



SEMINARY RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES

SRCA BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2024 – 7:30-8:00 PM by Zoom Conference Call

In attendance:

Michael Resnick, President; Lyn Allen, First Vice President; Michael Souza, Second Vice President; Karen Meade, Secretary; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Mike Brookbank, Historian; Jeanne Jacob, Beatification Committee Chair; Sergeant Tony Moore, Alexandria City Police Department (ACPD); Resident: Patricia Evans

1. Welcome and President's Report – Mike Resnick

1.1. Welcome to SRCA Board Members and SR Residents Joining Meeting: Resnick called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

1.1.1. Questions/Concerns from SR Residents – “Open Mic”

1.2. Priority Areas for Tonight's Meeting:

1.2.1. SRCA Winter Mardi Gras Party Planning & Logistics: Souza has plates, napkins, cups, etc. He and Reid picked out wine last week and saved 20% on the wine at Unwind (one case of white and one case of red). If we don't go through it all, Reid will buy it back from us. He'll also pick up some bottled water (fizzy and flat). group suggested Souza also buy a few 12-packs of soft drinks. Souza also got a couple of cases of Abita beer to add in and ordered some Mardi Gras decorations for Sue's house (table runner, beads, streamers). Souza has placed the catering order with Bittersweet who will deliver between 5-5:30pm. He ordered mostly a repeat of what we usually order for the holiday event, but also ordered two hot dishes (crab fritters and chicken tenders). Everything else is plated. Plus two large King cakes (each feeds about 30 people) and a cookie platter. Bittersweet will bring the serving utensils and get it set up for us. Pritzker asked about name tags. Souza confirmed we'll have them for people to use when they sign in and have paid their dues.

Jacob offered to prepare a shrimp platter and veggie platter. Brookbank suggested we label items that have common allergens (shellfish, peanuts, etc.). Souza indicated Bittersweet is usually pretty good about this. The group didn't think additional desserts were needed since in past years we've had a lot of desserts left over.

Jacob noted that in the past, the President is typically there to welcome people at the door and instruct folks to fill out their name tags and pay their dues (if they haven't already). Resnick indicated he won't be able to get there until 7:30-8pm so Souza can greet people in the beginning until Resnick arrives.

Sue Goodhart gave Souza some names of people who have worked for her in the past who may be able to help serve and restock/pick-up items throughout the evening, so he'll reach out to them tomorrow to ask about availability. The budget is a few hundred dollars for this. We approved a \$3,500 budget. Souza spent \$400 on beer/wine, \$2,100 on food, and \$100 on decorations and plates, etc. so he's well under budget.

Souza has one wine bucket he can contribute but if anyone else has a second that might be good to have. Souza will also pick up some clear plastic cups for wine.

As of today, 51 people RSVP'd 'Yes' via the Evite, plus three who RSVP'd by calling Jacob. Therefore, we should plan on having enough food and beverages for about 60 people.

Meade will send a reminder email tomorrow about the date change.

1.3. Reports from SRCA's ACPD Liaison/Alexandria's Sheriff's Liaison: Officer Moore just got our numbers for last year and will forward them to Resnick. Officer Moore offered to answer any questions at the March meeting. As far as safety is concerned, our numbers were some of the best. Alexandria Police Chief, Don Hayes, will be leaving to take on take on a new assignment at the federal level and will step down from his current post, effective February 9. An interim police Chief will be appointed until a permanent replacement is found.

2. Secretary's Report – Karen Meade

2.1. Approve meeting minutes from the January 4, 2023 Board Meeting: Souza moved to approve the January 4, 2024 meeting minutes; Brookbank seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report – Scott Sutherland: Sutherland was unable to attend the meeting but provided his report via email prior to the meeting.

3.1. Status of Dues: Deposits of \$443.28 - \$300 from checks, \$143.28 from PayPal. Total households paid as of January 22 was 129. Burke and Herbert bank balance as of 2/01/24 is \$13,668.97.

3.2. Updates on any Outstanding Reimbursements: Disbursements of \$239.34 paid out as reimbursement for printing of upcoming party fliers and monthly costs of using our email system.

4. **First Vice President's Report – Key Updates from Partner Associations/Coalitions – Lyn Allen:** WEC emails come out often listing all community engagement meetings coming up between now and April. Recommend having Meade send the list out to our listserv, along with an informative note about the recent Zoning for Housing lawsuit, and what is planned for Z4H Phase II.

Jacob shared that if anyone is interested in running for office in Virginia, there will be a meeting on February 3 from 10-12 at the Sherwood community center in Fairfax.

Brookbank suggested we encourage our residents to serve on the City's numerous boards and commissions. Can we mention this in our communications and provide a link on our website to the city's list of positions available? All nine School Board seats are up for election. School Board seats are important because they spend about 40% of the City budget.

Because it's an election year, several Board members recommended that we host a Zoom meeting with all the candidates. Souza moderated this in the past and we had a very good turnout. Doing so also got us a lot of respect from the other associations. Seminary Hill Association is considering having several candidate night meetings, possibly in person or via Zoom. Hosting one ourselves could have a positive effect on City Council members and get them to pay attention to us.

Ting, a fiber internet company, is coming into the City to ~90K addresses one zone at a time. They're working on Zone 1 now. Allen believes we're Zone 2. Two weeks before they're scheduled to come to your block, you'll be given notice; 2-3 days beforehand you'll receive a door hanger that will be accompanied by parking impacts for construction near us. The company will have flat rate pricing and will likely make some good promotional offers because they want us to sign up for the service. Brookbank received the door hanger a couple of days ago. They're doing it for Verizon Fios and are starting on Templeton Place next week.

Jacob asked the group whether they were happy with the snow removal this year. The group indicated they were. Brookbank commented that they used an excessive amount of salt which pollutes the waterways. Jacob suggested he submit his concerns to the City. One Board member commented that the City did a great job getting rid of the leaves on Ft. Williams Parkway, but they didn't remove them from the island in front of Souza's home.

If we get more snow, it was suggested that we send a reminder about the importance of snow removal on sidewalks, as the City can issue a citation if you do not remove the snow within 24 hours.

5. Second Vice President's Report – SRCA Events – Mike Souza

5.1. SRCA Winter Mardi Gras Party Planning & Logistics: Refer to 1.2.1. above.

6. Communications Report – Stephanie Karner: Karner was unable to attend the meeting.

7. City of Alexandria Projects – Jeanne Jacob

8. Parliamentarian Report – David Pritzker: No updates.

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

9.1. SSSAS Construction project underway: Chase was unable to attend the meeting and stated via email she had no major updates to share at this time.

10. Beth El Hebrew Congregation (BEHC) Update – Jeremy Flachs: Flachs was unable to attend the meeting.

11. Home Sales in Seminary Ridge – Kate Hennigan: Hennigan was unable to attend the meeting.

12. Welcome Committee for New Residents – Kate Hennigan: Hennigan was unable to attend the meeting.

13. Continued "Open Mic" for SRCA Community – Mike Resnick:

Jacob shared that the George Washington Birthday Parade will be taking place on President's Day, February 19, from 1:00-3:00 pm. and she encouraged everyone to come out for it. This year is the 275th anniversary of the founding of the City of Alexandria. The Friendship Firehouse breakfast will also be held that day.

Pritzker shared that a large book sale will be held at Beth El over George Washington's birthday weekend as well.

Meade shared that the new SRCA Directory is very close to being finished. There is one outstanding item she and David still need to address before it can be sent to the printer.

14. Adjournment of SRCA Board Meeting – Mike Resnick: Resnick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm; Brookbank seconded. and unanimously approved.