



SEMINARY RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES

SRCA BOARD MEETING

November 2, 2023 – 7:00-9:00 PM held via Zoom

In attendance:

Michael Resnick, President; Lyn Allen, First Vice President; Michael Souza, Second Vice President; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Stephanie Karner, Communications Chair; Mike Brookbank, Historian; Jeanne Jacob, Beautification Committee Chair; Beth Chase, SSSAS Liaison; Residents: Harriet McCune; Patricia Evan

1. **Welcome – Michael Resnick:** Resnick welcomed those in attendance, opened up the meeting by thanking the teams for the successful Halloween Event.
2. **Priority Areas for Tonight’s Meeting:**
 - **SRCA Halloween Party:** Excellent turnout! Souza confirmed the new residents of the Winning house are the “Bridges”
 - **Winter Party:** Souza to reach out to the Goodhart family, who said they will host and ask if the week after New Years would work.
 - **ACPD Report Out**
 - **Speed Camera in the School Zone:**
 - Items can be found on the Alexandria PD Website. Where it is noted how you can pay the speeding tickets and how to dispute the violations, especially if you aren’t the one driving. www.alexandriava.gov/traffic-safety/speed-camera-safety-program
 - Sept 18 Speed Cameras are Live – only 3 locations. Programs have been successful in the past.
 - GW Middle
 - Francis Hammond
 - John Adams/Ferdinand Day

- Cameras are only active when the lights are flashing – when the signs are on and active.
- Vision Zero – Goal Date of 2028 to reduce traffic fatalities to zero
 - Car at 20MPH – 10% risk of death
 - Car at 40MPH – 50% chance of death
- Pritzker asked if the cameras also recorded violations around red light running or “blocking the box”
- Pritzker asked if the cameras have a “grace period” for speed – St Reeve noted it may be within 10 MPH or less.
- Based on the Commonwealth requirements and legal issues the cameras can also only be used in the School Zones
- Sheriff Update
 - High increase in Medical Emergencies activities in the Detention Centers
 - Biometric System in place – fixed to the wrist and remote oversight is provided by the ACPD to prevent catastrophic.
 - Sheriff’s Office – Facilitator of the Law Enforcement Process
 - Rule of law effectiveness
 - Data gathered is used by the State Dept.
 - Drug Take Back Event and the upcoming Holiday Events will be shared.
- Pan-Handling Concern
 - Sgt. Reeves cited there is no VA state code against panhandling, cannot charge anyone with that statute because it is unconstitutional. VA legislator made jaywalking a secondary offense, officers cannot stop people for that offense. Reach out to elected officials on this issue – legislative level.
- Bradlee Shopping Center Crime
 - Lt. Moore noted that a large group of kids/youth participated in shoplifting at the Safeway. Safeway only requested the kids be removed from the space and not charged. Resnick asked if added patrols would take place. There is an issue with school “let-out” times and dismissals. There is no additional surveillance or monitoring at this time.

3. Treasurer’s Report – Scott Sutherland: Sutherland was unable to attend. Resnick noted we have two insurance policies, totaling about \$1,000 for the year. Liability policy for events and Officer Board coverage. Souza noted that there is a reason for the two policies. One covers the Board and the other covers events held by SRCA. Both are standard policies. Souza noted the risk on officer liability is low. The paperwork that outlines the limits for the policy should be with Sutherland, Pritzker is to review the policy and analyze. On behalf of Sutherland, Resnick noted that 112 houses had paid dues to date.

Sutherland provided the following report via email prior to the meeting:

- Bank Balance is \$14,916.86 (as of 10/24/23)

- Since our meeting on 10/1, six checks totaling \$5,454 have been written. (Rounded to nearest dollar)
- Checks written were reimbursements for annual meeting expenses and email provider services, and we paid our annual insurance premiums and our membership in the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations. Three checks have cleared the bank, and we are waiting for the other three to clear.

4. Open Forum: The HOA vs Community Association and CCNR (covenants, conditions, and restrictions) – Zoning Changing – Can the city/local government force changes where those restrictions take place. Brookbank noted that the Condo and Homeowners Act which defines those versus a Civic Association. Resnick noted that a HOA is mandatory and are laws that can be enforced, Civic Associations are voluntary in nature and are not recorded as part of a deed. Brookbank mentioned that the Seminary Ridge Civic Association was originally noted with the Deed to purchase when the state passed the Homeowners act there may have been an option to convert from Civic Association to HOA, but didn't happen. Jacob referenced page 308 of the SRCA Directory. Pritzker noted that the SRCA bylaws cite "private residential purposes" and indicated alignment with the city which means we would most likely have to comply with the upcoming zoning laws. Brookbank noted that Air BNBs may also be an issue moving forward. No legal action has been taken in the past.

Pritzker brought up the issue of solar panels being installed in homes in Seminary Ridge and asked if the Board had come up with a resolution. Souza stated the Board may not have jurisdiction to direct residents. Resnick noted that this should be addressed at another time.

Brookbank requested that an email be sent to residents citing that "zoning change" signs are available and they can be requested. Allen will be the Point of Contact for the signs. Request was made for Meade to send an email out to SRCA.

Jacob noted Dec 9 is an all-day basketball tournament at Bishop Ireton.

Resnick noted Sleepy Thomas is the Friday after Thanksgiving (Dec 1).

- 5. Priority Area for Tonight's Meeting – Seminary Hill Association (SHA)** – Allen noted that the local communities and local residents within the SHA asked the Mayor for more time to review the zoning proposals. Required additional research into who would be paying and who would get access. Community requires time for conscience.
- 6. Communications Update:** Motion was made by Jacob for a team of Board members to work with the creator of the website to update for a proposal up to and not exceeding \$500. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Team also requested photos to be shared of the Halloween Party and the Winning House decorations.

7. City of Alexandria Projects – Scott Sutherland/Lyn Allen/Jeanne Jacob

7.1. Duke Street-in-Motion Updates – Scott Sutherland – No Updates

7.2. Inova Hospital Project Updates – Lyn Allen – No updates

7.3. Strawberry Run Updates – Jeanne Jacob – No Updates

8. Parliamentary Report – David Pritzker

8.1. SRCA Constitution and Bylaws Update – it was requested that whoever is making the updates to the Directory include the revised Bylaws approved at the 2022 and 2023 SRCA Annual meetings. Jacob noted it would be Meade, Jacob, and hopefully Susan Clark-Sestak.

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

9.1. SSSAS Construction project underway – Concrete trucks are coming in. Demo and Excavation is complete. Steel Beams are coming. School is closed for Thanksgiving starting on the 22nd.

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

11. Home Sales in Seminary Ridge – Kate Hennigan: Hennigan was unable to attend. Jacob noted that there are two homes currently for sale. One is on Fort Worth listed for \$1,495,000 and the other on North Garland St. for \$1,595,000.

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

13. Adjournment of SRCA Board Meeting – Michael Resnick: Resnick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm; it was seconded by Souza and unanimously approved.