

MINUTES
NOTICE BOARD MEETING

May 9, 2016

7:30 P.M.

Portner's Landing Community Room

Present: Matt Hennesey, Howard Middleton, Tom Soapes, Christa Watters, Roger Waud, Fran Zorn

Absent: Ernie Lehmann, Clarence Tong

Guests: Ryan Price and Lee Farmer – Department of Transportation and Environmental Sciences, City of Alexandria

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

The order of the agenda was suspended so that Mr. Price and Ms. Farmer of the Alexandria T&ES Department could brief the Board on the progress of the planned Potomac Yard Metro Station to be constructed near the existing tracks approximately between Potomac Greens and the Potomac Yard movie theater complex. They made a presentation on the site and the thinking behind it, the visibility, the consideration of architecture and landscaping, pedestrian bridges, and how costs would be covered, including federal, state and local monies, some of them grants. Those wanting more information may attend an Open House meeting at the Charles Houston Recreation Center on June 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m. More information is available at [alexandriava.gov/Potomac Yard](http://alexandriava.gov/Potomac%20Yard).

Minutes: The minutes of the April 11 board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report/Membership: Treasurer Clarence Tong provided his report via e-mail prior to the meeting: the bank balance is \$9608.41, plus \$125 in checks to be deposited. Membership stands at 216 individuals.

May Member Meeting: NOTICE kept its commitment to provide publicity for the SAP Advisory Group's May Community Meeting on May 12, 7--9 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We put out printed flyers and sent multiple e-mail notifications. Tom asks that as many board members as possible attend, as this meeting is also the NOTICE spring membership meeting. The Department of Planning and Zoning will handle all arrangements.

Old Colony Best Western Motel Development: Because Tom had to be out of town, Matt spoke at the Planning Commission reiterating the general points he has previously made that the majority of the residents most immediately affected by the proposed development object to the four-story height, the number of rooms, and the proposed addition of a restaurant, along with concerns regarding traffic increases and the request for a parking reduction. Matt said the report on the meeting printed in the Alexandria Gazette Packet was an accurate reflection of the meeting. The Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

Web Site: Tom reported that on the recommendation of NOTICE member Ann Kaupp, he had consulted with Mansi Kotari, who does the Web site for Friends of the Alexandria Library. She has gotten the site back up and running, and updated it to include minutes and newsletters going back to November 2015. She recommends moving the site from JOOMLA to a WordPress platform and offered to do it for \$500. The board approved a motion (Fran Zorn) to hire Mansi to improve and update the site across the board and teach several board members to do future updates if we so desire. Matt agreed to be the liaison,

heading a group to work with Mansi. We need updated bios and photos to correct the board list on the site.

Coalition for Smarter Growth: Tom and Christa went on a recent Saturday walk through North Old Town on the first of a series of walks through developing areas of the Washington Metropolitan region sponsored by the Coalition sponsoring. Tom made a presentation at the Edens site. This group could possibly be a resource in making the Power Plant site development go in accord with NOTICe's vision for the site. The Coalition's Executive Director, Stewart Schwartz, said they are a small group with a staff of only four, and while their assistance may be limited, they are willing to help if possible if we keep them informed.

NOTICe/Vision Definition: Fran asked how we define/differentiate ourselves from the Vision people. Howard suggested putting together more committees, getting more active members participating on a regular basis to strengthen the association, build for the future, and widen our influence. Tom asked if the board would approve his asking Anne or Erik Olson to join the board to fill the current vacancy. The board agreed he should explore this avenue.

Next Newsletter: Topics suggested include the new Farmer's Market at Montgomery Park, development updates from Tom, ARHA update if available, announcement for June SAP Charette, and calendar items, plus anything that surfaces before the deadline for the June/July issue, which is the last week of May.

Old/New Business: The board agreed we need to find out if ARHA has received bids and whether there are updates on the Bus Barn Project. Bistrot Royal has closed. The entire triangular plot occupied by Abaca, Bistrot, and MetroStage is on the market for redevelopment. The height limit there is 70 feet.

Tom also reported on a resident whose child attends a preschool in the retail strip to the north of Trader Joe's. The family objects to the planned relocation of the ABC store to the adjacent storefront for three years while the Edens site is redeveloped. Regulations permit this.

To Do: Each board members is asked to call 3 or 4 members they know who might be amendable to run for the board or serve on committees. Clarence is to send each board member the e-list of our membership so we can peruse it for this purpose.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in the Portner's Landing Community Room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christa Watters, Secretary