

MINUTES
NOTICE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2017, 7:30 P.M.
Portner's Landing Community Room

Present: Agnes Artemel, Matt Hennesy, Howard Middleton, Tom Soapes, Clarence Tong, Christa Watters, Roger Waud, Anne White-Olson.

Absent: Fran Zorn

Guest: Sergeant Sean Casey

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

December Minutes were approved.

Matt and Clarence opened the meeting with their report on the financials. As of today, January 16, NOTICE has \$9,335.51 in the bank. Membership total is 119 households and 180 individual members.

Tom raised the issue of the winter party which will be held on February 23 at the Kingsley. Deposit and clean-up was paid for with a check. The room for the party will be the same as last year. The main activity that we currently have to focus on is getting businesses to donate gift certificates to NOTICE. Each NOTICE member volunteered to ask different organizations for donations. The volunteers with their business are as follows:

Anne: Hanks Pasta Bar, Haute Dog Place, and T.J. Stone's.

Roger: Hank's Oyster Bar, Joe Theismann's Restaurant, Japanese Steak House

Agnes: The new Overwood, Il Porto, Metro Stage

Matt: The Royal, La Bastille, Perks, Thai Restaurant

Howard: Harris Teeter, New Restaurant at ABC Store.

Clarence: Lost Dog, Sugar Shack

Christa: Potomac Riverboat, Chart House, and Blackwall Hitch.

Matt won't be at the party. Howard raised the question of having a speaker. Tom will investigate possible speakers, including the new Alexandria Chief of Police. Fran will bring/make baked goodies, Christa has a tablecloth for the pool table and a centerpiece and ice buckets.

Sgt. Casey: Sgt. Casey reported that regarding crime, nothing really popped out this month. Tom Soapes asked him about the lights in back of the Giant which are out and asked for him to check on it.

Clarence Tong asked Sgt. Casey about a police car that parks along the bus barn on Pendleton Street. The Sergeant responded that one policeman lives in that neighborhood and it might be his car. Additionally, it could be a Patrol Officer who is catching up on his administrative duties on his tour of duty.

Sgt. Casey discussed the new Alexandria Police Chief who begins his job on January 23rd. Mike Brown, the new Police Chief, who lives in the West End of Alexandria, worked for the California Highway Patrol as Commissioner where he supervised over 10,000 employees. He also worked as an administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

A question was raised about the number of employees in the Alexandria Police Department. Sgt. Casey responded that there are 308 sworn police, 90 of whom are civilians. There are about 25-30 officers on patrol. They often have split shifts and there is some overlap. Open discussion continued with Agnes asking whether the police found the Next Door Neighborhood website effective for communicating with the public and if police monitored it for minor crime incidents. Sgt. Casey was going to check with staff about that.

Sgt. Casey suggested that the IPC Report is a good place to start for facts and exact number of employees, number of officers on the street, in management, etc.

Crime: Arrests have been made regarding iPhone robberies around the Braddock Metro during the last part of 2016. No trends, crime is occurring sporadically.

After Sgt. Casey left, Agnes asked if the group had any concerns about transportation pressure points. Tom suggested that development issues always raise related issues about traffic, but he thought that was an overblown concern. The loading zones for the Sheraton and Trader Joe's is a continuing problem.

The Left turn lane from Washington onto First Street is being addressed with funding (around \$50,000) from Eden for hardware/software for light signals.

NOTICE and the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group have pushed back on bike lanes. There will be bump outs and parking will be on both sides of the street. Staff says it is intended to be more of a Green Street, with enhanced plantings, than a bicycle through-way. Matt raised the Slaters Lane intersection and how that intersection onto the Parkway has to be re-engineered.

In discussion of the plan to possibly return Montgomery and Madison Streets to two-way traffic patterns, Clarence and Agnes mentioned that parking on both sides of Madison Street, outside the Harris Teeter, is dangerous for pedestrians. Merchants believe two-way traffic is better for business but there are logistical problems related to street width and the turning radius of delivery trucks. Agnes mentioned that Rivergate residents like the one-way pairs, and that Madison in particular is good at facilitating access to the neighborhood from the west.

Other Issues:

Howard raised the power outage at Alexandria House and Marina Towers. Questioned whether this was a result of the development going on at Potomac Yards and will this continue to happen. Howard will call Dominion to follow-up as to cause of this outage.

Tom announced that he was going to attend a meeting regarding 400 N Washington Street, which is slated to be redeveloped as a Sunrise Assisted Living Center.

The next meetings for the Small Area Plan are Feb.22, March 30, April 13, and April, 30. The public meeting on April 30 will begin a 45-day comment period.

Newsletter: Notices for the newsletter must be submitted by Feb. 7, with publication on the 13th. It will be 1 page with Winter Party invitation on one side and newsletter items on the other side. An image of a champagne glass, as was used last year, will be included in the invitation. Grassroots Alexandria is a new citizens' group committed to organizing against the changes by the new Presidential Administration. Jonathan Krall is current Chair and has submitted for a mission statement as: "Grassroots Alexandria works to increase the number and effectiveness of people who are engaged at all levels of government and to address the threat of modern fascism." Anne went to an initial meeting and was overwhelmed with the group's ambitious goals. Ernie Lehmann, former NOTICe board member, is a member of the group.

Oronoco Bay: Clarence is forming a NOTICe Policy Committee to further study of dumping sewage into the Potomac River. The first step will be meeting with with Karen Pallansch from Alexandria Renew to learn more about the Alexandria sewer system. NOTICe can take this on as an education and public health campaign. Clarence will write up a little blurb for the newsletter.