

**MINUTES**

**SRCA MEETING**

**August 4, 2022 – 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; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Laura Plati, Chair SRCA Welcome Committee; Mike Brookbank, SRCA Historian; Paul Judge, Seminary Hill Association Liaison; Officer Tony Moore, Alexandria Police Department Liaison; and SRCA residents: Harriet McCune, Krista Ludwig Poretz, Scott Sutherland, and “zoom user” (unidentified).

1. **Welcome and President’s Report – Jacob**
   1. Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
      1. Open mic session: There were no issues raised during open mic session either at the beginning or the end of the meeting.
   2. **Reports from SRCA’s ACPD Liaison/Alexandria’s Sheriff’s Liaison**
      1. Sgt. Moore noted that new laws on muffler noise have come into effect so that police are now able to stop and cite drivers for excessive noise. They are also continuing to track speeding and racing incidents.
      2. LT Houston was unable to attend the meeting.

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

**Approval of 14 July 2022 Minutes**

Clark-Sestak noted she had incorrectly written in the draft minutes that Bylaw changes need to be provided 30 days in advance to residents; they must be provided to residents 10 days in advance. This change as well as minor edits were incorporated. **Judge moved to approve the amended minutes; Brookbank seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved**.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Browne**

Browne stated there had been no monetary activity since the July meeting.

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

**Screen on the Green**: Because several of the SSSAS speakers are broken and cannot be repaired until fall, Hennigan announced that the planned August Screen on the Green would have to be cancelled. With the September picnic and annual meeting, it was agreed no additional activity needed to be planned for August.

**National Night Out**: Clark-Sestak mentioned that a recent SRCA newsletter had encouraged neighbors to have their outside lights on and perhaps have small gatherings on some of the streets in Seminary Ridge in connection with the annual National Night Out, held 2 August.

**Annual Meeting and Picnic**: The annual meeting and picnic will be held 18 September. For the picnic:

* Jacob noted that SRCA had approved the picnic menu at the July meeting and that Plati will order the games.
* Jacob will be responsible for setting up the registration table.
* The following residents have volunteered to assist in various set-up activities: Lyn and George Allen and Tere Longo.

For the annual meeting:

* Clark-Sestak summarized the documents that will be sent to all residents, including an envelope that will list all documents to be returned in advance of the meeting (picnic ordering form, Directory form, dues, and ballots for bylaw changes and next year’s SRCA officers). All will be returned to Clark-Sestak, who will then distribute to others as appropriate.
* It was agreed that the packages will be delivered by the Block Captains, as was done last year, allowing 2-3 days for them to be delivered. Clark-Sestak will contact all Block Captains to give them a heads up that the materials should be in their hands by 1 September and would need to be delivered no later than 6 September. Browne offered to help deliver if any Block Captains are not available in this timeframe.
* An SRCA newsletter will note that all residents should receive their package by 6 September; anyone who has not received it by that date should contact Clark-Sestak immediately.
* Rain date: Jacob noted that she would contact Chase to determine if the annual meeting and even the picnic could be moved into SSSAS cafeteria, in the event of rain. Pritzker commented that delaying a week (to 25 September) would not be advisable since Rosh Hashana starts at sundown on that date.
* Nominating Committee: Frahler was unable to attend this meeting. Jacob reported, based on Frahler’s email update to her, that candidates for Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian (as well as Historian) had been identified and another person was interested in serving as either First Vice President or Secretary. While the hope had been to have the full ballot ready by this meeting, since that was not possible, it was agreed that the SRCA Executive Committee would have to vote on the slate electronically no later than 25 August so that all meeting materials can be prepared and distributed in time.

**4.2 Homes Sales in Seminary Ridge**: Hennigan reported that there were 2 homes sold in the neighborhood in the last 30 days: 4121 Fort Worth Place, which sold in 6 days for $1,296,000 and 4013 Fort Worth Ave, which sold in 21 days for $1,400,000. Hennigan noted that, although interest rates are up, they are lower than a month ago. The market remains strong, but a return to seasonality is expected. Movement will likely pick up in the fall.

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

Judge reported that SHA had no summer meeting. Issues SHA is tracking include: Fort Ward playground, lights on athletic fields, and the Duke Street corridor.

There will be a 10 August meeting via Zoom in which the City will report the results of phase 1 of its pilot study on Duke Street (changing the timing of traffic lights to encourage better flow from Quaker onto Duke Street eastbound). According to preliminary information from the City, phase 1 results included: traffic down on Telegraph Road ramp by 14%; more traffic on Quaker Lane and less on cut-through streets, including an 81% reduction on traffic on Fort Williams Parkway. HOWEVER, the City has not made clear when the baseline data was taken: what month, year, and what time of day.

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

Chase was unable to attend this meeting.

* 1. **BEHC Update – Flachs**

Flachs was unable to attend the meeting, but provided an email: on Karig Estates, he spoke with Pat Tokarz after the July SRCA meeting.   Tokarz reported that he is still negotiating with Mr. Ibrahim about how and where to connect the Karig sewer line to the line that runs through his back yard and who will clean up the mess after his back yard is excavated.  Apparently, that issue is presenting a problem for the builder.   In addition, Gant Redmon paid to take down the dead tree in Beth El’s playground, the same tree which Mr. Ibrahim promised to cut down (and was mentioned at the July SRCA meeting).

Flachs further reported that Beth El continues to plant trees and flowers, weed and deal with water damage in the Chapel in the Woods.  The bridge which crosses the west ravine is still off limits due to damage from falling limbs, but it is hoped it will be repaired/rebuilt next month.  Flachs noted the expense of keeping up walking trails with a bridge and new plantings for a property the size of Beth El’s woodland, particularly with storms which are ever more fierce and destructive.

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

Pritzker summarized the reasons for the proposed Bylaw changes, which all SRCA Executive Committee members had received prior to this meeting. No one had any changes or objections to the proposed changes. Brookbank noted that the date of the current Bylaws is 1980. Pritzker also noted that he had identified several typographical errors in the Deeds and Restrictions. As these are strictly typos, it was agreed that these errors will be corrected in the next publication of SRCA’s documents, but they do not require approval.

**Clark-Sestak moved that the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws be provided to all SRCA Covenant households for their consideration and approval. Browne seconded and it was unanimously approved**.

It was noted that the option would be given to residents to “approve” or “not approve” the proposed changes in their entirety. In addition, while votes can be gathered via the materials being distributed prior to the annual meeting (similar to the way proxies for shareholder meetings are gathered in advance), the tally of the votes will be done at the annual meeting itself. And, residents will have the opportunity to voice any concerns at that time. It was also agreed that the proposed changes could be posted on the Seminaryridge.net website in advance of the annual meeting.

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

**Seminary Road**: Weiblinger reported that the long-awaited Seminary Road study will likely be done in another 1-2 months. There is a resource page link, which he will provide. He noted that there was another accident on Seminary Road at Chapel Hill; the cause is unknown.

**Duke Street:** Sutherland noted that there will be a series of meetings on the Duke Street corridor project this fall. Specific dates will be provided as they become known.

Jacob noted there was nothing new to report on **Strawberry Run**. She has noticed that there are now two trees that appear to be in danger of falling in the road at the intersection of Fort Williams Parkway and Trinity. She will report this to the City’s 311.

Jacob welcomed the fact that the City appears to be **mowing the median strip** of Fort Williams Parkway about every two weeks. It is not clear, however, if the same is being done for the island on Fort Worth Avenue. Jacob suggested that next year SRCA might want to consider allocating funds to improving the look of the island, as the most the City will ever do is mow the grass.

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

Plati noted that she had delivered welcome packages to the new households at: 4013 Fort Worth Avenue, 4121 Fort Worth Place, and 4016 Featherstone Place.

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

Clark-Sestak had nothing to report.

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

Brookbank had nothing to report.

1. **Old Business – Jacob**

There was no old business to report.

1. **New Business – Jacob**

There was considerable discussion about **inviting City Manager Jim Parajon to the annual meeting** as a guest speaker. It was ultimately agreed that he would be placed on the agenda at the end of the annual meeting, with the suggestion of 5 minutes for opening remarks followed by discussion/Q&A. **Weiblinger moved that an invitation be issued to Parajon with these conditions; Clark-Sestak seconded, and it was approved unanimously**.

At the July meeting, Clark-Sestak had reported that Councilwoman Gaskins had reached out to SRCA (via the SRCA email account), expressing an interest in hearing about the interests and concerns of SRCA residents. After extensive discussion, it was agreed to **invite Councilwoman Gaskins to the next (or a subsequent) monthly SRCA meeting**. She would be given 1-2 minutes for opening comments and about 10 minutes for discussion with those in attendance. If she were able to participate, it would be made clear in an SRCA newsletter that this comes as a result of her direct request to SRCA and that all SRCA residents would be able to join the meeting, as is the case with every SRCA monthly meeting.

**The next SRCA Meeting will be Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 7:30 pm on** Zoom (one week later than usual due to the Labor Day holiday).

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

**Pritzker moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm; it was seconded by Browne and unanimously approved.**