

Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association

General Meeting, July 15 2023, 10:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting

10:04 AM

- Mike called the meeting to order and confirmed quorum having been met (20)
- Approval of April 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - o Carolyn Meza moved to adopt, Steve Johnson seconded
 - Motion passed and the April 2023 Meeting Minutes were adopted
- Vote on whether BSVCA should file an application to the city's Speed Reducer Program
 - o 25 voted for
 - o 10 against
 - Vote passed
- Guests: Councilmembers Gaskins and McPike
 - o McPike and Gaskins talked about the city budget adoption process that was recently completed and highlighted inclusions and additions to city-run institutions such as the police department, library, and schools, and the office of climate action
 - o Holmes Run Trail project was indicated as delayed due to scheduling and supply issues stemming from the pandemic
 - o Duke Street in Motion was discussed – information on the project progress and informational meetings can be found on the city's website
 - o Disparate treatment of different parts of the city and the need for clarity on incident reporting was discussed
 - Locations in the city tend to get conflated and developments and incidents attributed to a broad area (e.g. "West End") lack sufficient specificity for directing city resources
 - o Rezoning and the attendant issues regarding inadequate infrastructure were raised as a concern
- Guest: Sergeant Magnum, Alexandria Police Department
 - o Provided an update on crime reports within BSVCA boundaries spanning April through June 2023
 - o Provided an update on the state of the investigation of the shooting incident on Richenbacher Avenue from May 2023
- Guest: Captain Newcomb, Alexandria Police Department
 - o Provided information about the way Alexandria PD patrols the city given the constraints the department has on personnel
 - Gave details about hiring practices undertaken to alleviate the short staffing
 - o Provided information about gunshot monitoring technology that is being deployed in the city
 - o Provided information about how citizens can share doorbell camera footage to assist in investigations
 - o Stated largest increase in crime over the past few years is related to stolen cars

- Indicated that Lt. Daniel Briel is best POC for parking enforcement concerns
 - 703-746-6648
- Guest: Bob Gilmore, Alexandria Sheriff's Department
 - Shared information about the Community Academy
 - <http://www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff>
- Treasurer's Report
 - Jenn Wylie, BSVCA Treasurer presented the report
 - The savings account was closed and transferred to the checking account as a cost-saving measure
 - Saves a \$10 monthly fee
 - Biggest expense is the website
 - BSVCA reported to have ~\$4,000 in funds
 - Reported that taxes had been successfully and correctly filed
 - All accounts are in good standing
- Announcements
 - National Night Out date and location was reiterated
- Beth LaMois motioned to adjourn
 - Mairym Ramos seconded
 - Motion carried, meeting adjourned ~12:55 PM

Minutes Prepared by Michael Rodriguez, President, BSVCA

Chat Log From Zoom:

00:15:00 BSVCA Zoom Account: Thanks for joining, all. We're about to start - just waiting to get everyone in.

00:22:11 Kate Rodriguez: Voting in favor of speed bumps, thanks!

00:22:23 S. Parcell: In favor

00:22:31 Anne O'Neill: Voting yes for speed bumps.

00:22:32 Adrian's iPhone: In favor

00:22:34 Laura Rodriguez-Robinson iPhone: In favor!

00:22:40 Nicole Radshaw: Voting yes!!

00:22:44 Jennifer Mason: Mason-Haiki in favor

00:22:51 Steve Johnson & Rich Harrison: Steve Johnson yes

00:22:52 Rob Mellen: Mellen - opposed

00:22:59 Bridgid Hendrixson: in favor

00:22:59 Steve Johnson & Rich Harrison: Rich Harrison yes

00:23:35 Kristine Metter, CAE: Voting no. I would like to see other options explored.

00:23:38 Cedric Cato: In favor

00:23:51 Mairym Ramos-Salinas: any no votes?

00:23:53 Shelby Smith: Not for - Smith x 2

00:24:16 Rob Mellen: Rob and Jenn Mellen are no

00:24:25 Kate Rodriguez: Mike Anderson voting in favor of speed bumps as well

00:24:52 Laura Rodriguez-Robinson iPhone: Also voting for Brad Robinson who is a YES

00:25:12 Alex Bryant: Alex Bryant - no

00:26:06 Kate Rodriguez: This is a great improvement for the neighborhood, thanks board!

00:40:07 Jennifer Mason: It's hard to hear Caroline

00:41:27 Laura Rodriguez-Robinson iPhone: It just feels like if we want safe transportation this is an easy/low hanging fruit. Highly support moving this project up in priority.

00:41:32 BSVCA Zoom Account: Carolyn asked about the HRP trail repair

00:42:33 Jennifer Mason: Is the Duke St analysis looking at how Eisenhower can be used as an alternative route?

00:42:37 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question was asked about the CIP and what is included in it

00:42:55 BSVCA Zoom Account: (Capital Improvement Plan)

00:44:39 Anne O'Neill: The Northern VA Trail Summit is scheduled for October 2023, hosted by the Northern VA Regional Commission. It would be wonderful to have some Council members attend... looking at connectivity for Alexandria with Arlington and Fairfax. This is different but in coordination with the Capital Trail Coalition, supported by WABA... It would be nice for the West End to have safer ways to bike to work with the soon to be completed Longbridge Bridge from Arlington to Haines Point.

00:44:43 BSVCA Zoom Account: Janice M. asked about the computer systems at the library

00:48:52 Shirley Downs: how involved has the business community in the Duke Street program been . These are the small business who are going loose parking. Many do not even know what is being proposed.

00:51:22 BSVCA Zoom Account: Speed cameras were inquired about

00:51:42 BSVCA Zoom Account: Anne, I will share your comment momentarily

00:51:48 BSVCA Zoom Account: Shirley I will make sure to present your question

00:51:58 Shirley Downs: are police and fire and EMT people covered re mental health . The stress they have had is severe.

00:52:07 Jennifer Mason:And on Taney!

00:52:44 Steve Johnson & Rich Harrison: Following up on the question about Eisenhower Ave & Council Member McPike's comment about connectors to Eisenhower: In conjunction with proposals to redevelop the area between Pickett/VanDorn/Edsall, there was a proposal to extend Pickett down to Eisenhower, via a bridge. Is there any forward movement on that?

00:55:56 Anne O'Neill: comment - a lot of our ACPS teachers may live in MD and come across the bridge to get to ACPS locations. We want to make sure not to create a hardship for our teachers, who are unable to afford living here.

00:57:30 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question: what is the city doing poorly and what is the city doing well?

01:00:37 Shirley Downs: The Duke Street in Motion proposes to take service roads to accommodate bikes lanes this is unfair and could be a precedent to take the service roads between the KMS Townhomes and the Willow now Morgan Apartments.Also some of the people on the Ad Hoc community group which approved the Duke Street

01:04:15 BSVCA Zoom Account: Gabe L: noted that there appears to be a persistent disparity in the attention from city leadership certain neighborhoods see

01:04:34 Jennifer Mason:I applaud the city council for the well integrated approach to transportation. I wonder if city resident/business/activity behaviors need to be more strongly considered regarding the timing and frequency of traffic patterns. My family (along with dozens of other families) sits in traffic on Duke 3 x p week to get kids to soccer practices at Witter and Limerick fields. Perhaps the city look at behavioral economics and work with city residents/organizations and businesses to reduce some traffic through changes to our regular activities or practices.

01:10:36 BSVCA Zoom Account: I be sure to forward all comments to our attending councilmembers

01:11:58 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question in the room: asked about the plan for the existing swing space that is the old Patrick Henry School

01:13:19 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question in the room: concerns were raised about infrastructure accommodating anticipated growth

01:15:57 BSVCA Zoom Account: Janice M: asked what size Minnie Howard will eventually be

01:17:23 Shirley Downs: teachers and support staff for at schools eg lunch room people, people who work at the rec centers can not afford to live in Alexandria can they receive any kind of affordable housing priority. Tito for retail clerks and people who work in the hospitality industry. Are they supposed to continue to come in from Prince William and Manassas or even West VA?

01:18:49 BSVCA Zoom Account: Kathy B. asked about grant transparency for funding city projects

01:25:06 BSVCA Zoom Account: Beth L. asked about committees available for safe space initiatives

01:25:52 BSVCA Zoom Account: Comment in the room: council should be aware of turmoil in ACPS

01:26:28 BSVCA Zoom Account: out time with councilmembers is about to conclude and we will move on to our reps. from AC PD next

01:29:27 Shirley Downs: the AD Hoc Committee for Duke Street in Motion had people who were supposed to be local residents who did not even show up for meetings. Anyone who serves needs to show up at the meetings. Perhaps more could be members of Civic Associations where they report back to these membership organizations.

01:32:55 Anne O'Neill: It is tough to hear this person

01:32:55 BSVCA Zoom Account: Next up is Sergeant Magnum and Captain Newcomb

01:35:55 BSVCA Zoom Account: currently going through reported crimes within the boundaries of the Association dating back to April of this year

01:39:12 BSVCA Zoom Account: Captain Newcomb is explaining patrols

01:43:50 BSVCA Zoom Account: Phil asked about retention of the 20 trainees pending

01:48:22 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question asked: what's annual replacement rate? Growing or losing personnel?

01:49:30 BSVCA Zoom Account: Carolyn M. asked about gunshot sensors and whether the neighborhood can get some installed

01:52:19 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question: has the number of shots-fired incidengts increased of late?

01:52:20 Shirley Downs: , .who are you more successful in recruiting from eg ex military, community college, local church, temple mosques high schools?

01:52:57 BSVCA Zoom Account: Judy C. commented on the need for speed enforcement on N. Van Dorn

01:53:13 BSVCA Zoom Account: Also asked about the process for trainees who do not pass on their first attempt

01:53:44 BSVCA Zoom Account: Answer: up to 3 attempts for tests/practicals

01:55:47 BSVCA Zoom Account: Gabe L. asked about ways the community can support the police department

01:58:23 BSVCA Zoom Account: Phil asked about volunteer opportunities (Phil is a volunteer crossing guard)

01:59:54 Steve Johnson & Rich Harrison: APD has a volunteer coordinator: Virginia Obranovich. There are administrative assignments that volunteers can perform so that officers don't have to spend time doing those things.

02:00:26 BSVCA Zoom Account: thanks for the info Steve!

02:01:17 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question: does moving violation revenue go to the department?

02:04:44 BSVCA Zoom Account: Janice M. commented on persistent issues with illegal left turns at Jordan and Duke near Foxchase

02:06:35 Shirley Downs: are there voice activated apps which could help file reports. do you need additionally to technology to do this?

02:10:34 BSVCA Zoom Account: Phil asked if the camera systems pick up only stolen vehicles or do other flags trigger?

02:17:47 Shirley Downs: for my street we keep a list of residents with cars and licenses would that help you there are 16 townhomes. on the cube de sac

02:20:10 BSVCA Zoom Account: Gabe L asked about the rate of prosecutions for felonies and misdemeanors

02:21:56 BSVCA Zoom Account: Gabe L asked about safeguards in place for citizens re: the CAST program

02:25:30 Shirley Downs: how many Spanish, , Amharic, Arabic speaking people do you have?

02:30:44 Shirley Downs: we had a meeting with a police officer and a parking person a couple of days ago and talked about the fact that there was a gun left in the car . They said they could not do anything about this? Should we work to change local laws?

02:34:01 BSVCA Zoom Account: Steph R asked about procedure to handle inappropriately parked or abandoned vehicles on Holmes Run Pkwy

02:34:25 BSVCA Zoom Account: Kathy B asked about parking enforcement

02:36:49 BSVCA Zoom Account: Kathy B asked about enforcement in specific districts

02:38:21 BSVCA Zoom Account: Lt. Briel is best POC for such matters

02:38:34 BSVCA Zoom Account: (Daniel Briel)

02:38:50 BSVCA Zoom Account: 703-746-6648

02:39:56 BSVCA Zoom Account: Question about speed camera near Hammond and the general reduction in speed limits throughout the city

02:42:24 BSVCA Zoom Account: Janice M asked about district 12 parking overflow from Willow Run apartments

02:42:52 BSVCA Zoom Account: Gabe L. commented that apartment management might be contacted

02:44:49 BSVCA Zoom Account: Judy C commented that return of the city vehicle stickers would be useful for accountability

02:45:04 BSVCA Zoom Account: Shirley - I will get to you next

02:51:11 BSVCA Zoom Account: jerry.newcomb@alexandriava.gov

02:51:58 BSVCA Zoom Account: Sergeant Magnum is talking about the citizen's academy (more information to be circulated by BSVCA)

02:53:37 BSVCA Zoom Account: Sergeant Magnum now discussing the felonious shooting incident in May on Richenbacher

03:08:03 Bob Gilmore: Please go to www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff if interested in attending Community Academy starting Sept 9. If you know anyone interested in being hired by the Sheriff's Office, please direct them to that website. Thank you, Lt. Bob Gilmore