



NOTICE Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 19

7 p.m. sign-in/social. 7:30 Business Meeting
Old Colony Inn Meeting Room
1101 N. Washington Street
Parking Available. Election of Board
Members. Speaker: City Manager
Mark Jinks on North Old Town
Development Issues

Development Project Update

Old Colony-Best Western: The owner of the Old Colony wants to increase the hotel's capacity and add a restaurant. Residential neighbors continue to oppose adding height to this structure, and with nearly double the number of rooms and a restaurant, are concerned about the adequacy of on-site parking. The proposal will be further considered by the Urban Design Advisory Committee (UDAC) on November 18 and the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on December 2.

Giant/ABC Block: On October 1, residents commented on a preliminary design of the commercial/residential proposal for the Giant/ABC bloc. The community suggested softening of the exterior design to avoid an industrial appearance. UDAC reviewed the proposal on October 16. Among the issues raised at that meeting were additional setbacks for the retail corners and along St. Asaph Street; the substantial increase in the FAR to 3.5; the need for the units on Pitt Street to relate to the Watergate townhouses; and the need for more articulation of the building façade at the pedestrian level.

Towne Motel: The Towne Motel project at 802 N. Washington Street has been reviewed and endorsed by the BAR with regard to height, mass, and scale. The owners' request to build a new hotel on the site will be a subject of the UDAC meeting scheduled for November 18.

Cotton Factory: Developers of the Cotton Factory at 515 N. Washington Street have submitted a redesign of the roof of the proposed annex building to the BAR.

Old Town North Small Area Plan Public Meetings Process Starts *By Tom Soapes, NOTICE President*

Revision of the Old Town North Small Area Plan is under way. The process will be guided by the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group working with City staff. The citizen advisory committee appointed by the city manager consists of 21 residents, business owners, and representatives of city boards and commissions that have city-wide responsibilities for planning. The committee met October 29 and agreed on plans for the first phase of the process, which will create a draft framework for the plan that expresses the goals and objectives of the participants and community stakeholders for the future of this area. Staff estimates the full process will take about 17 months. Discussion categories include planning, design, and land use; transportation, roads and traffic issues; housing; infrastructure and environmental sustainability; open space, recreation, and cultural activities; historic preservation; and economic development. The advisory committee held its second meeting on November 9.

Alexandria zoning depends on a Master Plan adopted by City Council in 1992. According to the City's Web site, "The Master Plan is made up of 18 Small Area Plans (SAPs) covering neighborhoods throughout the City, plus substantive chapters on topics of citywide relevancy, such as Historic Preservation, Urban Design, Transportation, and Open Space." Chapters are updated and added on an ongoing basis as needed. This can be through Master Plan Amendments, or as in the present case here in North Old Town, a review of the whole small area plan. A small area plan uses planning, zoning, and urban design techniques to shape the character and quality of the area. The Old Town North Small Area Plan of 1992 has been amended eight (8) times. Many parts of North Old Town are slated for redevelopment in the next few years, and it is long past time to update this document. The success of the plan will depend on broad public participation, so I urge everyone to involve themselves in this process.

Community Events: The first event for the community will be an open meeting on November 12, 7-9 p.m., at 44 Canal Center, 4th floor, where you can view exhibit tables of completed and pending development projects in North Old Town and an overview of the upcoming process. This open house will introduce the public to an intensive 5-day charrette aimed at focusing the participants on developing the vision, principles, and objectives for the small area plan.

The charrette will take place the week of November 16 at 44 Canal Center, 4th floor. City staff and advisory group members will host open comment sessions at Canal Center where everyone can register their opinions on the goals and objectives that should be in the plan. These open sessions that serve to provide information and solicit input will take place as follows:

- November 16, 1-4:00 p.m., Open House
- November 16, Public Meeting #1, 7-9 p.m.
- November 17: 7-9 p.m. Open House
- November 18, Public Meeting #2, 7-9 p.m.
- November 19: 3-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Open House sessions
- November 20: 6-8 p.m. -- Final Charrette Public Meeting.

The evening meetings will be successive and more structured. At these meetings the committee and staff will receive public comment on goals and objectives. This is your chance for substantive input in framing the draft issues.



Small Area Plan Public Meetings Process Starts *Continued*

In the interims between the public meetings, a sub-committee of the citizen advisory group will review all public input and prepare a draft for your review at the following public meeting, at which new comments will again be received. These new comments will be used to further refine the statement of goals and objectives for the revised plan. An underlying objective throughout the process is to arrive at consensus. However, minority views will be respected, recorded, and brought to the full committee.

This is only the first part of the planning process. During the coming months, staff and the advisory group will test and translate the goals and objectives into details of design, zoning, and future development of the area. There will be many more opportunities for public comment before a final plan goes before the Planning Commission and City Council for final approval late next year. However, it is most important to be involved early in the process in order to exercise the greatest influence on the final product. Meetings of the advisory committee are always open and offer opportunity for public comment as the draft plan progresses. You can keep up with the process and view committee documents and meeting schedules at: <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=86032>

There are many opportunities for change in the coming years in North Old Town. There are also many opportunities for all of us to shape those changes. Every meeting in this process is one of those opportunities. Think about how you want the area to look in the next 10 to 20 years; then bring that vision to these meetings.

News Briefs

Safety: Our neighborhood police officer, Sergeant Jim Craige, reminds us that with the shorter days of fall and winter, lighting helps keep our homes and our neighborhood safe. Reduced visibility makes it harder for both police and residents to move about safely and keep the bad guys at bay. You can help by using your own porch lights and reporting street light outages to Virginia Power at <https://www.dom.com/residential/dominion-virginia-power/outage-center/streetlight-outages/outdoor-lighting-concern> or call 1.866.DOM.HELP (1.866.366.4357).

Airport Noise: NOTICE board member Clarence Tong has been selected as the alternative representative for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Community Working Group on airport noise and related issues at Reagan National Airport. He will keep us posted on developments.

Domestic Violence Program Needs Donations: Each year the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program holds a Children's Holiday Party for the children of over 60 families who are victims of domestic violence. Please contribute gift cards or unwrapped new toys. Suggested cards are Target, Old Navy, Best Buy, Wal-Mart, CVS, Toys R'Us, Five Below, and grocery stores. Deadline for donations is December 15 at the main office, 421 King Street, Suite 421. For further information, contact Timeka Smith at 703-746-4911 or timeka.smith@alexandriava.gov. Pickup available if needed.

NOTICE is for you

We Inquire: *Staying connected with changes and issues that affect North Old Town.*

We Inform: *Circulate information to our members through newsletters and circulars, email and our website.*

We are Open: *Welcoming varying views of our role in North Old Town.*

We Discuss: *Remaining involved in finding alternative solutions and being tolerant of our neighbor's perspectives.*

We Meet: *Membership meeting three times a year, and a winter party in February.*

Membership - Join NOTICE

Single \$15, Family \$25, Sponsor \$50, Angel \$150+

NOTICE is a 501-C3 organization. Dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Mail this form and payment to:

NOTICE; P.O. Box 25571; Alexandria, VA 22313

Upcoming Events

**Montgomery Park:
Planning Meeting**
November 17, 8 p.m.

Montgomery Park Gazebo
901 North Royal Street.
The Alexandria
Department of Recreation,
Parks and Cultural
Activities will hold a
public meeting on the draft
plan for improvements to
Montgomery Park. The
plan will set priorities and
budget; come submit your
ideas and comments.

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What did we miss?

Email us your suggestions for articles, links, or subjects you would find interesting to you.

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