



SEMINARY RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES

SRCA BOARD MEETING

July 6, 2023 – 7:00-8:00 PM by Zoom Conference Call

In attendance:

Richie Weiblinger, President; Jeanne Jacob, Immediate Past President; Krista Poretz, First Vice President; Karen Meade, Secretary; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Beth Chase, SSSAS Liaison; Kate Hennigan, Welcome Committee Chair; Residents: Harriett McCune; Kathryn Giglio; one unidentified caller

1. Welcome and President's Report – Richie Weiblinger

1.1. Welcome to SRCA Board Members and SR Residents Joining Meeting: Weiblinger called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and welcomed those in attendance via Zoom.

1.1.1. Questions/Concerns from SR Residents – “Open Mic”: No questions or concerns were raised.

1.2. Priority Areas for Tonight's Meeting:

1.2.1. Planning SRCA Board Positions for 2023 – 2024: Weiblinger noted this is something we want to discuss earlier rather than later. He indicated a number of folks on the Board have a lot of bandwidth challenges, so we really want to address this and talk through it. We need to have conversations about who can serve next year, or whether we want to change certain roles. If some roles have become way too time consuming, let's flag it now before we get too close to the Board elections. We can talk further offline.

1.2.2. Duke Street in Motion Updates/Next Steps: There was development with the City Council to move to approve the proposal. No SRCA Board members were able to be there in person for the City Council vote, but it was unanimous. However, City Council provided direction to staff to obtain more information. Pritzker listened to a good amount of the meeting and noted that Bill Rossello gave a whole long list of issues that no one had addressed. Pritzker noted that there are a lot of good ideas, but to throw them all together in the same pot doesn't solve the problem because it may create new problems elsewhere.

A discussion followed amongst the Board regarding confusion about what exactly the City Council approved given that they need more information first. Weiblinger explained that technically they did approve the plan to move forward but they still need staff to provide more information on specific areas in the next phase. Weiblinger went on to read Bill Rossello's interpretation on the Zoom call.

Pritzker shared that he felt our segment of this project, 2A, won't change much – the only change he detected was to get rid of our closest bus stop. However, Jacob clarified that that's only the case with the amount of money they currently have; once they're able to obtain more grants to look at the center, that's when they'll connect the center to both ends with center running bus lanes which will completely change the current plan.

Poretz noted that should folks have any questions about the road and curb concepts, the costs vs. benefits, and the implications for those of us who live along the corridor, to please email Erin Winograd at Erin@Winograd.US. Weiblinger recommended we invite Erin Winograd to be a guest speaker at a future SRCA meeting.

1.3. Reports from SRCA's ACPD Liaison/Alexandria's Sheriff's Liaison: Lieutenant Houston and Officer Moore were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Secretary's Report – Karen Meade

2.1. Approve meeting minutes from the June 1, 2023 Board Meeting: Pritzker moved to approve the June 1, 2023 meetings minutes as drafted, Weiblinger seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2.2. SRCA Community Directory Updates: Meade was initially planning to have the new directories printed in time to distribute at the annual picnic and meeting, but the officers and committee chairs listed in the directory would become outdated right afterwards if we were to do so. Therefore, it was decided that it would be best to have the directory ready to print by that time, but wait until October (after the annual meeting) to actually print them so we can include the list of 2023-2024 officers and committee chairs in the version that goes to print.

Jacob also noted that for the Annual Meeting, we must have a printed report from the Treasurer, plus a letter from the President. Jacob has everything needed for a vote and can send them to us: Proxy (only dues-paying members can vote), and more. When the meeting date of September 17th was brought up, Pritzker mentioned that afternoon is problematic because it's the second day of Jewish new year. The following Sunday would also not work because it's the eve of Yom Kippur. Therefore, the Board will work with SSSAS to secure a new date for the annual picnic and meeting.

2.3. MailChimp Billing Update: Meade provided SRCA's tax exempt status to MailChimp in the hopes of being able to continue using MailChimp's service free of charge, but a Sales Representative at MailChimp confirmed that tax exemption does not exempt us from the purchase price of the product, rather only taxes initiated with the purchase, and the state of VA does not incur taxes with our monthly service fee. Paying for MailChimp services on an annual basis is not currently an option. It is possible to pay the monthly service fee via PayPal, but Sutherland doesn't think there's enough of a balance in SRCA's PayPal account to cover this. Therefore, Meade's personal credit card will continue to be charged \$13/month for this service, which she'll continue to submit to SRCA Treasurer, Sutherland, for reimbursement.

3. Treasurer's Report – Scott Sutherland

3.1. Status of Dues: Sutherland was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following update via email prior to the meeting: "I deposited one \$50 check, but had already counted that person as a member the last time. So no new members, no expenditures this month."

3.2. Updates on any Outstanding Reimbursements: see 3.1 above.

4. First Vice President's Report – Key Updates from Partner Associations/Coalitions – Krista Poretz/Jeanne Jacob

4.1. Seminary Hill Civic Association (SHA) Report: Poretz attended the 8 June 2023 SHA meeting in person at Immanuel Church On the Hill. ACPS District B Board Members – Kelly Booz and Ashley Baird Simpson – attended and answered a variety of questions about Douglas MacArthur and Minnie Howard plans. Poretz asked Ms. Booz and Ms. Simpson to please address a contingency plan for students if the new Douglas MacArthur building is not ready for the first day of school (21 August). SHA is not meeting this summer and will reconvene 21 September 2023.

Douglas MacArthur Modernization Project: Installation of the scoreboard and climbing wall in the gymnasium are complete. Level two cabinets and wainscoting are complete, installation is ongoing on remaining levels. Traffic coating in the garage has begun, and will continue over the next few weeks. Installation of cafeteria flooring and kitchen equipment is ongoing. Bus loop grading and paving are complete. Installation of kitchen flooring, the gymnasium kalwall and the learning stair curtain wall are also complete. Restroom tile is complete on level three and fixture installation is ongoing on levels one and three. Metal panel installation along the exterior is nearing completion. Curb and sidewalk work continues in multiple areas.

Community members can send questions, comments and concerns to the project email: newmacarthur@acps.k12.va.us. Updates can be found on the ACPS Douglas MacArthur Modernization webpage.

3 July 2023: Douglas MacArthur modernization virtual community meeting from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. To join the meeting, go to:

<https://acpsk12.zoom.us/j/99652406528?pwd=VndZTTBPTmFNOVdsNCtsQU90NFZ4dz09>.

If you cannot attend the virtual community meeting, the presentation will be recorded and made available online, and all feedback received will be shared with the relevant staff and decision-makers on this project. Please send your feedback to Arte's Funderburk, CIP communications specialist, at artea.funderburk@acps.k12.va.us.

Minnie Howard Redevelopment Construction: Community members can send construction questions, comments and concerns to the project email: hsproject@acps.k12.va.us. Updates can be found on the ACPS Minnie Howard Redevelopment webpage.

4.2. West End Coalition (WEC) Report: The next quarterly virtual meeting of the WEC will be Saturday, 23 September 23 at 10:00 AM. The WEC is inviting Mayor Wilson as the guest speaker.

4.3. Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) Report: AFCA met on 28 June 2023. Josh Baker, CEO, Alexandria Transit Company (DASH), followed by Kathie Hoekstra, Chair, Alexandria Environmental Protection Commission opened the program. AFCA is planning a Housing Forum in the September/October timeframe.

5. Second Vice President's Report – SRCA Events – Katie Dominick

5.1. Screen on the Green "The Sandlot" – Saturday, July 29th at 7pm at SSSAS Upper Field: Dominick was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Communications Report – Stephanie Karner: Karner was unable to attend the meeting. Meade shared that Karner distributed 'Screen on the Green' flyers via email to all Block Captains and will provide printed copies to those who requested them.

7. City of Alexandria Projects – Scott Sutherland/ Krista Poretz/Jeanne Jacob

7.1. Duke Street-in-Motion Updates – Scott Sutherland: Sutherland was unable to attend this meeting.

7.2. Inova Hospital Project Updates – Krista Poretz: No updates at this time.

7.3. Strawberry Run Updates – Jeanne Jacob: No major updates at this time. Two things we were told we'd have input on was the new signage and fencing on either end of the culvert (south and north ends), but in fewer than two weeks a new sign went up which wasn't at all what we had asked for. We requested that the new sign be called Strawberry Run Nature Reserve, but the one that was installed is called Fort Williams Park. Our second request is getting the fence put back up right next to a property where a tree fell. It's dangerous because it leads people to believe you can walk out on it when in fact you can't. We asked for a very attractive fence to be installed around where the culvert is so no children or animals can fall into it. Time will tell whether or

not they grant this request.

Weiblinger asked who is monitoring the City on this but Jacob did not know. Since Weiblinger has contacts at Parks & Rec, Jacob recommended he reach out to them in the hopes that we can get an attractive looking fence installed as a safety precaution. Joe Sestak wrote an editorial that was carried in the Alexandria Times.

8. Parliamentary Report – David Pritzker

8.1. SRCA Constitution and Bylaws Update: No updates at this time. Pritzker indicated he is willing to serve as Parliamentarian on the Board again next year.

9. St. Stephens & St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Liaison – Beth Chase

9.1. SSSAS Construction project underway: The module classrooms are going up and generators are being installed to power them. The modular classrooms will be ready for the start of the school year in September. They have bathrooms but they don't hook to a sanitary lines, so they'll be emptied every day. Demo starts today on the building. There is some mud on our roads and crews are supposed to clean off their tires before they enter the road. If the trucks are not exiting down St. Stephens Rd. onto Seminary Rd., please let SSSAS know because that's the route they're supposed to take. They'll be running 30-40 trucks down the road every day to get as much work done as they can over the summer. Building will start in September. SSSAS has asked the trucks not to come through during school drop-off and pick-up times so the truck traffic shouldn't interfere with parent/student traffic. The plan is for the modular buildings to be up all school year. If the work is completed on time, the modular buildings will be taken down at the end of the school year; if there are any delays, they'll be kept up through Summer 2024. If anyone has any issues or concerns, please email Construction@sssas.org.

10. Beth El Hebrew Congregation (BEHC) Update – Jeremy Flachs

11. Home Sales in Seminary Ridge – Kate Hennigan:

- 3801 Griffith is still on the market. There was a price reduction and Hennigan expects we may see another one.
- 817 St. Stephens did close and sold for \$1.545. Hennigan will drop off their welcome packet this week.
- 3803 Col. Ellis sold off market last week for \$1.075. No photos of interior. Low Price for our neighborhood. Direct from seller to buyer. Overall values are holding in our neighborhood. There are certainly a couple of outliers, but this time of year is not the hot market; things won't pick back up in earnest until after Labor Day.
- 4012 N Garland St. is being renovated. The new owners have not yet moved in yet but Hennigan has met them.

12. Welcome Committee for New Residents – Kate Hennigan

13. SRCA Historian – Mike Brookbank

14. Old Business – Richie Weiblinger

15. New Business – Richie Weiblinger

15.1. Next SRCA Board Meeting – August 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Continued “Open Mic” for SRCA Community – Richie Weiblinger: One Board member asked if anyone knew any more about the light green boxes that are being installed throughout the neighborhood. Weiblinger is pretty sure it’s related to Verizon who is installing cables underground on the easements.

Jacob shared that the Beautification Committee is back up and running now. Weiblinger said the City is willing to pay half the cost of planting flowers on Ft. Worth and would also plant them, but we’d have to apply by submitting an application first. This committee could work on that. Weiblinger would also like to join the committee. Jacob suggested asking in the next newsletter whether any residents are interested in joining the committee.

Jacob received an email from a neighbor with suggestions for the Beautification Committee. In celebration of SRCA’s 50th year anniversary, it seems an appropriate time for all homeowners to seriously look at their home’s surroundings, including their driveway, landscaping, and more. Some recommendations included the following:

- Power wash dirt, grime, mold, moss – hire a group that can do it at a lower cost for multiple homes.
- Prune trees, bushes as necessary.
- Send out a notice reminding residents of what is in the covenants regarding no garbage cans on driveways. Out of 237 homes in our neighborhood, 37 store them in their driveways (about 15%).

Pritzker questioned whether our committee has ever had to approve a request for adding solar electricity collectives? One Board member responded that the covenants were written long before solar panels were ever implemented, but It’s a very good question for the Board. Is there any objection to it? And if there is, why? This may be a topic we want to discuss further at a future date.

16. Adjournment of SRCA Board Meeting – Richie Weiblinger: Weiblinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm; it was seconded by Jacob and unanimously approved.