

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

7:03 pm: DRCA Board Introduction and Welcome by President Katie Waynick

Contact the DRCA Executive Board: execboard@DelRayCitizen.net

[Del Ray Citizens Association](#)

- President: Katie Waynick president@delraycitizen.net
- Vice President: James Miceli vp@delraycitizen.net
- Membership Chair: Elizabeth Reyna membership@delraycitizen.net
- Activities Director: Rachel Lazarus drca_activities_director@delraycitizen.net
- Treasurer: Jim Wallace treasurer@delraycitizen.net
- Secretary: Lisa Quandt secretary@delraycitizen.net
- Chief Information Officer: Elena Hutchison admin@delraycitizen.net
- Immediate Past President: Tim Laderach pastpresident@delraycitizen.net

7:05 pm: Crime/Traffic report from Captain Dennis Andreas

Contact Captain Andreas: dennis.andreas@alexandriava.gov 703.746.6872

[Alexandria Police Department](#)

- Citywide
 - Crime up Citywide, but down in Del Ray overall
 - Larceny
 - Stolen autos
 - Potomac Yard: Mainline Boulevard - sexual assault, suspect is in custody in another jurisdiction for an unrelated crime, paperwork to close loop on that
- Del Ray specific from the time of the last DRCA meeting
 - 12 offenses this year 9 larcenies, 3 burglaries (linked - all on East Custis, arrest made)
 - 22 offenses this time last year
 - Also made arrests on larcenies from shoplifting at Walgreens on Mts. Vernon
 - CVS on Route 1; 2 arrests made
- Spring Citizens Academy coming soon
 - Deadline Feb 16th
 - 9-10 weeks behind the scenes with the police department, Wednesday nights
- Chief Hayes required last week after 42 years with the City, interim Chief Padroso during nationwide search
- Questions:
 - Was the assault on Mainline random?
 - Answer: Doesn't seem to be any connection that we can tell, seems random.

7:10 pm: Sheriff's office report from Sheriff Sean Casey - given by Katie Waynick

Contact Sheriff Casey: sean.casey@alexandriava.gov

[Alexandria Sheriff's Office](#)

- Sheriff Casey not available tonight

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- [Community Academy](#) - 4 weeks, takes place on Saturday mornings
- The Sheriff's office manages the jail, secures the courthouse, serves warrants and civil process in the City of Alexandria, helps the police department when called upon.

7:11pm: Proposed Bylaw Changes

Standing Rules Change - Refund Policy: Elizabeth Reyna, Membership Director

Motion from the Executive Board

- Standing Rule #6: Membership dues are non-refundable once a new member becomes entitled to vote.

Discussion

- Request received about refunding membership fees - we had not had this happen before
- Recently new member
- We do not have a refund policy
- Would like to add a policy in the standing rules - by second meeting members are eligible to vote, once a member becomes eligible to vote, dues are no longer refundable
- This is a standing rule which is different than a bylaw

Vote Called on Refund Policy

Motion passed with 100% yes votes

Historical Committee Update and Bylaw Change: Lisa Quandt, Secretary

Join the Historical Committee: [please sign up here](#).

- The Historical Committee is one of the standing committees outlined in our bylaws
- Has been somewhat inactive over the past few years, trying to re engage interest
- First meeting will be held in early March
- Discuss History of Del Ray and the Town of Potomac
- Work with the Town of Potomac Historical Association for review and distribution of the Town of Potomac Residential Plaques
- Help educate neighbors and developers about the Del Ray Residential Pattern Book
- Survey residents to gain an understanding of the desire for the potential creation of a protection zone for contributing structures located in the Town of Potomac
- Report findings to Executive Board and DRCA members

Motion from the Executive Board

- Section 6.07 ~~Historic~~ **Historical** Committee (~~also known as the Town of Potomac Historical Association~~): The duties of the ~~Historic~~ **Historical** Committee shall be as follows:
 - to oversee the historical activities related to the Town of Potomac Historic District;

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- *to administer the Town of Potomac Historic District plaque program according to established and published procedures; and,*
- *to serve as the liaison between the Del Ray Citizens Association and other historical organizations, including but not limited to the **Town of Potomac Historical Association**, Alexandria Historical Society, the Office of Historic Alexandria, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.*

Discussion

- Kristine: What if the historic district gets expanded, do we need to revisit referencing the district or will we need to vote again?
- Carol Black: Establishing a new district will take so long we should just vote on this now
- 100% yes with a quorum

Vote Called on Bylaw Change

Motion passed with 100% yes votes with a Quorum

7:26pm: Land Use Committee Update from Kristine Hesse, co-chair

Contact the LUC Committee: drca-land-use@delraycitizen.net

Junction Bakery SUP #2023-0107

- Asking to expand FAR from 0.5 to 0.75
- Want to create a porch within the parking lot on the North side of the building
- Already have outdoor seating in this area
- Add a roof with ceiling fans
- Patio increases building area by 720 square feet, an excess of 341 SF over what is allowed by the zoning ordinance
- Currently doing interior renovations not part of the SUP
 - New side entrance to patio from inside to outside
- 32 seats on patio side with 8 seats on front sidewalk
- Parking requirements: 7 , 8 spaces available after renovations
- Hours of operation: 7am - 8pm for outdoor, LUC suggested requesting to 10pm to be consistent with other restaurants
- Indoor hours are not changing
- The covered patio would be allowed to be enclosed based on the area being included in the FAR of the SUP
- LUC Asked for installation of bike racks
- Putting a roof over it requires it to be considered FAR and increase the area

Motion from the LUC

- The Del Ray Citizens Association (DRCA) supports the extension of the FAR as requested in the SUP. We recommend installation of bike racks along the northeast corner of the building. We recommend the mural be preserved and / or replaced/ expanded if affected by the new opening to the patio.

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Discussion

- Does this impact delivery truck space?
 - The space being removed is closer to the rear of the building, the currently approved delivery area is not being changed
- Can they lease spaces at Walgreens
 - They don't need additional parking spaces per their SUP. They have 1 more than required.
- Sarah Pearlstein: Can we request striping the parking lot to show safe pedestrian access in the parking lot to the door - something that looks like a crosswalk to safely go from parking spot to enclosure / sidewalk.

Vote Called on Junction SUP

Motion Passed

404 A East Alexandria

- Alicia Montgomery: 404 A East Alexandria is coming up again on the City Council docket
 - Concerns about additional engagement with neighbors beyond just LUC meeting
 - Hotly debated at Planning Commission, but moved to City Council by 5:4 vote
 - Deferred because of a mis filing of documents
 - Request if possible neighbors who are against this project please come and speak
 - Request a DRCA representative talk at the meeting
- Kristine: If available I will go and talk at the meeting
- Brett Rice: Was the letter from DRCA included in the material that went to the Planning Commission and City Council?
 - Kristine: Yes, it was included, I checked.

7:47pm: Traffic Calming Committee Introduction: Leanna Saler, Sarah Haut co-chairs

Contact the Executive Board: execboard@delraycitizen.net

- Excited about the number of people showing interest
- Please join the committee if you are interested
- First meeting will be next week 7pm next Wednesday via Zoom contact
- Someone from City T&ES will share how City regulations work
- Will the meetings be open to the public?
 - Yes, they will be similar to Land Use Committee - open to public for participation and then closed for committee

7:52pm: Parks Committee Update from Peter Garafalo

Contact the Parks Committee: parks@delraycitizen.net

- Katie: Thank you Peter for hosting a party for all of the park volunteers

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- The money earned from Adopt- a- Park has kept the DRCA running through the pandemic
- Working with the City for 6 months now to make improvements at St. Asaph park
 - Removed all invasive plants
 - Planted 6-7 new trees
 - Working on an MOU agreement to take on watering and maintenance of plants and additional planting - pollinator gardens and restoration of habitats
 - Proposed moveable furniture, but neighbors did not want to do that - like the open space in the middle of the park for kids to use for playing sports
- Adopt a Park clean up will start again in April with call for volunteers
- Question:
 - Is there any update on Mt. Jefferson Park Greenway?
 - Meeting w/ Lucrecia Murphy tomorrow, so please share any additional questions, will follow up with a response.
 - Is the poor drainage at St. Asaph any part of the improvements?
 - No, minimal timeframe and cost, so can't address drainage issues, but we did work with an arborist for trees that would be good in a location with water.

7:59 pm: Arena Committee Update from Katie Waynick, DRCA President

Contact the Executive Board: execboard@delraycitizen.net

- Pull as many areas of expertise together as possible to respond to the Monumental sports arena proposal
- 4 spots for members at large - reserve space for members not already on committee
- Most of the leadership on this new committee is from current committee leaders
- About 20 people on committee now
- 5-6 people tagged as advisors/ consultants for the committee for specific information
- First meeting at the end of February
- Formalize a list of concerns
- List of concerns and how to mitigate concerns
- Watching what is happening in Richmond and staying in touch with City representatives
 - AEDP
 - JBG / Monumental Communications team
- Members in good standing received the DRCA survey - unique links, survey cannot be taken again - want to get a true heartbeat of what our members are feeling right now
 - Reached out to other membership associations: Rosemont, Warwick, Lynhaven and Hume Springs
- Worried about the Authority and the amount of representation that the City of Alexandria has
- Announced Tuesday night that a larger study would be released today regarding funding mechanism, looking forward to reviewing that
- Second session on transportation is happening next week - should have members from the team that did the survey, open for members of the public to answer questions
- Reach out to us directly if you have not received the survey

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8:08 pm: Announcements

Chili Cook Off, February 24th Rachel Lazarus, Activities director

Contact Rachel: drca_activities_director@delraycitizen.net

[DRCA 2024 Chili Cook Off](#)

- Commonwealth Academy gymnasium 5-8 pm
- Compete: <https://delraycitizens.org/chili-cookoff-rules/>
- Raise money for ALIVE!: Every donation has an immediate impact in the lives of people struggling with poverty and hunger in the City of Alexandria. ALIVE! helps 12,000 people each month with food, shelter, emergency help, and other basic needs.
- New judges this year
- Slices of pizza for sale from Jets, donated for the event, Jet Man mascot will be in attendance
- Chili sampling
- Band: The Derds
- [Tickets on sale](#)
- [Need some more volunteers](#)
- Port City Beer
- More food will be added this year
- 50/50 raffle - pre buy online or at the event
- Proceeds will go to Alive food pantry on Mount Vernon Ave
- [T-shirt for sale](#)
- Over the top trophies this year

Del Ray House and Garden Tour, May 11 Lisa Quandt, House and Garden Tour Co-Chair

Contact the House & Garden Tour Co-Chairs: DelRayHouseTour@delraycitizen.net

[Del Ray House & Garden Tour](#)

- 2024 Del Ray House & Garden Tour will occur on May 11 from 11am - 5pm
- Tickets will be on sale at the end of February
- Look for articles in Greet Del Ray over the next few months
- There will be a call for volunteers

DRBA Gayler Reuter, Liaison

- Thank you for voting for Heart of Del Ray - double the amount of votes from last year
 - Friends of Duncan Library
 - The Dog Store
- April 14th: Del Ray Dogfest
- First Thursdays start in April

8:19pm: Meeting adjourn