

MINUTES
NOTICE BOARD MEETING
February 8, 2016
7:30 P.M.
Portner's Landing Community Room

Present: Howard Middleton, Tom Soapes, Clarence Tong, Christa Watters, Roger Waud, Fran Zorn.

Absent: Matt Hennesy, Ernie Lehmann,

Tom Soapes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 18 board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report/Membership: Clarence Tong reported that the bank balance is \$8501.50, with a \$30 deposit pending, for a total of \$8531.50 on hand. Membership stands at 120 households, 177 individuals.

Winter Party February 19: The board members present reviewed plans for the party. We confirmed that the donors to date are Harris Teeter, Sugar Shack, T.J. Stone's, Potomac Riverboat Company, Theismann's Restaurant, Hank's Oyster Bar, Tokyo Japanese Steak House, MetroStage, a catered meal from Fran Zorn, and Rubini Jeweler's. [Post meeting additions include Lost Dog Café, Bistrot Royal, Royal Restaurant, Casa Felipe, Royal Thai, and Perks.] Fran will provide a Mexican-themed buffet, white wine, beer, and water.

TO DO list for the party:

1. All board members should assemble at 5:15 p.m. at Fran's, apt. #308 in Alexandria House, to help carry food, a folding table, and other supplies across to the Kingsley.
2. Clarence is to bring an up-to-date membership list, at least \$50 in five-dollar bills for change, a supply of printed membership forms, and at least 50 name tags.
3. Roger is to bring the sound system. Tom will introduce officials present and provide a rented coat rack.
4. Howard will back up Clarence at the sign-in table near the elevator.
5. Shirley Cherkasky and Christa will help Fran with plating and putting out food and keeping up supplies. Others may be asked to pitch in.
6. Roger will tend bar. Christa to bring ice bucket.
7. Matt will pick up ice.
8. Everyone: Make sure to deliver all gift certificates and related info to Tom at 1035 N. Pitt. Also be available to help with cleanup at 9 p.m.
9. Christa to bring cloth to cover pool table and also Mexican style cookies.

Response list from officials so far includes Councilman Justin Wilson, Planning Dir, (and brief speaker) Karl Moritz, Senior Planner Nancy Williams, and Planner Jeff Farner. [Post meeting add-ons: Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilwoman Del Pepper.]

Giant/ABC site: Tom announced that UDAC would hear a presentation update on the site on Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. at City Hall. At the most recent Edens meeting at the Old Colony Inn on February 1, the developer team presented some changes and improvements to the First Street façade, including more variations and a change to the loading entrance, narrowing it from 50 feet to about 40, enhancing it with lighting, adding a tree. They have altered plans for the First Street/Pitt Street intersection allowing for better visibility and shorter pedestrian crosswalks, potential addition of bump-outs that narrow the intersection with the hope of slowing driver speed on Pitt. The intersection of First and Washington Streets could be improved (shorter turn queues) by adjusting the timing of the traffic light, but the cost of the hardware and software required means it won't happen immediately. Discussions are underway to see if the developer will cover the cost.

Other Projects: Tom reported no updates on other projects including Old Colony, Bus Barn, and ARHA.

SAP Status: The next general meeting of the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group is slated for February 11, 7–p.m. in the Sister Cities Room at City Hall. The public is invited; the NOTICE board is encouraged to attend. Four subcommittees have been formed. Tom serves on the Planning, Land Use and Design & Housing Subcommittee; Christa serves on the Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities & Historic Preservation Subcommittee. The other two committees are the Infrastructure and Environmental Sustainability & Transportation Subcommittee and the Economic Development Committee.

Information about the process, the members, the meeting schedule, and other issues is available on the City's Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/86032

VISION: To counter the impression that NOTICE is not actively concerned about current development issues like the Edens Giant/ABC site, the board reached a consensus that board members, especially Tom, need to speak at the public hearings of Planning Commission and City Council regarding these projects. His statement could then be e-mailed to all NOTICE members. He would not speak for NOTICE as a whole, and would be clear that there are disagreements about some aspects, but that on the whole the Board believes the project is a good one.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14 in the Portner's Landing Community Room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christa Watters, Secretary