

**DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
**September 13, 2023**



**7:00 pm: Technical difficulties with Zoom meeting, updated link sent to Membership**

**7:12pm: Introduction and Welcome by Katie Waynick, DRCA President**

**7:13pm: Crime/Traffic report from Captain Dennis Andreas**

- Crime rate up 25%, but similar to June last year. Trending overall higher in the City.
- Del Ray specifically is tracking with the City trends - larceny and stolen auto.
  - 24 larceny cases,
  - 8 shoplifting cases from CVS on Richmond Highway, Police statistics count it as within Del Ray even though technically outside of the neighborhood.
  - 5 stolen autos
  - 4 burglaries, 1 robbery: no pattern, other than 1 repeat at Shell at Mt. Vernon / Monroe, different suspect but same location - trying to figure out why this is a target.
- GLA: Grand Larceny Auto: Kia / Hyundai issue, starting car by getting in through the headlight, 4 out of 10 GLA city wide have been this issue.
  - Can update hardware through Kia or Hyundai - ask dealer for latest security patch
  - The Police Department hosted an event to help Kia and Hyundai owners install the security patch, they might host another event in the future.
- Traffic: traffic officers out more and spend more time around schools and safety zones as the school year starts.
- "9pm Routine" crime prevention checklist: check car doors, lock valuables, turn lights on - good prevention technique.
- Certified car seat inspector in Police department: link on website, free of charge
- Question: Please provide update on missing teenagers:
- Answer: 13 year old missing girls were found the next morning. Missing for about 12 hours. Comment: Police Twitter account was helpful for finding out what was happening.

**7:19pm: Sheriff's office report from Sheriff Sean Casey**

- The Sheriff's office manages the jail, secures the courthouse, serves civil process in the City of Alexandria, helps the police department when called upon.
- National Night out was a big success - Thank you to DRCA for donating to Arlandria National Night out.
- Official American Correctional Association Accreditation renewal in August - thank you to Gayle Reuter for helping.
- Triple Crown Accreditation on the way: The Triple Crown Award was established by NSA to recognize those sheriff's offices that achieve simultaneous accreditation from the [Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies](#), the [American Correctional Association's Commission on Accreditation for Corrections](#) and the [National Commission on Correctional Healthcare](#).
- Fall Community Academy has started: 4 Saturdays in Fall / Spring learn all about the sheriff's office - info available on the [Sheriff's Website](#).
- Senior services academy: phone scams - no law enforcement agency will ever call and ask for money over the phone. Asking for paypal or gift cards is a scam - hang up the phone and then call the Sheriff or Police dept. directly.

**DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
**September 13, 2023**



- Question: Recently an event had child fingerprinting kits, does the city of Alexandria offer a similar program? Yes: [Child Identification Kits](#)

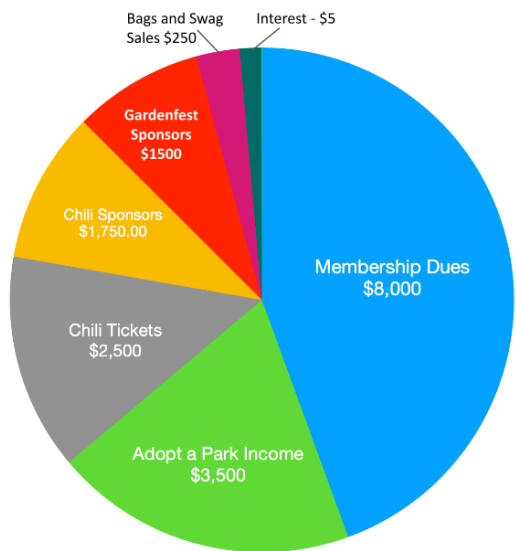
**7:22pm: Alexandria City Firefighter Josh Turner**

- Postponed until October meeting

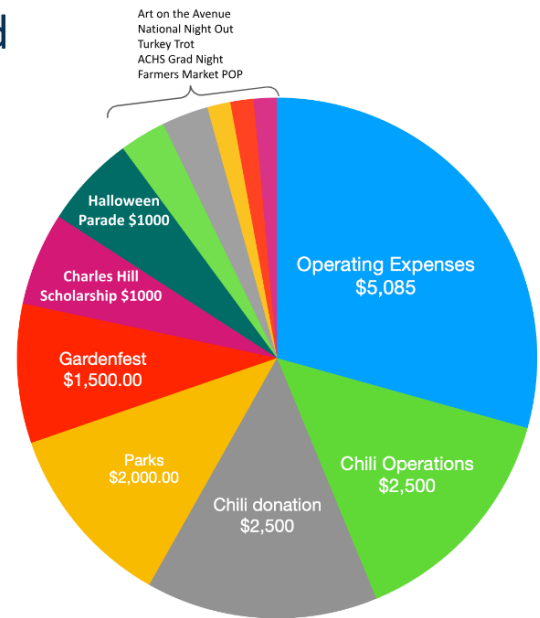
**7:23pm: 2024 Budget Review, Q&A, and Member VOTE!**

- Budget presented by Treasurer, Jim Wallace

**Budget Overview: FY24 Proposed**



**Expected Income Sources (\$18,005)**



**Proposed Expenditures (\$17,335)**

- 
- Membership dues collected last year were \$8,000 which was more than estimated, so that same number is proposed for FY24 budget income.
- Funds raised for FY23 from Adopt a Park were doubled from previous years.
- Chili cookoff - didn't budget fully last year, as still transitioning out of COVID
  - Need more Chili and a way for people to not go hungry
  - Cost of ticket will increase
- Received sponsors for Gardenfest: Jen Walker and Ting
- Expected Income: \$18,005
- Proposed Expenditures: \$17,335
- Parks budget increased (beyond what is shown in the graph above) to fund new furniture at Charles Hill Park - additional money will come from the reserves as the Parks budget has repeatedly gone underutilized.
  - \$4,000
  - Peter, Parks chair, has been working directly with the City to provide some of the items outlined in the Parks plan
- St. Asaph park -

## DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes

### Virtual via Zoom

### September 13, 2023



- City will be removing invasive species using their contractor.
- City will provide new perennials for planting through their own budget.
- DRCA to volunteer for man hours to plant new native plants
- Strong possibility of House and Garden (HG) Tour coming back for 2024
  - More sponsorship requests this year, not outlined in budget as a proposed expense or income because of uncertainty of timing for getting the 2024 year planned since it is starting behind schedule of past years.
  - Dip into reserves account for expenditures with money refunded by the HG Tour
  - Past tours have raised approximately \$15,000 for the Association with a large portion of that money being used to reinvest in Neighborhood projects.
- Question: What is the current membership? 450 households for FY23, \$8,000 budget is based on this actual membership from last year. Thank you Elizabeth Reyna, Membership Chair, and other outreach activities.
- Members with active membership as of the previous meeting (last June) are only ones who can vote
- Budget Vote was called: FY 24 budget approved

#### 7:43pm: Special Use Permit for Hi-Fi/Evening Star SUP Discussion and Member VOTE

- LUC update: Kristine Hesse, co-chair
- Meeting w/ applicant last night on Hi Fi BBQ
- NRG: Neighborhood Restaurant Group - Applicant
  - Owners: Michael and Stephanie Babin will act as liaison to neighbors
- Located behind Front Porch, Evening Star property at the corner of Howell Ave and Mt. Vernon
- Hi -Fi area abuts a residential property
- Potomac West Small area plan in the historic core
- MVA overlay district
- Current conditions of the existing SUP:
  - Hi/Fi BBQ is currently operating under the conditions of approval from SUP2012-00054
  - Outdoor seating expansions that were made under the City's temporary COVID small business relief measures
  - Evening Star currently has approval for 50 seats of outdoor dining
  - Evening Star currently has a parking requirement reduction of 13 spaces
  - Outdoor dining from 7.00am - 10.00pm seven days a week
- No additional parking is required based on the Cities revised parking requirements
  - Site plan proposes 3 outdoor seating zones
  - Biggest issue: Outdoor smokers, for BBQ meat
    - Neighbors had concerns about the amount of smoke
    - Applicant told by the City that the smokers are in violation of the City Code
    - Applicant feels smokers should be allowed as an accessory use to indoor cooking
    - Disagreement between City Staff and applicant
    - Adjacent property is close to the location of the smokers
  - Deliveries coming from Howell Avenue - neighbors driveways are often blocked
  - Applicant has a system for controlling music through their speaker system

**DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
**September 13, 2023**



- Outdoor dining at restaurants adjacent to residential properties should stop at 10pm

**Motion from the LUC (red text is LUC motion in response to individual requests):**

- The applicant is proposing an additional 74 seats of outdoor dining for Hi/Fi Tex Mex BBQ
  - Total outdoor seating for all businesses operating at 2000 Mt. Vernon Ave. will be 124 seats and the applicant requests the right to reallocate seating between concepts **LUC supports the additional seating.**
- SUP proposes the following outdoor seating allocation: 84 at Hi/Fi Tex Mex BBQ, 24 at Front Porch (existing) and 16 at Evening Star Café (existing) **LUC supports the additional seating.**
- Permit the temporary trailer used for beverage service in the outdoor dining area **LUC supports the temporary trailer.**
- Adding live entertainment in the outdoor dining area limited to Wednesday through Saturday from 6:00pm to 10:00pm **LUC does not support outdoor live music or entertainment.**
- Extending outdoor dining hours from 7.00am - 11.00pm seven days a week **LUC supports maintaining the current hours which are consistent with outdoor dining directly adjacent to residential properties.**
- The applicant proposes to amend Condition #5 of SUP 2012-0054 regarding off-premises alcohol sales to conform with current ABC requirements. **LUC is neutral on this condition**
- No additional parking is required
- **The LUC does not support the location of the smokers adjacent to the residence and recommends relocating them to another area of the property. The commercial use of the smokers should meet the same criteria for commercial kitchen exhaust.**
- **NRG to provide staff liaison contact # to the adjacent neighbors to resolve issues with delivery trucks**

**Discussion**

- Michael Babin, Owner / Applicant : Statement
  - Living in Del Ray for over 25 years, Evening star in location for 25 years
  - Current concept of Hi Fi seems to have the biggest support from the neighborhood over all of the things they have done from the past years
  - Believe they can address the neighbors concerns
  - Believe they can control the sound of live music to not be louder than the music currently allowed through speaker system
  - Plan to move the smoker to get the smoke up 15' higher, they expect it to mitigate the problem
    - Experimented with fan to direct and disperse the smoke
    - Agree to work continuously with neighbors until it works
    - Look into buying a smoke meter to check safety levels
    - Longer flue and fan
  - Live Music: Instead of band bringing and plugging in amps, the bands instruments are plugged into the House Speaker and controlled by NRG staff with clear guidance to stay within city noise ordinance
- Carol Black: Question
  - Is the LUC process support, do not support, or oppose?

# DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes

## Virtual via Zoom

### September 13, 2023



- Answer (Kristine Hesse): Typically LUC says support or do not support and provides suggested conditions.
- Amy Anda: Comment
  - Support Hi-Fi concept, husband is chef at Hi - fi, neighborhood residents that live and work here
    - The Babins have a history of working with the neighbors and she believes they will come to a positive conclusion.
- Gayle Reuter : Comment
  - Also lives adjacent to restaurants, trucks block her driveway too, but when she bought the house she knew there would be challenges. Living adjacent to the Ave. you have to expect those things. Smoke is a concern, but they will work with you.
- Ariel Hendrix: Comment
  - Live at 112 E. Howell (directly next door to Hi-Fi)
  - Have lived here 5 years, new members of DRCA
  - Support Evening Star and want them to be successful
  - Believe Stephanie and Michael that they want to work with them
  - Smoker is inhibiting daily life as next door neighbor
    - Can't sit on front porch, no backyard, can't open windows
    - Relocate or discontinue use of smoker
    - Inadequate space for deliveries
    - Don't have a problem with live outdoor music until 10pm
- Michael Babin: Response to Ariel's comment
  - Possibly move delivery behind Bon Vivant building
- Lynne Benedict 8:04 PM:Comment in Zoom chat
  - Will the temporary trailer be refrigerated? As one of the neighbors in the residence directly next door to the Evening Star, we found the previous refrigerated truck parked on the property to be disruptive to sleep. This was reported to the Owner.
- Gayle 8:09 PM: Comment in Zoom chat
  - Can I make (a) motion to amend the recommendations to allow the live music.
- Amy Anda 8:10 PM : Comment in Zoom chat
  - I second the motion to amend to allow live music
- Jonathan Greif: Comment
  - Recent Del Ray resident, moved from DC in October, in support of NRG and live music.
- Jim Wallace: Comment
  - Speaking as a citizen, not DRCA Treasurer.
  - Owner of blue house adjacent to Evening Star - rented out to tenants
  - Hi-Fi is 15' away from bedrooms

**DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
**September 13, 2023**



- No parking lot separating, makes a difference how it impacts residents
- Concerned about music: complaints from tenants about live music recently
  
- Bonnie Naugle: Question
  - Why the proposal for earlier opening time and can delivery space be reserved in front of the building like it is for other restaurants. Is there an opportunity for partial open times on different days of the week?
  
- Rod Kuckro 8:12 PM : Question in Zoom chat
  - Why not move the smoker to where the front porch is?
  
- Michael Babin: Response to Rod's comment:
  - The current location of the smoker allows for cooking food directly outside of the Evening Star kitchen, this helps staff to run a tighter ship for cleanliness.
  - The Health Department reviewed the set up and was pleased with the current layout.
  - Also, seats are precious along the Avenue.
  
- Leanna S 8:15 PM : Question in Zoom chat
  - My question would be how the proposal for live music with the limitations described would be codified so as to not open a wider gate for others to go through? It's an owners' specific description of how they would limit it, but there's no way to detail it to that level in the SUP, is there?
  
- Kristine Hesse: Response to Leanna's Question
  - yes, that makes a lot of sense, and was part of the reasons LUC was suggesting not to approve the music portion
  - Concerns about setting a precedent along the Avenue that will be hard to enforce
  
- Varun Gopinath: Comment
  - Direct neighbor of Hi-Fi
  - I love small businesses and Evening Star. Dad of a 4 month old and a physician with a public health background.
  - Link from EPA - direct link between childhood asthma and smoke. Fan and length of chimney is not removing the particulate matter.  
<https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/wood-smoke-and-your-health>
  - Okay with limited music, supports business otherwise.
  - Need to quantify what the pollutants are. How much is being released, test the wood itself. Everyone around the area is being exposed, including the patrons of the restaurant, not just neighbors.
  - This smoke would be considered a nuisance - barred on a State and Federal level.

**Proposed Amendment Spoken**

- 8:31 Gayle Reuter: Amendment to Live Music
  - To support outdoor live music or entertainment with the understanding that it would be controlled by the Evening Star and not the individual entertainment.

# DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes

## Virtual via Zoom

### September 13, 2023



- Seconded by Bonnie Naugle:

#### Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Live Music

- Leslie Klein: Comment
  - Live's adjacent to Hops N Shine
  - Love the concept at Hi-Fi, don't want to set a precedent for live entertainment throughout the neighborhood. Slippery slope, trivia night is under live entertainment, hearing it through the neighborhood is disruptive.
- Lisa Quandt: Friendly Amendment Proposed
  - Limit live outdoor entertainment to only Saturday Night
- Gayle Reuter: Friendly Amendment Rejected
- Elena Hutchison: Comment
  - Lives within a block of the Avenue. Noise disturbances heard by neighbors often are not in violation of the noise ordinance. Concern about precedent along the avenue.
- Michael Babin: Comment
  - Two schools of rock within the neighborhood, thought it would be a nice thing to support local musicians

#### Vote Called on Proposed Amendment to Live Music

- 8:40 voted on Amendment to Live Music:
  - **The DRCA supports live music and entertainment that is controlled by Evening Star staff and not the individual entertainers.**
- 69% (preliminary figure) voted to approve Amendment

#### Proposed Amendment Spoken

- Amy Anda: Amendment to Smoker
  - Remove recommendation on the smoker, have not had enough information. Move for DRCA to remove current language. DRCA unable to make an assessment on smoker location or impact and requests more data from the City and Applicant.
  - Suggested Language: The DRCA recommends that the smoker location and impact on the neighborhood be further assessed and mitigation measures identified by the applicant.
- Seconded by: James Micelli

#### Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Smoker

- Kristine Hesse: Comment
  - The smoker is in violation of City code, LUC felt strongly that the location is a hazard to

**DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
**September 13, 2023**



- the residents.
- The city issue is with outdoor cooking. Attorney believes the staff is overstating the issue.
- Carol Black: Comment
  - If there is an issue against the law that is an issue.
- Katie Waynick, President: Comment
  - Attempt to craft language for the Amendment, “Regarding the ongoing question regarding city policy, the DRCA...”
- Elena Hutchison, CIO: Comment
  - It is the responsibility of the person making the Amendment to craft the language

**Vote Called on Proposed Amendment to Live Smoker**

- Proposed Amendment failed

**Vote Called on LUC Motion Regarding SUP fo Hi-Fi**

- Original Luc motion plus amendment to Live Music section
- Voted on by Membership via Google Form

**Motion passed**

**8:05pm: Announcements**

- Jill Ray: [Alexandria Film Festival](#)
  - 501c3 headquartered in Del Ray
  - 17th year, Nov 10-12 Veterans day.
  - Free and ticketed options. Over 50 films spanning all genres. Beatley Library, AMC Hoffman,
  - Free movies for service members
  - Volunteers Needed
    - High schoolers can volunteer
    - Need box office assistants, ushers
    - 2-3 hour blocks
    - Receive a festival t-shirt and can attend films
  - Interested volunteers email: [jandjray5@gmail.com](mailto:jandjray5@gmail.com)
- Lisa Quandt: Del Ray House and Garden Tour
  - 2024 HG Tour Planning Committee has been established
  - In the process of house selection
  - Please email the committee with houses you would like to nominate to be on the tour: [Delrayhousetour@delraycitizen.net](mailto:Delrayhousetour@delraycitizen.net)
- Kristine Hesse: LUC Update on Zoning for Housing / Housing for All



**DRCA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
**September 13, 2023**



- LUC met and divided up the proposals for zoning for housing
  - Next meeting will be Sept. 26th with draft motions
  - A lot of stuff is up in the air
  - First community meeting for comments is tomorrow night
  - Go to cities website, virtual meeting or attend in person at Beatley
  - Special meeting later in October
- 
- Membership renewals are this month
    - Membership drive this year, please invite neighbors to come to the meetings
- 
- Gayler Reuter: Announcements
    - Bands and brews donated \$12,000 to Friends of Duncan Library. They need to raise \$40,000 for their budget.
    - Art on the Ave: Oct. 7th, 4 stages, 350 vendors. DRCA sponsor.
      - Sponsor a barricade or port-a-potty let Gayle know
    - Oct 5: Star wars themed first Thursday
    - Oct 29: Halloween parade: strollers, house, dogs contest

**9:21pm: Meeting adjourn**