

## Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA)

### September 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order.** Jeff Lipsky called the meeting to order at 7:00. This was the inaugural meeting for the Federation. 13 Members attended but we lacked a quorum for voting.

Jeff highlighted the work the board completed over the summer: updating the proposed By-Laws, identifying Focus Areas with accompanying issues, instituting Committees, revamping the meeting construct, and unveiling a new website.

#### 1. AFCA Business Meeting

- *Treasurer's Report:* Total checking account balance \$8134.94. AFCA has 13 members.
- *AFCA Committee Reports:*
  - Governance Committee (Chair: Judy): By-Laws changes were reviewed but, because a quorum wasn't present, a motion to approve was not made.
  - Engagement Committee (Chair: Van): Specific issues that are aligned to Focus Areas, have City-wide impact, and are policy/procedural related:
    - Transparency:
      - ✓ Independent Ombudsmen
      - ✓ Potomac Yard Metro and TC Williams Lights Issue
    - City Planning:
      - ✓ Seminary Road Lane Elimination
      - ✓ Chatham Square Parking Situation
      - ✓ Transportation Master Plan Update
    - Fiduciary Responsibility
      - ✓ Debt Service

There was consensus of members present that these were appropriate issues for AFCA to engage on this year. Jeff stressed that "engagement" doesn't necessarily mean taking a position, rather it could mean an increased effort to garner advocacy on a particular aspect of the issue or even to concentrate on information sharing among the Federation on that issue.

There was proposed discussion to take a position on Chatham Square and Seminary Road Lane Elimination, with draft letters reviewed. However, when we realized that an in-person quorum was needed to pass, we tabled these topics.

- Communications Committee (Chair: Roy): Walked us through the new website <https://alexafca.org>. There's been 144 "hits" in one week.

- Membership Committee (Chair: Pete): Reviewed strategy to reach out to civic associations in Sep/Oct with a brochure style flyer marketing the benefits of joining AFCA.

Jeff encouraged each Chair to develop Standard Operating Procedures this year – a short, concise document that explains what each committee does, how they do it, and who they coordinate with.

**2. Guest Speaker:** Ramiro Alberto Rios, T&ES Principle Transportation Planner, spoke on the Transportation Master Plan Update

- Master Plan hasn't been updated since 2008. The brief is attached to these minutes but the revamping of the plan is meant to guide Alexandria's future transportation future. In the plan it establishes goals, strategy actions and policies to guide decision making.
- City developing project scope in Spring/Summer 2018, establishing Vision & Guiding Principles in Fall/Winter 2018, drafting plan developments in Spring/Fall 2019 and sending to Commission & Council in Winter 2020.
- Mr Rios asked for Federation to consider three topics: 1) what are key policy topics the City needs to address?; 2) what are the tough tradeoff questions the City needs to address?; 3) what are they missing? Please contact Mr. Rios at [Ramiro.Rios@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Ramiro.Rios@alexandriava.gov).
- General questions/comments from AFCA members centered on need for flexibility within the City (one solution doesn't fit all) and recognizing the fact Alexandria is a transit for many, connecting people from/to DC to/from outside the Beltway.

**3. Planning & Zoning Review:** Rob Kerns presented the following efforts.

- Oct: Planning Commission meets Oct 2, Council meets Oct 13
  - 699 Prince Street – Change from National Center back to hotel
  - Chatham Square Parking Amendment – will change DSUP to allow on street parking
  - Canal Center Plaza – rezoning for additional retail
  - Lighting for Congregate Recreational Facilities Text Amendment – supplement to bring max light height from 60 to 80 ft – not applicable to areas w/o lights currently
  - Parker Gray Stadium – modernization of facility (lights & more infrastructure)
  - 2000 N. Beauregard/Monday Properties – office bldg with multi-family residences
  - EAP Phase 1 Update – awaiting environmental action plan
- Nov: Planning Commission meets Nov 8, Council meets Nov 17
  - Crowne Plaza Encroachment
  - Landbay F & Outlot A REZ & SUB – targeted parking lot
  - Life Care Facility Text Amendment
  - Fairlington Presbyterian (3846 King St) – Affordable housing project with recognized size and traffic issues
  - King Street Condos – Near Harvard St; refurbish building/build condominium
  - Public Storage (Boat US Site) – Near Pickett St/Eisenhower West
  - Silverstone (Landbay H West) – Potomac Yards area

- Dec: Planning Commission meets Dec 4, Council meets Dec 15
  - Braddock Gateway Phase III
  - West Alexandria – Landmark (Greenhill)
  - 2425 Eisenhower Avenue (Block 6C)
  - Potomac Yard Metro
  - Landscape Guidelines
  - Morgan Properties Coordinated Sign SUP
  - 765 John Carlyle St & 1900 Eisenhower Ave – Block P SUP Extension

Rob commented the Fitzgerald Square (end of King St) project has been delayed for weather.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Lipsky, Co-Chair.

**Attendees:** Jeff Lipsky (FPCA), Bob Gronenberg (Park Fairfax), Tom Walczykowski (CCPCA), Pete Benevage (SWCA), Bryan Kirkes (OTCA), Townsend Van Fleet, (OTCA), Judy Cooper (BSVCA), Roy Byrd (CCPCA), Robert Ray (OTCA), Penny Laporte (NOTICE), David Olinger (OTCA), Judy Noritake (BMCC), Yvonne Callahan (OTCA)