

**Activities Committee Report
February 2, 2016
Parkfairfax Meeting Room**

In Attendance:

Karen Elsbury – Chair
Vacant – Co-Chair
Joyce Frank
Susan Cox – Liaison

Absent:

Lisa Baranello
Andrea Drone
Kay Quirk
Marilyn Munson
Karen Rugg
Maria Smith

I. Call to Order

- Karen Elsbury called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

II. Business Items

- Susan updated group on New Residents gathering held on January 31st.
- Review of 2016 Activities.
- Joyce is advertising for Home Tour and request for participants. Lisa Baranello assisting.
- Maria Smith will take lead on May 14th Yard Sale, Karen E. to assist. Will put special ad in Forum for residents to begin signing up.
- Joyce revising Activities List for Forum newsletter Tree Lighting 5:30-6:30 and will add information for Yard Sale sign up.

III. Board Action Item

- None

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting will be March 1st, at 7:30pm in the meeting room.

ALEXANDRIA FEDERATION OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

January 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Roy Byrd at 5:05 PM followed by self-introductions of those present.

Review of Docket for January 5 Planning Commission meeting.

Rob Kerns discussed items on the docket for Tuesday's meeting.

Hoffman Town Center: There is a request to convert two private streets to public streets. These are Mandeville Lane and Swamp Fox Rd. The plan calls for the Hoffman Co. to bring streets up to standard (lighting, drainage, etc.) after which the streets will be conveyed to the City and the City will assume responsibility for maintenance.

Towne Motel: North Washington St. at Madison St.

The plans submitted meet the Washington Street standards. The hotel building will be five stories with 98 rooms and 56 underground parking spaces. There will be a few surface parking spaces behind the building to accommodate valet parking. The plan includes refurbishing a 3-story historic home that will be incorporated into the hotel building via a glass-enclosed connector. The developer will also add additional trees to the site.

Alex Dambach discussed other items on the Tuesday agenda.

4141 Duke St. – Fresenius Medical Care.

Request to expand dialysis center and to incorporate the now vacant Fuddruckers store into the facility.

3207 Colvin St. – Aidriss Saydi Auto Dealership.

Request SUP for auto sales.

600 Wolfe St. – Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Request to encroach in public right-of-way to build disabled access ramp in order to comply with ADA requirements.

418 W. Braddock Rd. – Richard & Elizabeth Tonner.

Request to vacate public right-of-way to comply with prior sale of the property by the City.

Signage: A Supreme Court ruling specifies that Cities can no longer regulate the content of posted signs. If signs are allowed in the public right-of-way they cannot be limited to political signs only.

The Planning Commission is considering one of two new proposals: that signs would be banned in the public rights-of-way; or that signs would be allowed in the public right-of-way for 30 days prior to and seven days after an election.

There was a group discussion regarding aspects of the signage issue.

Review of Docket for January 7 Planning Commission meeting.

Rob Kerns reviewed plans to be submitted for the Oakville

Triangle Area. A number of zoning changes are proposed. Mt. Jefferson Park improvements will include additional drainage and new plantings. It will remain a passive park and it will not be fenced. The park improvements and the Oakville Triangle plan will make the area more accessible for Del Ray pedestrians who will be able to reach Route 1 through the park and via the planned extension of Swann Ave.

The Commission will also review the draft 2016 Interdepartmental Long Range Work Program and the FY17 Long Range Work Program chart.

Ethics Committee Initiative. Roy Byrd reported on the letter sent to the Mayor Elect and Council on December 17 with respect to establishing an ethics committee. He said information on the initiative will be sent to other Civic Associations and discussions will be continued with individual Council members.

Mr. Byrd summarized that the initiative is about defining the culture so that the City is really open and all issues can candidly be discussed with transparency.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Converse West, Secretary

Present at the meeting were Co-Chairs Ali Ahmad and Roy Byrd; City Employees Alex Dambach and Rob Kerns from the Planning & Zoning Department; and the following attendees:

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|----------------|----------------------------|
| Hendrick Booz | Taylor Run |
| Don Brady | Clover/College Park |
| Katy Cannady | Rosemont |
| Judy Cooper | Brookville/Seminary Valley |
| Andrea Dies | Fairlington |
| Heidi Ford | West Old Town |
| Michael Hobbs | Old Town CA |
| Bryan Kirkes | Old Town CA |
| Joanne Lepanto | Seminary Hill |
| Lilia Murphy | Highpoint @ Stonegate |
| Dave Olinger | Old Town CA |
| Bonnie Petry | Wakefield/Tarleton |
| Roger Waud | NOTICe |
| Connie West | Holmes Run |

Communications and Outreach Committee
Updates
February 5, 2016

Because of schedule conflicts, the committee did not meet at the office. Members discussed issues online.

Updates:

1. New Residents Orientation was held January 30. Four new residents attended. Event was called a success. One note. Despite sending Evites to new residents, posting information on Facebook pages and the website, and including the invitation in the newsletter, one attendee learned about the event by seeing the sandwich boards. This information shows that communication requires multiple forms.
2. Official Parkfairfax Facebook page. Management and committee members began using the new Parkfairfax Condominium Association Facebook page in January. Information regarding storm clean-up was posted and reposted on Residents and Owners pages. This was a great opportunity to drive people to the new page. Residents gave thumbs up to information regarding plowing streets and parking areas. The page now has a number of followers, though still not as many as the other group pages. Additionally, one of the committee members researched the issue of comments on the site and found that there is a method to prevent comments.
3. E-alerts were used to inform residents of snow removal and water main breaks. Residents reported being pleased to get the updates, particularly the snow removal scheduling updates.
4. The newsletter still remains the main source of community information for persons not using email, not visiting the website and not using Facebook. We are trying to bring more information to the newsletter. We are bringing back the Cathy Condo column that provides answers to residents' questions and we are also reviving "Why I Live Here." Committee members are happy to write for the newsletter, but we don't work in the office and we don't attend other committee meetings. Therefore, we need input from others regarding timely topics that would be of interest to the community.

