Susan Clark-Sestak, Secretary; Maria Browne, Treasurer; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Don Frahler, SRCA Past President; Laura Plati, Chair SRCA Welcome Committee; Mike Brookbank, SRCA Historian; Paul Judge, Seminary Hill Association Liaison; Beth Chase, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Liaison; Jeremy Flachs, Beth El Liaison; Sgt. Tony Moore, Alexandria City Police Department (ACPD) Liaison; Lt. Lemuel Houston, Alexandria Sheriff’s Office Liaison.

1. **Welcome and President’s Report – Jacob**
   1. Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
      1. Open mic session: There were no issues raised during the first open mic session and no residents joined subsequently, so there was not a second open mic session.
   2. **Reports from SRCA’s ACPD Liaison/Alexandria’s Sheriff’s Liaison**
      1. Sgt. Moore explained that, due to police staffing shortages, a new policy is coming into effect, likely to last at least until the end of the calendar year: for non-emergency matters that do not pose a danger and/or have already taken place (e.g., car break-ins), these matters will now be handled by telephone rather than an officer coming to a home in person. There is NO change to an emergency situation: call 911 and your call will be handled in the appropriate manner.

In response to questions about the late-May Bradlee Shopping Center brawl, resulting in the death of an 18-year-old Alexandria City High School student and subsequent arrest of a 16-year-old, Moore noted that ACPD will be maintaining a presence at the shopping center and that there are numerous gangs active in the city, increasingly so west of N. Beauregard Street near Southern Towers.

* + 1. LT Houston promised to send an email with information on upcoming community engagement events. He also confirmed, in response to a question, that the Sheriff’s Department is also facing staffing shortages.

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

**Approval of 5 May 2022 Minutes**

Clark-Sestak noted that revised April minutes were distributed prior to this meeting and thanked Jacob and Pritzker for their editorial corrections; there were no changes of substance. **Brookbank moved to approve the minutes as modified; Judge seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved**.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Browne**

Browne provided a written update after the meeting, reporting one dues payment received on 5 May, two checks written (for signs for the spring clean-up ($148.40) and St Patrick’s day event ($381.49)), leaving a balance of just over $16,600 in SRCA’s account. She also reported that the annual registration fee to the VA State Corporation Commission ($25) had been paid and SRCA annual report updating the officers had been filed.

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

**Screen on the Green**: The first of two Screen on the Green movies is scheduled for 17 June at about 7:00pm. At the time of the meeting, the name of the movie was not yet confirmed as Hennigan was unable to attend. Chase confirmed that people are welcome to bring food and non-alcoholic beverages (no glass) as long as they take any trash home with them. Also, blankets and chairs with no legs (i.e., beach chairs) are allowed on the field or people can sit in the bleachers. See the seminaryridge.net for information as it becomes available. The second Screen on the Green will be held in August, likely either 5 or 12 August, and will be sponsored by Kate Bertles Henningan, McEnearney Associates.

**Annual Meeting and Picnic**: The annual meeting and picnic will be held 18 September. Hennigan had earlier requested volunteers to lead the organization of this event. At this meeting, Clark-Sestak offered to organize the picnic food and will provide options before the July SRCA meeting. Plati tentatively agreed to organize the games/activities (and, if unable, will pass along all necessary information). Jacob proposed that she, Clark-Sestak, and Browne work to determine all the documents that will need to be included in the package of materials going to all residents.

Jacob noted the need to form a nominating committee which, according to the Bylaws can be a maximum of three people, appointed by the President. In the meantime, she, Frahler and Pritzker will contact existing officers and committee chairs to determine who would be interested in remaining in those positions and seek to identify which other residents would be interested in running for these positions. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or committee chair is encouraged to email [news4srca@gmail.com](mailto:news4srca@gmail.com) or to contact Jacob, Frahler, or Pritzker directly.

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

Judge explained that construction on Karig Estates is on hold until an issue with the sewer line is resolved.

SRCA’s 6 June newsletter mentioned public outreach about proposed lighting on several Alexandria City sports fields. Judge noted that, while the City approved funding for lighting on 5 fields at $402k per field, the installation of the lights is not yet approved.

There is an SHA representative who is part of the Duke Street in Motion committee. Recently the committee elected its chair and marked up the City’s draft vision and goals. The City staff are openly saying that they want to get people out of their cars. They would like to mitigate cut-through traffic but have not decided how that will happen. Currently, bus ridership continues to be low along Duke.

Judge reported that SHA leadership intends to remain engaged with Hillary Orr at the city about the road diet assessment results and signage around the city. Jacob noted that counters had been installed on Seminary Road and at the top of Fort Williams Parkway.

There will be no SHA meetings in July or August, but will meet to vote if an issue arises.

There are at-large Board positions open in SHA until November 2022, and Seminary Ridge area residents would be eligible to fill these positions. Anyone interested should contact Judge or Jacob.

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

Chase reminded the group that SSSAS will be hosting the election of a new bishop on 4 June, with some 500 people expected to attend.

SSSAS graduation will be held the morning of 11 June starting at 0930 on the football field.

* 1. **BEHC Update – Flachs**

Flachs reported that Beth El had held its annual picnic recently. He again confirmed the loss of several large trees on Beth El property due to climate change.

He also confirmed Judge’s report about the delay in Karig Estates construction due to the sewer line.

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

In connection with the May SRCA discussion about possibly amending the SRCA Constitution and Bylaws, Pritzker led an initial overview of proposed changes he has identified. It was agreed that several terms cause confusion, and that the minutes should reflect the following clarification:

* The Community Committee comprises the elected officers of the Association
* The Executive Committee comprises the elected officers and the chairpersons of the standing committees.
* The role of standing committees is to perform a continuing function; there can be as many standing committees as the Executive Committee deems necessary for the work of the Association.

It was further agreed that Pritzker would send his proposed changes in writing to all the Executive Committee within a week of the June SRCA meeting and each member of the Executive Committee must review and provide feedback (and additional suggestions, as appropriate) PRIOR to the July SRCA meeting. This is necessary so that proposed changes can be agreed upon by a majority of the Executive Committee and then distributed to the covenant households of SRCA at least 30 days prior to the Annual meeting. Any changes require a two-thirds majority of all SRCA covenant households.

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

Weiblinger was unable to attend the meeting.

Jacob noted that the consulting group’s report on **Strawberry Run** was due in March; SRCA still has not received it. There was a discussion about submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to obtain this report. **Clark-Sestak moved to authorize up to $100 to pay for the document via a FOIA request** (the City will inform the requestor the amount in advance)**; Judge seconded and the motion was approved unanimously**.

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

Plati mentioned that, in delivering welcome packages to new residents, she makes a note of pointing out that exterior changes require prior SRCA (and, in some cases, City) approval. The form for submitting such requests is included in the SRCA Directory.

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

Clark-Sestak confirmed that newsletters continue to be sent on a regular basis. She expressed some concern that few new residents have provided contact information to receive newsletters and encouraged them to send this information to: [news4srca@gmail.com](mailto:news4srca@gmail.com).

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

Brookbank volunteered to look into issues related to the enforcement of SRCA’s Deeds and Covenants.

1. **Old Business – Jacob**

There was no old business to report.

1. **New Business – Jacob**

Noting upcoming holidays in July and September, it was agreed that both meetings will be delayed by a week, to 14 July and 8 September.

**The next SRCA Meeting will be Thursday, 14 July 2022 at 7:30 pm on Zoom.**

Pritzker raised as new business two upcoming free concerts by the National Concert Band of America (of which he is a member): on 5 June at Fort Hunt Park at 7:00pm and on 1 July at Mason District Park on 7:30pm.

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

**Frahler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm; it was seconded by Brookbank and unanimously approved.**