

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes, Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Bryan Kirkes, co-chair, at 7:02 p.m. and a quorum was present.

I. Guest Speaker

Mark Jinks, Alexandria City Manager

Mr. Jinks reported that due to Covid-19, the current budget proposed in late April/May 2020 for 2020/2021, was cut, salaries frozen, but no layoffs. In the fall of 2020. The residential real estate values were positive but commercial real estate was negative. Tax revenue from those buying on the internet was up for Virginia. Other increases and decreases in funding resulted in a cut of \$12 million from the budget. There were numerous other cuts in the budget or increased funding. Mr. Jinks provided a handout of his report for 2022 to the AFCA members. The scheduled tax rates, add/delete sessions, and the budget adoption will begin on April 17 and end with the adoption of the budget on May 5, 2021.

II. New Association Member Approval

Porto Vecchio Condo UOA applied to the AFCA for membership. After a brief discussion by the AFCA members, a motion was made by Jeff Lipsky and seconded to accept Porto Vecchio Condo UOA as a member. The roll call vote was unanimous and the Condo was admitted.

III. Treasurer's Report

Bryan Kirkes provided a quick overview of the AFCA's general expenses for the year. The monthly treasurer's report for March 2021 was accepted by the membership.

IV. Minutes

The minutes for the general meeting of February 24, 2021, with changes noted, were unanimously approved by the membership.

V. Association Member Hot Topics and Update on the Nominating Committee

According to the AFCA Bylaws a Nominating Committee should be appointed by March 31st of the current year. The Nominating Committee for 2021 will consist of Tom Walczykowski, Jeff Lipsky, Pete Benavage, Carter Flemming, and Judy Cooper. All offices are up for election except co-chair Pete Benavage, who will be completing the second year of a two year term. In mid-May a nomination slate will be sent to the membership. Other nominations from the floor will be accepted at the May meeting

and then the nominations will be closed. Voting for the 2021-2022 officers will take place during the June meeting.

Dino Drudi was selected by the Board to represent the AFCA on the Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group per city request for a nominee. Mr. Drudi will attend the meetings and report the Ad Hoc Stormwater Groups' actions to the AFCA.

Bryan Kirkes reported the he had received a request for the member list of the AFCA from a non-profit group referencing the upcoming Alexandria City elections. He requested that no one provide our membership list to any group.

Pete Benavage noted that the West End Coalition is holding a forum prior to the primary elections and perhaps the AFCA should consider sponsoring an event after the primaries. There will be additional discussion at another meeting.

Charles Kent, North Ridge Civic Association (NRCA), expressed concern about an older, possibly historic house at 506 N. Overlook Dr. that is on lots that owners wants to re-subdivide. NRCA wants to protect the property from demolition until the house can be assessed to determine its historical and archeological status. The owner of the house is in opposition such an assessment. NRCA will be submitting another letter to the Planning Commission regarding this issue.

Dino Drudi expressed alarm about a bill the Virginia House of Delegates had passed (H.R. 2262), and the Senate has tabled for further study, which would allow bicycles not to stop at STOP signs. As written. The bill appears to weaken protections for pedestrians at intersections. Others expressed concerns about how the bill might adversely impact drivers. Dino will share a copy of his letter to the editor and other background research with the AFCA Board, who will review this issue and determine whether and how AFCA should respond.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Judy Cooper

Attendees: Steve Johnson, Judy Cooper, Brookville-Seminary Valley CA; Arthur Impastato, Cameron Station CA; Roy Byrd, Tom Walczykowski, Clover-College Park CA; Jeff Lipsky, Founders Park Community Assoc.; Mary Harris, North Old Town Independent Citizens Assoc.; Charles Kent, John Fehrenbach, North Ridge Citizens' Assoc.; Dave Olinger, Bryan Kirkes, Old Town CA; Martha Brown, Parkfairfax Condo UOA; Joanne Bump, Potomac Yard CA; Carter Flemming, Seminary Hill Assoc.; Jeanne Jacob, Seminary Ridge CA; Pete Benavage, Seminary West CA; Fran Vogel, Strawberry Hill CA; Erin Winograd, Wakefield-Tarleton CA; Dino Drudi, West Old Town Citizens Assoc.; Morgan Routt, Mark Jinks, City of Alexandria.