

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA)

October 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order. Jeff Lipsky called the meeting to order at 7:02. This was a special meeting called, with the primary purpose of voting on the new Bylaws since Sept 26 meeting lacked a quorum.

15 Members attended, 9 of which were needed to call a quorum.

1. The agenda called for adoption of the AFCA By-Laws. Judy explained the Bylaws highlights, including word changing and some additions: “Member” is now the term for the association who has paid and applied instead of “associations”. The “member” has to pay the dues and fill out the membership application. While membership is still from July to June, an individual can only represent one (1) association. Directors’ terms are now two (2) years instead of one (1). Article 7 was changed to list the four new committees and their responsibilities. It was stressed that board members still cannot vote unless they are designated by their association. Judy explained how the votes are designated to the Association, with President listed, then Delegates listed as Delegate 1, Delegate 2, etc.

Steve Milone, OTCA President and former City employee, questioned allowing all HOA’s in the meeting. Judy Cooper commented that while HOA’s are included, most HOAs are within Civic Associations, and that if we have two representatives at the meeting (HOA and Civic Association) then the Association votes. Jeff explained that the wording in the proposed Bylaws of associations did not change from the previous version. This year, however, AFCA Membership Committee is focused on Civic Associations, although out-years may concentrate on others. There are over 43 Civic Associations in Alexandria. Judy mentioned each new member is vetted when they submit an application.

Steve made a motion to pass the bylaws and the motion was seconded. The vote was taken on the bylaws and approved 9-0. They will be posted on the website.

2. A discussion ensued on the issues the Federation can ensure this year. The Engagement Committee Chair, Van, listed a few issues that the committee would like to address this year. Below are three of them:

- Chatham Square Parking
- Seminary Road Lane Issue
- TC Williams Light Issue

Van proposed and submitted two letters on the Chatham and Seminary Road issues that the Engagement Committee proposes to send to the City Planning Committee and City Council.

AFCA members reviewed the letter regarding Chatham Square Parking. Their DSUP, which calls for a change to the original contract that Chatham Square had with the City, would allow residents on-street parking. While the Planning Commission supported the change, the City Council was taking a vote in the near future. Discussion ensued on revamping the letter so it concentrated on opposing the change based on process. AFCA's proposed position would be based on a negative consequence of changing the process/procedure. The theme would be that allowing this change would set a negative precedent within the City. It was agreed that AFCA would send a letter - with select Associations' listed – highlighting our concern. The following associations agreed with the concept of the letter: Fairlington Citizens Association, Founders Park Community Association, Old Town Civic Association, Seminary West Civic Association and West Old Town Citizens Association. Three days later, Seminary Hill Association, Inc. and Seminary Civic Association, Inc. also concurred on the letter. While the letter was edited at the meeting, later iterations completed via email, stressed AFCA was not taking an official position but still maintained concern for the process and the negative precedent it would set.

Seminary Road lane closures were also discussed but no further action was taken. Post meeting, it was learned the City would delay further progress on this topic until the new year.

TC William's lights issue, which would allow for stadium night lights, 80 feet in height, was going to City Council as part of a broader proposal to modernize the stadium. The particular light issue is very sensitive City-wide, since opponents describe this as a promise already made to the neighborhood not to put in these lights. Joanne was adamant that more needed to be done before we took a formal position on this. There is history involved that needed to be understood. Background material needed to be read and understood.

Administrative Issues:

Jeff reported that the next meeting is October 30 and he would like to bring in speakers aligned to the specific issues we cited previously. Post meeting, he encouraged the Engagement Committee to understand when each of the identified issues will be addressed by City Staff, the Planning Commission and finally City Council. Then, we can align AFCA's efforts to a timeline that is suitable for engagement.

Steve asked that we get issues and agendas out earlier in the future.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by Anne White-Olson, Secretary and Jeff Lipsky, Co-Chair.

Attendees: Tom Walczykowski (CCPCA), Pete Benevage (SWCA), Bryan Kirkes (OTCA), Townsend Van Fleet, (OTCA), Melanie Alvord, (FCA), Judy Cooper (BSVCA), Roy Byrd (CCPCA), Jeff Lipsky, (FPCA), David Olinger (OTCA), Heidi Ford (WOTCA), Rob Bergeron (WOTCA), Joanne Lepanto, (SHSA), Steve Milone (OTCA), Anne White-Olson (NOTICe), Salena Zellers (BMCC)