

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes, Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Pete Benavage, at 6:35 p.m., and a quorum was present.

I. Alyia Gaskins, City Councilmember

Ms. Gaskins responded to questions on various topics from the members.

Mr. Benavage mentioned reports of an alleged sexual battery incident at Minnie Howard School and asked what Councilor Gaskins could say to reassure the public. Councilor Gaskins said that limited information could be shared due to the fact that the incident involved minors. She acknowledged that press releases could have provided sufficient information to reassure the public that the issue was addressed.

Referencing the work of the Duke Street Transitway Ad Hoc Committee, Ms. Winograd voiced concern that basic requests, such as addition of crosswalks and removal of trash in public right of way, are being deferred or not addressed in timely fashion. She asked what is being done to serve residents and ensure our quality of life prior to the increase in population. Councilor Gaskins noted the city has more than 250 projects which have come up for audit and have not been addressed. She agreed that essential day-to-day services need more attention, and she is questioning the prioritization and funding.

Mr. Byrd noted that as the City continues to grow there does not appear to be the type of staffing increases necessary to keep up with services, nor is there any type of professional planning on this issue that he is aware of at this time. Councilor Gaskins agreed that personnel shortages need to be addressed. She noted that planned new developments should include personnel needed to support these services.

Mr. Fehrenbach said that he had never seen any study producing a formula on net impacts on development on the City. Has this ever been done? Councilor Gaskins said that she would be happy to ask, but she had not seen any study to that effect. She offered to follow up.

Mr. Impastato noted concern that as the West End gets more density/development, the City needs to seriously address the issue of school capacity. What is being done? Councilor Gaskins said the City is doing well on estimates for enrollment in schools, but not as well on actual planning that corresponds to the timeline for new development. She would like to work more closely with ACPS on this issue.

Mr. Benavage thanked Councilor Gaskins for her time.

II. Planning & Zoning Updates – Tony LaColla, Land Use Division, & Rob Kerns, Development Division

April 7: Witter Field Netting to Improve Soccer Fields; 424 North Washington Street. May 3: EE Block 23; Alexandria Free Methodist Church; 500 Montgomery Street; Transportation Ordinance Change Discussion; Auxiliary Apartments in Commercial Zones Text Amendment. June 7: Colvin Street Garage; Landmark Infrastructure (PC only); Lindsey Lexis DSUP Amendment; Perfect Pita (PC only); TMP Ordinance Change. Questions related to these items and other P&Z issues were asked by the members.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Benavage noted that the association was behind on approval of meeting minutes and he would work to address this issue in timely fashion.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The March 2022 Treasurer's Report, submitted by Judy Cooper, was accepted.

V. New Business

- A. Mr. Benavage noted the organization was close to receiving an application from Holmes Run to join the AFCA.
- B. Mr. Benavage announced that Erin Winograd and Rebecca Hierholzer have been appointed as representatives to the Duke Street Transit Group and the EMS Council Committee, respectively.
- C. Mr. Benavage reported that the new slate of AFCA Officers (co-chair and vice chair) would be proposed for the 2022-2023 cycle by the Nominating Committee. The committee is composed of Tom Walczykowski (chair), Bryan Kirkes, Judy Cooper, Jeff Lipsky, and Kay Stimson with alternates of Arthur Impastato and Van Van Fleet.
- D. Mr. Benavage said that at the March 19 town hall meeting held by State Senator Ebbin and Delegate Bennett-Parker that there may be new legislation to allow police to enforce local noise ordinances for motor vehicles,

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Kay Stimson, Secretary

Attendees: Judy Cooper, Brookville-Seminary Valley CA; Arthur Impastato, Cameron Station CA; Roy Byrd, Tom Walczykowski, Clover-College Park CA; Jeff Lipsky, Founders Park Community Assn.; John Fehrenbach, Kay Stimson, North Ridge Citizens' Assn.; Steve Milone, Dave Olinger, Old Town CA; Robert Gronenberg, Parkfairfax Condo HOA; Peter Kilcullen, Porto Vecchio Condo; Carter Flemming, Bill Rossello, Seminary Hill CA; Jeanne Jacob, Seminary Ridge CA; Pete Benavage, Seminary West CA; Erin Winograd, Wakefield-Tarleton CA; Dino Drudi, West Old Town Citizens Assn.