

MINUTES
NOTICE BOARD MEETING
August 8, 2016
7:30 P.M.
Residence of Christa Watters

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

Absent: Matt Hennesey, Ernie Lehmann

Guest: Alexandria Police Liaison Officer Sean Casey, Mansi Kotari, Web site designer

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

The order of the agenda was suspended so that guests could present first.

1. Sergeant Sean Casey provided the board with an update on crime statistics in North Old Town. He said that crime overall is at a 5-year low in the City despite the recent shootings in the neighborhoods across the Parkway from us. He described those shootings as being committed by people who knew their victims, in other words not random violence. He said most crime in our area is related to petty retail theft, car thefts, or nuisance crime among unstable individuals.
2. Web designer Mansi Kotari showed the board the elements of the redesigned Web site, which is being done in Word Press, a more usable platform than the old site design. Board members were able to comment on, refine, and choose among options in the design of the banner, the news section, and the format of the contact-us, board members, and calendar sections as well as decide how much material we want to archive. We decided on the format of the About Us section and refined our mission statement. Mansi said she would finalize a proof copy and e-mail it to all members before the end of the month.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 13 board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report/Membership: Treasurer Clarence Tong reported NOTICE has a bank balance of \$9293.91 plus \$150 is checks not yet credited. Membership stands at 153 households and 223 individuals.

Plans for September Meeting: Tom confirmed that our representative in the Virginia House of Delegates, Mark Levine, has agreed to be our speaker at the September membership meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 22 at the Old Colony Best Western, 1100 N. Washington Street at 7 p.m. Sergeant Casey has also been invited. Clarence confirmed the room is reserved with seats for 50, a podium, and coffee and water available. It is to be set up auditorium style, not with tables. Roger will bring the sound equipment. Fran will provide other refreshments.

Motorcoach Task Force Report: Anne Olson represents us on this committee and reported briefly that the committee continues its work but has not yet reached conclusions or made recommendations. She will keep us informed as work progresses. There are some concerns about putting motorcoach parking on the Power Plant site, which neighbors fear would bring more traffic through our streets. Other sites under discussion are the Masonic Memorial and Eisenhower Valley.

SAP Update: Tom reported there has been no activity since the mini-charrette in June. We briefly touched on our ongoing concerns re the proposed Royal Street Bikeway and the combined sewer outfall in Oronoco Bay, which accounts for 40% of current annual discharge of contaminated water into regional

streams, this one going directly into the Potomac. It was suggested we may wish to have this topic as a focus during our November Annual Meeting.

RTN on Hold: Robinson Terminal North development project is on hold, as announced by developer City Interest's attorney, Ken Wire in a letter to the Waterfront Commission and other City parties, as well as in Washington Business Journal, The Washington Post, and other news outlets. The chief factors in stopping the progress of the development are the failure to find a viable hotel partner interested in locating on the site and the high cost of environmental remediation required at the site as well as other financial contributions toward pier maintenance required by the city, according to the attorney.

September-October Newsletter: Topics suggested include announcing the new Web site (if finished), updating the SAP progress (Tom), the RTN development hold, an update about the Motorcoach Task Force from Anne, announcement of the September meeting, and assorted news briefs as they occur.

Board Candidates: We will need at least one, possibly two new board members come November. We all need to pursue the search for likely candidates. One suggestion was asking Mark Levine for people he knows are active and willing to participate. Each of us should ask neighbors we know, keeping in mind an attempt to balance out neighborhood representation somewhat. We will send a request to our electronic mailing list colleagues in the condos where we don't have hard copy newsletter access asking for candidates.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Portner's Landing Community Room.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Christa Watters, Secretary