

**Fairlington Citizens Association  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2023  
7:00 pm**

**Board Members Present**

- Jennifer Davies Beck
- Paulin Leonida
- Jennifer Clardy Chalmers
- Dianna Bentley
- Julie Butler
- Todd Delp
- Lydia Redway

**Board Members Absent**

- Guy Land
- Donald Staren-Doby

**Quorum Present?**

Yes

**Residents or other Attendees Present?**

Online and livestreamed to Facebook

**Speaker Presentation and Resident Q&A**

- none

**Regular FCA Meeting**

Welcome - 7:04 PM

- Vice President Davies Beck welcomes.

Resident Comments - none

Call to Order - 7:05 PM

- Vice President Davies Beck presides

#### Approval of Agenda

- A unanimous consent to approve the agenda (with adjustments as needed) as distributed by President Land

#### Approval of Minutes

- June 2023 minutes approved

#### Officer Reports

- President: No report
- Vice President: No report
- Treasurer: Deferred to next month due to budget questions
- Secretary: No report

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Fourth of July Parade

- Email report sent to FCA Board from President Land about the parade.
- The parade was well-attended. FCA t-shirts and Christmas ornaments were sold. Residents asked if swag would be available for online purchase.
- Board consensus for any FCA contribution next to establish guidelines for any groups receiving money, probably along the lines of how the 5K was funded. (To be run along lines of community grant and require a budget, specific about where the money is being spent, be a part of the planning, etc.) There is also a wish to establish clearer responsibilities when cooperating with a partner. There were hiccups with who coordinated with county contacts, traditionally a FCA contact. This also falls into line with FCA being asked to make various statements or support various groups and allowing the FCA to specifically say what it sponsors could help with visibility. Both marketing and also show the difference between the homeowner associations and the civic association would happen with this.

#### Fairlington Swag

- Swag is planned to be sold at Fairlington Farmers Market. Director Butler will table on July 30th. A plan as to dates and who will table will be made later.
- Notes about Square: the phone number is connected to President Land's cell phone. This will need to be looked at and changed if possible. Treasurer Leonida will need to coordinate this change with President Land. Anyone using Square needs to download the app, as you cannot swipe if you are just on the website. Try to always swipe if at all possible because Square takes a larger percentage of the sale if credit cards are entered

manually. For cash sales, you can enter the product and click “cash sale” in order to help with inventory.

### Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

- Director Delp still waiting on various responses, while speaking to other county staff. Crossing already updated with jut-outs and does not qualify for flashing lights. Residents can request crossing guards, but there are staffing shortages.
- Vision Zero also changing the speeds around schools and Abingdon next on the list in 2024 for the review/ retrofit of the school zone. The contact for this was also invited to speak at a FCA meeting and she agreed. Director Delp will set up a time/ date for this.
- PTA and civic association will need to coordinate closely as this process happens.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities

- Director Redway notes FCC is booked for summer camp through August, so virtual meetings are planned for July and August. No meeting in June due to vacation. Participants are generally supportive of a guaranteed income pilot program in Arlington and interested in learning more about it.

### Family Movie Night

- September 23 has been selected as the date due to Labor Day and religious holidays.
- Director Butler agreed to organize the evening, including getting the permit for the field and contracting with the company for the movie. The priority is the permit.
- An online movie poll will be put out for the community. Perhaps an animated movie, as the last one was shown 2.5 years ago, or a live action version of an animated movie.
- FCA also agrees it is worth investigating if it can be done 2 times per year.

### Fairlington Building Permits

- Director Bentley is waiting on a reply from the county.
- Up until the past year or so Fairlington building permits were approved without problems. Within the last 2 years the county zoning office came into possession of detailed plats for Fairlington. Plats are a standard part of permits, but as condo owners Fairlington residents do not have them/ survey own land. Now that the plats are with the zoning office, the county must follow the current zoning ordinances. Permit requests now take longer as requests are denied and must be appealed. It costs homeowners, contractors, etc. As costs and timelines increase, Fairlington is losing upstanding knowledgeable contractors who can work within the character of Fairlington. There is a concern as it becomes more difficult to get permits, fewer permits will be requested and it makes taking shortcuts easier. It is a health and safety issue for Fairlington, as our buildings are connected. It is also a health and safety issue for workers in Fairlington. No permits mean the rules are not being followed.

- County staff has told residents to engage the local civic association. FCA would like to find the correct avenues to allow for work to be done correctly and safely without taking shortcuts.
- Fairlington is not-conforming and was built prior to the current codes. Fairlington needs a zoning ordinance amendment in order to not have to appeal every permit. Director Bentley has talking to Arlington County staff, including the Zoning Amendment Coordinator and the staff for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). All zoning studies and amendments must be included in the work plan and cannot be initiated by the public. Fairlington is not in the current work plan. The county board can direct the county manager to include Fairlington in the work plan.
- BZA members also question why Fairlington is coming before the board and based upon previous meeting conversations, seem to be unhappy about the situation. Until there is an amendment, these cases will continue to come before the board. The board has asked for more information about the number of Fairlington cases from the county, but the BZA does not have a way to ask for an amendment.
- FCA will send a letter to the county board requesting an amendment for the zoning ordinance for Fairlington and then President Land will speak at the meeting about that letter.

#### Blood Drive

- Secretary Chalmers is hoping to schedule INOVA to schedule a site visit in August. Hopefully the date will be set for later this fall.

#### Family Movie Night

- September 23 has been selected as the date due to Labor Day and religious holidays.
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### **New Business**

#### National Night Out

- FCA participation will not happen this year. There is no current sent information about the Arlington Neighborhoods Program via email.

#### Bradlee Shopping Center

- The board discussed a joint police (ACPD and APD) briefing with only the association presidents that took place prior to the scheduled FCA briefing. That was not clear at the FCA meeting and only cleared up upon questioning. It was also why some of the questions came up and why only ACPD was present at the FCA briefing.
- There is FCA Board consensus to reach out to the Seminary Hill Civic Association, the association next to Bradlee Shopping Center in Alexandria, in terms of information sharing (what engagement have they had, etc?).

#### Adjourn

- Vice President Davies Beck adjourns the meeting with no objections. Meeting is adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Submitted by Jennifer Clardy Chalmers