

**Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 28, 2018**

**Call to Order**

Jeff Lipsky convened the Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Guest Speakers**

**Mayor Allison Silberberg** thanked the members of AFCA for their service and expressed the need for the Federation to continue and strengthen its role as advocates and advisors to the City Council regarding issues of importance to Alexandria.

**City Manager, Mark Jinks**, discussed the impact of the new Amazon and Virginia Tech campuses on Alexandria. In spite of resident concerns and the less than positive press it has received, Mr. Jinks outlined how the \$2 billion Amazon/Virginia Tech package is extremely smart. In summary, he stated:

- In terms of cost: 2/3 of the \$2 billion will be invested in the state in such things as improved transportation and education. Amazon gets 1/3 of the \$2 billion only after 2 years and only if it creates the jobs promised, and pays taxes in full.
- In terms of investment: The creation of the Virginia Tech campus in Potomac Yard is a huge initiative in technology education. Amazon is triggering the creation of a major research institute in Northern Virginia, which in the first phase plans to offer 250 undergraduate degrees, 750 Master's Degree, and 125 PhDs. In partnership with Virginia Tech, investment will be made to K-12 public education and expanded STEM programs at George Mason University. One goal is to produce future engineers who stay in the region rather than go elsewhere.
- In terms of land use: Ongoing public discussions will offer input into how the land will be used in Potomac Yard and Crystal City. Development Planning is active, likely to see continued mix use with retail, residential, office space, etc. Oakville Triangle will have 1.5 million square feet of mixed-use development including open space, schools, housing, offices, and hotels.
- In terms of housing: Mr. Jinks suggested we won't see a big increase in housing prices. Alexandria has the ability to add housing gradually as Amazon adds people over time. One possible impact is increased rental prices initially in places like Del Rey and Potomac Yard. However, last year, \$50 million was added to the budget for affordable housing, and there are plans to continue adding at least \$1 million a year. The City is committed to creating 2000 units of affordable housing by 2025, and keeping affordable housing as a top priority.
- In terms of transportation: Mr. Jinks thinks the impact may not be major as Crystal City has already lost 25,000 jobs over the last few years. Amazon will only be replacing the lost jobs, and at a time when transportation has been improved to that area, there is already a rapid-transit system in place that could benefit from additional ridership. Combine that with Amazon employees already being an eco-friendly -- using mass transit, walking and bicycling -- the impact may be minimal. In Arlington, public transportation systems already exist. And the City is proceeding with Potomac Yard metro station, and integrating a

southern entrance into the plan. Money will also be invested in improving Route 1 and creating a pedestrian bridge.

See the Alexandria government website for more detailed information:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/NationalLanding>

<https://business.facebook.com/AlexandriaVAGov/videos/2287940151426842>

**Transportation Management Plan Coordinator, Thomas Hamed**, presented an overview of the Metrorail Shutdown the summer of 2019.

- Track work is needed, especially at Braddock, King Street and Van Dorn Stations. Platforms are in various stages of deterioration and are dangerous. Other essential repairs, such as switch repairs, are also needed.
- Round the clock repairs reduces the disruption and total repair time from 2 years to 1½ months. Shutdown will take place during lowest ridership time: May 27-September 3, 2019.
- Plans for alternative transportation are still in progress, to include: increased WMATA shuttle buses every 6-10 minutes during peak, or every 15 minutes during off-peak, projected to cover 60% of the ridership. To cover the remaining 40% ridership, the City is looking into carpooling and vanpooling enhancements, such as improved HOV lanes on Patrick, Henry and Washington; designating more park-and-ride locations; discussing with Potomac Riverboat Company to enhance water taxi transportation from Old Town to DC Wharf; negotiating more pop-up telework spaces; wayfinding for walking and biking to work, including widening sidewalks and finding pedestrian and bike paths; looking for pick up and drop off spaces as well as shuttle buses at Pentagon City and Crystal City Metrorail Stations; obtaining discounts on DASH; negotiating more trains between King Street and Union Station.
- Mitigation plan includes working with Visit Alexandria and area hotels to reduce negative impact on summer tourism.
- ACFA was encouraged to stay informed and give feedback, to encourage residents to make alternative plans and exploit City options, to use GoAlex for trip planning services and employer outreach, to apply for help through the Transportation Management Plan which can help fund other transportation options, such as providing parking spaces for ride-share, and to invite GoAlex to speak at Associations and businesses with updates.
- Keeping up to date: Contact –Thomas Hamed at 703-746-4421 or Thomas.Hamed@alexandriava.gov; GOAlex@alexandriava.gov; 2019 Metrorail Shutdown Website at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=106691>

**ACTION POINT:** Follow up with Thomas Hamed reference control of night time noise during round-the-clock construction.

Since the meeting, Mr. Hamed responded the contractor will comply with the City noise regulations. If they cannot comply, they need to apply for a variance from the City. The

City will work with them to ensure the noise generated falls within our guidelines, and that we limit the disruption from construction noise.

Also, since the meeting, Mr. Hamed reported they have updated City Council via memo about the planning efforts. The memo is at the link above (“City Manager’s Update to City Council” December 13, 2018). They also sent a letter to WMATA asking for more shuttle buses. That memo is also at the link above (“City Manager’s Letter to WMATA” December 14, 2018). WMATA recently made public of plans to include four free shuttle routes to replace Metrorail service, with up to ten buses an hour during busiest times. The City expressed their thoughts that these were not enough shuttles.

Mr. Hamed plans to give an oral update to City Council at their legislative session on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. WMATA staff is invited and it will be a public meeting.

**Secretary-Treasurer of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, Bill Dickinson**, updated information on the CSO (combined sewer system) problem. The work is moving ahead aggressively, as it must be completed by 2025. Civic Associations are encouraged to set up information meetings and ask questions. The stakeholder advisory group closes applications in December. AFCA expects to invite Mr. Dickinson to speak at our January 7, 2019 regular meeting.

### **Planning and Zoning Review**

Tony LaColla, Planning and Zoning Department, reported on project plans for December through March.

December (Tuesday 12/4)

- 317 Hooffs Run Drive (2000 Eisenhower Ave) request for a cidery – winemaking facility
- Morgan Properties’ Coordinated Sign SUP: update and modernize existing signs on 5 properties
- Greenhill/West Alexandria CDD (Landmark portion): rezone consistent with small area plan. Increase height from 62-120 to 85-145 feet.

December (Thursday 12/6)

- Potomac Yard Metro Station Amendment: to keep process moving forward, South entrance will be taken out of amendment, but will be put back in next month with the new amendment linked to \$50 million deal with Amazon to fund the station.
- Braddock Gateway Phase 111: construct a multi-family building with retail on the ground floor

January

- Blockface and Front Yard setback: still receiving feedback so pushed back to February
- 1201 N. Royal Street SUP: mid-rise condo with 8000 square foot arts anchor

February

- Landscape Guidelines (no comments)

March

- Episcopal High School Athletic Field: relocate field from current side to the Braddock Road side. Issue of how to preserve and replant trees destroyed in the move.

## **Business Meeting**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Judy Cooper reported that there were no new members, no expenditures and no changes from the previous month. One bill is forthcoming for the Post Office box. Total in checking is \$8194.94.

### **Prior Minutes Approved**

There were no corrections to the minute. Minutes were approved.

### **AFCA Committee Reports**

#### **Engagement Committee:**

- Upcoming guest speakers: Bill Dickinson (Jan 7<sup>th</sup>), City Council (Jan 30<sup>th</sup>) and Mark Jinks (expected in Feb meeting).
- Engagement Committee reviewed seven committees as possible areas AFCA could seek representation:
  - Alexandria Transportation
  - Budget
  - Advisory
  - Disability
  - Environmental Policy
  - Northern Virginia Regional Parks
  - Traffic and Parking

Based on review of formal requirements and processes for selecting representatives, the membership is possibly overreaching and probably not qualified for most committees.

**ACTION POINT:** Engagement committee charged with looking again at committees to determine if Federation members have the strengths and abilities needed by the representative, and if so, the interest and desires of Federation members to be on the committee. Steps: 1) Decide what's important for the Federation and which committees to target; 2) Audit and experience the committees; 3) Prioritize the boards that make sense; 4) Decide whether it is an appropriate committee given its requirements and the interests of the members. 5) If agreed, go through the formal ordinance process by City Council, or ask to be on one of the task forces that do not require formal vetting

**ACTION POINT:** All members: Make an effort to connect with and be recognized by the new City Council.

#### **Communications Committee:**

- Roy Byrd reported website had 65 visits in last 30 days.
- Roy is working with the site builder to simplify the Federation's key search words to bring the Federation to the top of the search queue. More effective search name is AFCA Alexandria/VA.
- Some people are not receiving email correspondence. The Google email

distribution list is not working for everyone. Roy and Jeff will continue to investigate

**ACTION POINT:** Let Jeff know if you are not receiving board notices. Jeff will email individuals.

Membership Committee: Jeff commented this is the committee that needs the most support at this time.

**ACTION POINT:** Contact Jeff or Pete if you have interest in assisting the membership committee.

Governance Committee: Nothing significant to report

**City Committee Reports (AFCA Allotted Slots)**

-Emergency Medical Services Council: Nothing significant to report

-George Washington Birthday Celebration: Jeff reported that the Federation no longer has a slot for the celebration

**ACTION POINT:** Federation members are or have been sitting members on task forces and committees. Send Jeff the names of those task forces and committees you are or have sat on.

**Member Association Hot Topics**

Tom Walczykowski reported that trees in Beauregard Park have been spray painted with MS13. Unclear whether MS 13 is involved, or whether this is just unrelated vandalism. The police are on the case.

Steve Milone reported that there will be an Environmental Update Phase 2 to the City Council in May or June. The public update will assess how well the open-space goals are being achieved.

Potomac Yard Metro Implementation: Revised DSUP will go to City Council in December. North entrance is fully funded. South entrance will receive a \$50 million infusion from the state. Needed are ramps from Glebe Road to the station, lighting, stairs, pedestrian walkways.

The next Federation meeting is January 7, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by Penny Laporte (substituting for Anne White-Olson, Secretary)**

**Attendees:** Jeff Lipsky (FPCA); Townsend Van Fleet (OTCA); Judy Cooper (BSVCA); Bryan Kirkes (OTCA); Roy Byrd (CCPCA); Art Impastato (CSCA); Joanne Lepanto (Seminary Hill Assn, Inc); Robert Ray (OTCA); Bob Gronenberg (Park Fairfax); Rebecca Hierholzer (SWCA); Penny Laponte (NOTICE); Linda Barrett (BSVCA); Bill Dickinson (Alex Renew); Tom Walczykowski (CCPCA); Joanne Bump (Potomac Yard); David Olinger (OTCA); Carter Flemming (SHA); Heidi Ford (WOTCA); Steve Milone (OTCA)

DRAFT