

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations
General Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2019

Mr. Lipsky opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present for decisions.

Business Meeting

Treasurer Report: Jeff reported for the Treasurer that \$8,058.94 is in checking with no new deposits and no expenses for the month. We welcomed Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association, who joined today.

Minutes: January 7th minutes were not approved. Ms. White-Olson reported that, after revision, the minutes will be available for approval for at the February 28th meeting.

Engagement Committee (Dave Olinger)

- Reported the following associations responded to AFCA's request for City Committee Boards/Committee/Commission reps to speak to AFCA:
 - FPCA (Waterfront Commission)
 - OTCA (River Renew Stakeholder's Commission)
- Yvonne Callahan, OTCA, reported on the draft AFCA memo to establish DSUP policy. While there were no critical comments, the Engagement Committee will meet with City staff, get comments, and report back to the group next month.

Guest Speaker:

Mayor Justin Wilson, AFCA's invited guest spoke about the first 30 days of his tenure as Mayor; With four new Council Members, there was a recent retreat of the Council where an inter-departmental work plan was developed. They drew up a draft of who they want to organize policy this year, including identifying the major issues for the City. The staff will bring it to the docket on February 12. In the past, so much of what they do comes from the law and reacting to what comes up. This new approach will be more proactive.

Mayor Wilson outlined three big issues for this year:

- Budget: planning starting latter part of February and concluding on May 3.
- WMATA: There were significant increases and lost monies during the shutdown (estimate \$40K/day) as retailers and restaurants saw less traffic than usual. Additionally, there will be construction issues for WMATA during the summer which will affect tourism, commuters, etc., in and out of Alexandria.
- Implementation around VA Tech/Amazon: Council will be working with VA Tech on transportation and housing investment plans. Aligned with this, there is an effort to restore the additional southern entry to Potomac Yards, however, there is not enough money for the original 2nd mezzanine.
- Landmark: At a meeting on January 26, it was noted that there is going to be a consolidated ownership. Howard Hughes and Sears are working together on redevelopment. This plan should come to Council in April. The Mayor thinks this redevelopment effort is different than in the past and is important to the City's fiscal future.

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Mayor Wilson opened the discussion for questions and answers. Topics included:

- Economic advantage of VA Tech to the Amazon relocation
- Metro shutdown during the summer
- Noise level of construction work of Metro during the summer
- Alexandria Hospital moving to Landmark
- City Boards w/ appropriateness for AFCA members to be on.
- Transparency of the Mayor and Council Members, ethics.
- Ombudsman
- Anticipated development in the City.

Elizabeth Bennett Parker, the new Vice-Mayor, also attended and introduced herself.

The Planning and Zoning: Rob Kearns & Tony LaColla

February

Landmark Mall Re-Planning Process: Carrie Beach, from the City, gave an update on the Landmark Mall Plan highlighting small changes are being made to the plan. They are looking at enhancing access for pedestrian safety and transportation connectivity with buses and bikes. Details are here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=106515. One more meeting is planned for February 27 where the City will take feedback and finalize recommendations. The plan should be before Council in April. A traffic study is underway and will be placed on the website when completed.

Landscaping Guidelines: Last revised in 2007, this will revise the minimum standards for landscaping.

Open Space: Concentration is on open space in private developments. Within the City of Alexandria, private open space requirements vary by zone, are not correlated with density, and inconsistently allow above-grade locations. A majority of recent development projects provided their required private open space requirements and contributed towards open space goals.

Bus Barn: Located at 660 N Royal Street, this housing development will have 287 units, 298 parking spaces and 12 units that are considered affordable housing. There will be a green, open space open to the public, but the courtyard will be closed to the public. The units are rentals, but could be converted to condominiums in the future.

March

Boat US Pubic Storage – continued community outreach conducted; still some sentiment that design doesn't fit into small area plan.

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1400 Duke Street - Executive Diner – 114-149 seat diner; church against because of alcohol consumption.

April

Episcopal School Athletic Field - relocation plans set to go to Planning commission. Using the buildings as the core, the new athletic fields will be on the Ft Ward side. Rob Kerns said he would forward the plans because Federation members needed clarification on area.

Spring 2019

Eisenhower East Small Area Plan (SAP) Update. The planning process for this will go through Spring and go before Council in the Fall. Next meeting is February 27.

Business Meeting (continued)

Communications Committee (Roy Byrd): Reports AFCA website moved from #7 to #3 when doing a search. Still working getting all members on Google email distro list (only one missing).

Membership Committee (Pete Benavage & Rebecca Hierholzer): Designed a postcard flyer to be used for marketing of AFCA to prospective new members. Committee asked for two things:

- 1) Feedback on design. There were no critical comments from membership.
- 2) Authorization to spend up to \$300 to order flyers and postage for the year. There was a quorum of board members present that unanimously approved this expenditure.

Committee's postcard flyer and postage is approved with a maximum \$300 expenditure.

Committee's first outreach will be to former Civic Associations that used to belong to AFCA but let their membership expire. Then they will target the remaining Civic Associations. The committee is targeting 10-12 associations at a time. The mailings will take place through October and the postcard will be posted on the website.

Committee will also be printing nametags for members to wear at our meetings.

City Committee Reps reported. Only significant item is Beauregard Design Advisory Committee (Pete Benavage) said the DSUP process is starting over again.

The meeting ended at 9:02 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 27 at City Hall, 2nd floor.

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Members Present: Jeff Lipsky, FPCA, Brian Kirkes, OTCA; Tom Walczykowski, CCPA; Pete Benavage, SWCA; Roy Byrd, CCPA; Bob Gronenberg, Parkfairfax; Erin Ninoarad, Wakefield Tarleton; Joanne Bump, PYCA; Anne White-Olson, NOTICe; Carter Flemming, SHA; Judy Noritake, BMCC; Salena Zellers, BMCC; Robert Ray, OTCA; David Olinger, OTCA; Rebecca Hierholzer, SWCA; Linda Barrett, BSVCA; Cassidy Ketchem, Vice Mayor Assistant; Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Vice Mayor; Yvonne Callahan, OTCA; Steven Milone, OTCA; Bill Goff, SHA; Dino Drudi, WOTCA; Heidi Ford, WOTCA

Submitted by Anne White-Olson, Secretary, AFCA