

**Fairlington Citizens Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S Stafford St
February 2, 2017, as approved**

Board Members Present

President Guy Land
Vice President Jonathan Ansley
Treasurer Ed Hilz
Secretary Lindsay Willmann
Director Jen Davies
Director Hugh Baumgardner
Director Evan Harvey
Director Chris Weathers

Board Members Absent

Director Kent Duffy

Call to Order

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 8:13 pm. President Land presided and noted the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda distributed by President Land by email and hard copy.

Approval of Minutes

There was unanimous consent to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 11, distributed by email February 3.

Officer Reports

President

Defer

Vice President

Defer

Treasurer

Treasurer Hilz had nothing new to report as records were submitted electronically. Cash balance is the highest it's been for several months, and the February AFB was very profitable. Part of this was due to President Land's involvement. In the future, President Land will do most of the writing and Christine will edit what we put together. President Land moved to pay Christine another \$200 for her efforts, which passed unanimously.

Secretary

Defer

Unfinished Business

Home Improvement Showcase

Director Weathers gave an update on the status of the showcase. Five contractors are now committed, and Arlington County is supposed to be there as well (though he has not found a time slot for them yet). The list of contractors includes DeLong (general), Silva (general), NOVA Installation (windows and doors), Frosty's (HVAC), and Liquid Plus (plumbing). His only concern about the lineup is knowing how to balance the schedule appropriately. He's asked regular AFB advertisers to adjust their ads to announce they will be attending. He is thinking of allowing contractors to stay throughout the event in the smaller room so they can have additional facetime if desired. Members of the Board agreed this would work well. This will be a smaller version of the expo held in the auditorium last year. President Land worries that the afternoon presentations will have a lower attendance rate. Treasurer Hilz asked when we have to pay the rental, and Director Weathers promised to send him the information this evening. Next steps are creating a handout and related AFB advertising. He may send requests out for assistance as needed. About 400 attendees came last year, so FCA will make sure to reimburse the expense for copies. Director Harvey asked if we should do signage to explain which rooms are dedicated to seminars versus the expo for those attending. Simple 8.5x11's were designated as acceptable for this. Director Weathers and Secretary Willmann will put signs out for the Showcase and March meeting the weekend before March 4.

2017 Budget

Though the budget was reviewed at the last meeting, the Board chose to wait to vote to adopt it until they had time to review it individually. Treasurer Hilz moved to adopt the budget during this meeting, which was seconded by Director Davies and passed unanimously.

Fairlington 5K

Director Davies has been in touch with Joe Hartmann and Joe Reed and has shared a timeline for permits and related items. She expects to have this taken care of by next month's meeting. We are not sure about the status of the starting line, but because of construction it will probably be moved to the Community Center.

New Business

Fairlington Farmers Market Sponsorship

President Land asked if FCA would like to sponsor the market again for \$1000 with all the perks of last year. Vice President Ansley motioned to sponsor the market again, which was seconded by Director Harvey and passed unanimously.

Special Project

Secretary Willmann mentioned a school supply initiative last year to raise money or supplies for Abingdon Elementary. Director Davies mentioned that volunteers for community projects (i.e plantings) and targeted donations may be a need as construction wraps up. President Land asked that the Board also consider our Alexandria residents when planning such an event. Director Davies then suggested we consider a communal space project. Secretary Willmann mentioned a project that targets the community center may be more appropriate, and can begin gathering information to get an idea of what that project would look like. On a side note, President Land spoke with the County representative and as of now construction on the playground will begin fall 2017. The additional swings requested are now a part of the plan. Director Davies also brought up the idea of holding one of our meetings at Abingdon as part of

unveiling the new construction. There may be another listening session on Abingdon construction in early April (tentatively the 4th) to update residents.

May and June Programs

President Land asked Board members to think about what they'd like to see as presentations in May and June. The publication schedule of the AFB drives this, and a speaker would need to be chosen by the first week of April.

Adjourn

President Land motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Treasurer Hilz and passed unanimously at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Willmann, Secretary

Appendix I to 02/07/17 FCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Notes
Fairlington Citizens' Association Presentation by
Captain Adrienne Quigley (Arlington Police Department) & Captain Thomas Shamblin (Fire
Station 7)
February 7, 2017
Fairlington Community Center 3308 S Stafford St

President Land opened the meeting with a quick rundown of Fairlington events coming up in the spring. He then introduced Captain Quigley, Captain Shamblin and a number of their associates. Captain Quigley began her presentation by reviewing crime trends in the neighborhood.

In 2016 there was a 12% decrease in criminal incidents, the largest being in auto theft (with a reduction from 20 to 4 thefts). Thefts most often occurred in unlocked vehicles, and all cases were closed out with arrests of the perpetrators. There were a couple of tire slashings and license plate bending incidents reported. Additionally, a number of residents had airbags stolen. Highest risks are for Honda and Acura owners, and the jobs seem relatively professional (no fingerprints left behind, etc).

Assaults are down and there were no robberies. There was an increase in burglaries (from 4 to 6), though two of those incidents were related to Abingdon construction. Marijuana arrests are up, though most were stops on I-395. There has been an increase in marijuana-related incidents in the rest of the county (probably due to increased accessibility in DC).

The number one crime reported in Fairlington was tied between fraud and car break-ins. This often comes in the form of identity theft. She referenced "skimmers" which are placed on ATMs and gas station pumps that then scan credit card information. They can also come in "pocket skimmer" form which can be used when someone takes it at a restaurant, etc. Criminals will start with small charges then run through a larger one if they were undetected. Breaches also account for some of these thefts. Fairlingtonians can protect themselves by double checking the authenticity of card scanners on gas pumps and ATMs, and by keeping a close eye on their credit card charges.

She also reviewed the fact that the IRS and Arlington County will never call to discuss taxes or jury duty and demand personal information. They are able to fake the real phone numbers to make this seem legitimate. Recent cases that are less obvious include calls in which the criminal says "I kidnapped your child" and then demand money for information. Perpetrators often use information gleaned from social media to make this seem more believable.

3 or 4 package thefts were reported, which usually occurs around the holidays. Captain Quigley reinforced the point that residents should not hesitate to call, as the police would rather come check out suspicious activity then miss it.

Well over 100 tickets were issued in the neighborhood, and 55% of those were issued to Fairlington residents. 33rd and Stafford, 31st and Stafford, and 34th and Wakefield were the high frequency areas. They will continue to monitor the situation as best they can.

After the presentation, Captain Quigley then opened the floor for questions.

Q&A

Q: As a parent on Facebook, what do you recommend if you get the kidnapping call?

A: Most of them will call on the cell phone, I would stall and try to make contact with the school or caretaker to confirm their whereabouts. If you're alone, copy down as much information as you can from the phone call and then call 911. It may be worth hanging up, call the police, and (since they want money most of the time) they will call back. Make your Facebook information private. When your children get on social media, make sure you monitor that as well.

Q: What is the personnel situation in the department currently?

A: Last year, we got 6 new FTEs. The County aims to be in the top third for salaries, though drawbacks include being forced to pay for parking. They have had trouble recruiting since the incidents in Dallas and other places.

Q: How stringent are the requirements on the stop signs?

A: If you come to a full and complete stop at the stop sign, before rolling up, then you've complied with the law.

Q: Someone recently came to a residents door and asked to come into the basement to check the gas line or water line or something similar. Since we don't have gas lines, I knew it was a scam right away. Is this a more widespread issue?

A: She has heard of cases in the past like this, but not as much lately. They do keep a record of all reports even though no crime has been committed, so they can identify when there is a larger issue.

Q: Is there a squad car that goes routinely through Fairlington?

A: We do come through, but there is a 36 beat that includes both Fairlington and Shirlington with an officer assigned to patrol those areas. Most of those pass throughs will be at night, since historically there are a lot of car thefts during that time. There aren't many foot patrols in the area, but there should be periodic passes during the day as well.

Q: Several of the HOAs have no soliciting rules that they publish, is this enforceable by police?

A: The only we typically enforce is soliciting without a permit. If you have anyone soliciting, I'd call because odds are they don't have a permit, though it would not be top priority. An officer's first step would be to ask them to leave and then issue a citation if they refused or were already banned.

Q: Have you heard any reports of issues with general safety?

A: Arlington is a generally safe community, though she still encourages people to use basic safety measures. Try to run during the daylight hours or with a partner. Keep music low or one earbud out, and always check over your shoulder when passing because more often than not the criminal pass and then double back for the attack. Criminals choose easy victims, so awareness goes a long way.

Q: Is it still a policy to park off-duty police vehicles in residential communities for presence?

A: Yes it is, but they now do car sharing or take-home cars which allows for less of that. If there is somewhere people would like to see a car parked, that may be something that can be arranged.

Q: Does Arlington Police Department offer self-defense classes?

A: We do have one officer who offers such classes by request. Send Captain Quigley an email.

Q: What keeps you up at night or worries you about Arlington County?

A: There aren't any major issues stressing her out right now. Crime rates are down and the tax base is good. The climate of policing nationwide does worry her, though in Arlington County things are very supportive.

President Land then introduced Captain Shamblin and opened the floor for him. Captain Shamblin began by introducing his team and gave a quick background of his career. He shared his contact information and invited residents to get in touch if they have any questions or concerns. He mentioned that the team at Station 7 are one of the few in the country that has a full time paramedic assigned. Their response time is four minutes, which is better than the national response time.

Station 7 is now part of the Swift Water Team to assist when flooding occurs and people need assistance. It will go online in May. They do respond to calls in Alexandria since we are so close to the border. All closeby counties help each other out, it is an agreement to protect all residents in the area.

Captain Shamblin then introduced Captain Tirelli, who talked about his background and then shared information on Abingdon Elementary. All the construction has been manageable, the relationship between the contractors and Station 7 is good. They've let them walk through and check out the progress, while educating the staff on the development of emergency plans.

Recently, construction projects disturbed asbestos in the building. This caused a bit of stress, but an abundance of caution was taken with cleanup. The construction on King Street and Beauregard will cause changes to the traffic pattern, which they will continue to monitor.

Operation Fire Safe is when firefighters come to the house to inspect fire alarms and general safety. They will be dressed in uniform and will show ID if asked. They will place and replace smoke detectors and will go over general fire safety procedures. If anyone is interested in a full safety program please contact Captain Shamblin and they will set it up.

Q: There was talk about closing Fire Station 7 down, is that still a possibility? Is carbon monoxide an issue?

A: Right now, contact the Fire Chief to show your support. This year, we're not going anywhere. In most of Fairlington, gas is not installed. If there is no gas installed, then no carbon monoxide monitor is required.

Q: Does the personnel at Station 7 rotate out on a regular basis? Are firehouses still considered "safe places" in the County?

A: The regular A, B and C shifts stay there, though they may rotate out extras. The fire station is a designated safe place and residents can come there for any emergency situation. If there's a major issue and the electricity goes out there is no generator so we are offline. In that event, we are moved to another station. They have asked for a generator but were told no.

Q: Do you do a fire safety inspection when a homeowner does a renovation in their unit?

A: The County inspector does the final inspection, we can only do basic inspections.