

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

7:02 pm: DRCA Board Introduction and Welcome by Vice President James Miceli

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

7:03 pm: Crime/Traffic report from Captain Dennis Andreas

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

[Alexandria Police Department](#)

- Citywide
 - Increase city wide, stolen auto, larceny, burglaries
- Del Ray specific from the time of the last DRCA meeting
 - Del Ray overall is down, but some small increases in burglary and stolen auto. Much lower larceny rate compare to last year
 - 16 part 1 cases (7 shoplifting at CVS, 3 stolen autos, 1 burglary) - some related at Caliber collision - stole auto, crashed into caliber collision, stole another one
 - Stolen vehicle at N. Cliff
 - All recovered vehicles
 - Unclear if the caliber one was targeted
- Traffic
 - Seeing some increased enforcement compared to last year, especially at new Commonwealth stop signs at Windsor and in that corridor
- Questions:
 - Gayle: Assault at Commonwealth and Mt. Vernon?
 - Answer: Still open, doing some interviews and investigations
 - Gayle: Good news about the assault at Bob and Edith's Diner

7:07 pm: Sheriff's office report from Sheriff Sean Casey - given by Quentin Wade

Contact Sheriff Casey: sean.casey@alexandriava.gov

[Alexandria Sheriff's Office](#)

- Sheriff Casey not available tonight
- 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.
- 2 promotions last month

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

- 1 to Captain, 1 to Lieutenant
- Sheriff's outreach events at Elementary schools in February/March
- [Community Academy](#) - 4 weeks, takes place on Saturday mornings starting next month
- Be on the lookout for scammers - posing as Deputy Lewis (who is a real deputy, but she isn't calling)
 - If you get a call from the Sheriff, they will NOT ask you to pay anything. Can call the Sheriff's office if you have concerns

7:13pm: Hopkins House, presentation by J. Glenn Hopkins

President / Chief Executive Officer

[Hopkins House Website](#)

- Non-profit organization
- Founded in 1939
- Mr. Hopkins joined the staff in 1991. He is the seventh and longest-serving chief executive of Hopkins House. He has a master's degree from Columbia University in the City of New York. He has over 35 years of senior-level management experience. He is a resident of Fairfax County, Virginia.
- Federal Funding was cut across the Nation because of the impending War
 - Child care services were cut and there was no option left for African American mothers that needed to work
 - 7 teachers created Hopkins house to help women, particularly African American women, work while sending their children
- Hopkins House - Dr. Jonathan Milton Hopkins
 - Lifelong Alexandrian
 - Only doctor who provided African Americans in Alexandria with all healthcare including care for pregnant women
 - Teachers started the organization and felt that Dr. Hopkins was worthy of the name
- Started as a nursery, but then became a Settlement House - location for people to go to get help when migrating across the country, food, job, help
- 50s and 60s, Hopkins House would provide assistance with medications with local pharmacies, short-term jobs, groceries
- Graduates of Hopkins House
 - Bill Euille
 - Earl Lloyd - first African American to play in the NBA
 - Hellen Day - teacher
- Many politicians have visited Hopkins House as guests
- 91-94 decided that as a non-profit organization they could no longer afford all of the things they were doing were not able to be continued - give back some programs
 - AIDS program
 - Elderly
 - Lunch Bags
- Core functions of Hopkins House
 - Preschool
 - Early Childhood Learning Institute

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

- Help people with lower resources break through the cycle of poverty
- College credits
- Job creation
- Advocacy Work
 - Gendered pay equity - specifically school teachers
 - First nonprofit with integrated board of directors
 - Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s
 - NAACP
 - Urban League
 - School Integration
 - Changing the name of TC Williams to Alexandria City High School
- Preschool Academy -2
 - Nationally accredited (only 7% in the whole country)
 - Virginia Quality rated
 - Helen Day Preschool Academy near Braddock Metro
 - James L. & Juliette McNeil Preschool Academy North of Ft. Belvoir for Military
 - 6 weeks - 5 years old, harkens back to original mission as a nursery
- Samuel Madden Homes - public housing
 - Redeveloped into mixed income housing over the next few years
 - 1300 SF facility for Hopkins House - new preschool and workforce development housing
 - Higher paying careers in early childhood education
- Volunteer opportunities
 - Volunteers Readers Club - read with children
 - Budget Committee
 - Manage resources, investments and endowments
 - Scholarship / Resources Committee
 - Honor staff through recognition with awards and gifts
 - Preschool Scholarships for low income families who cannot afford childcare (costs over \$20,000 / year / child)
 - College scholarships - STEM major for person who has gone through Hopkins House
 - Scholarships for student in MD / VA who has been impacted by violence - provide financial help
 - Programs and Assessments Committee
 - Public Policy and Advocacy
 - Federal, State and Local
 - Affordable Housing
 - Early Childhood
 - Access to healthcare
- HopkinsHouse.org
- Non-profit, gifts will be used effectively
- Board member running for City Council

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

7:30pm: Parks Update , by Beth Znidersic and Jack Browand, Deputy Director City of Alexandria Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (RPCA)

Contact Jack Browand: Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov

Contact Beth Znidersic: Bethany.Znidersic@alexandriava.gov

[Park Planning Website](#)

- Mt. Jefferson Park
 - Started as part of Oakville Triangle Development
 - Commonwealth to rt. 1
 - Developer of Oakville triangle is helping the City to complete part of the Park
 - Most of the park opened last year
 - Dog park still closed due to drainage problems - engineering solution has been identified and Stonebridge is working on a construction schedule including landscaping - including grass
- Simpson Dog Park
 - Design process
 - Contractor issues - working to get resolved
 - Substantial completion of the end of March
 - Plan completed per the plan - City comes in and checks for final work to be completed and then can open to the public
 - Met today to discuss some safety issues
 - Hoping to have park open in April
 - Lights have been going up slowly
 - Plumbing work happening
 - Fencing and gates are going in
 - Renovation of full Simpson is far into design process
 - Had to take a tree (by concessions stand) down early because it was suffering structural damages
- Del Ray Gateway Project
 - In the works for a while - Phased project
 - Nancy Dunning Garden
 - Improvements done on Northern part
 - Now working on Colasanto spray park
 - Design phase concluded
 - Out for bid
 - Receiving a lot of interest and questions
 - Bid opening date pushed back to end of March so contractors can refine their bids
 - After bid opening, vet contractors
 - Start construction late spring / early summer: 6-9 months of construction
- Questions:

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

- Kristine Hesse: Regular user of the Greenway, a lot of dead small trees, brush and a vandalized sign, what is the timeline for the rest of the park being cleaned up? Seems like part of the problem was that the installed plants were not watered.
 - Bethany: Plants from raymond to rt. 1 are part of what the developer planted, those are under warranty. City is doing punch list checks. Landscape review usually occurs in April so things have a chance to leaf out. Full assessment done at this time. Will make a full replacement list for the developer's contractor to replace everything under warranty. Best time to replant is in the spring.
 - Jack: Developer is required to do installation, City does not have much control over establishment period. It is more cost effective for the developer to see what happens and then replace rather than spend a lot of time caring for the plants during the warranty period. Please use 311 to report vandalism or other things that you notice in the Park to help Staff know what needs to be done.
- Bea and Barb: Mount Jefferson Greenway - A lot of debris was collected in fall and left them on the side of the trail - can those be picked up? Number of evergreen trees where the tops are alive and the lower branches are dead - some have been trimmed in a way that protrude onto the walkway.
 - Jack: It sounds like I have a park to inspect. Overhanging branches should be cleared to a safe distance. Some invasive removals that were placed on hold because of volunteer projects were organized in advance. Not sure if any of those were involved in this park. Still a mix of who is responsible for what, the City does the work for the trail.
- Carol Black:
 - Trail behind GW middle school - Main Line Blvd- some trees have tall suckers and low branches that could hurt a child in a stroller. I have had mixed results with using 311, some of it gets lost in translation. No one from the arborists office has called back.
 - Jack: Include pictures with your 311 submission, urban forestry team will be getting devices they can use in the field
 - New urban forest manager
- Gayle Reuter: Partnership for the spray park was started in 2018, big fundraiser to raise money. Excited to see the spray park open.
- Kristine Hesse:
 - We were instrumental in getting Kettle Park developed - see some dead trees over there, can you please put that on your list to check on?
 - A property on East Alexandria that had an SUP request is next to the City Right of way, Parks Department considers that open space. At the City Council meeting last night Mayor Wilson mentioned vacating the property. Maybe the Parks department can purchase the property.
 - Jack: Multiple residents have asked to vacate it, Parks department considers it open space and will be keeping our eye on it.
 - What can DRCA do to help?
 - Beth: process in the City - residents can recommend that the City investigate a parcel or right of way to investigate for purchase as open

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

space. This wouldn't need to be purchased, but could start the process. I can provide additional information.

- Catharine Rice: Is open space the same as a park?
 - Jack: zoned as right of way, calling it a park is a stretch. Not zoned as a park. Could be a pocket park. There is also an alley that runs on the other side of the property.
- Lisa Quandt: Can you discuss the new park located behind the Dominion substation, Nelson Ave and Potomac yard - what are the plans for it?
 - Beth: Small triangle of land that used to be owned by Dominion and is part of their DSUP - dedicated land to the City. Just a grassy open area right now. There was a pocket park process, not currently funded in capital improvement. Design process with the community based on the 2020 plan.

8:05 Vote on Budget: Lisa Quandt, House and Garden Tour chair

Motion from the Executive Board

- Adjust 2023 / 24 membership year budget to accommodate \$3,000 for the 2024 Del Ray House and Garden Tour.

Discussion

- The Del Ray House and Garden Tour has been on hiatus since spring of 2018 due to the pandemic.
- The House and Garden Tour is a biennial event put on by the Del Ray Citizens Association, and serves as the largest fundraiser for the Association.
- At the beginning of this DRCA membership year, a planning committee for the 2024 House and Garden Tour had not yet been established. It was determined at the time of voting on the DRCA budget that a line item for the 2024 House and Garden Tour would not be included without a planning committee.
- Committee has been formed, and plans are underway for the 2024 Tour to be held on May 11th.
- The money being requested will go towards the upfront costs of the tour, but will be fully covered by sponsorships and ticket sales.
- The requested budget for the 2024 Del Ray House and Garden Tour is \$3,000. This amount has already been secured by online ticket sales and sponsorships.

Vote Called on Budget Amendment

Motion passed with 100% yes votes

8:10pm: Traffic Calming Committee Introduction: Sarah Haut co-chairs

Contact the Executive Board: execboard@delraycitizen.net

- First meeting last night
- Sheryl Magraw to explain the departments of the city and how we can interact with them

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

- Next meeting will be March 20th
- Request for crosswalk at Luray and Leslie Ave and wheelchair ramp to go in front of the Traffic and Parking Board meeting on March 27th
- Might be discussing Glebe / Montrose and Ashby
- Question:
 - Kristine Hesse: suggestions for signage improvements, should we send them through this group
 - Sarah: can put a ticket through ALX311 - most efficient way to do it
 - Amy Anda: Lynnhaven is also tracking the Glebe / Montrose and Ashby - are you talking to other area Civic Associations? Happy to help with connections to other Associations. I'm the president of Warwick Village Association
 - Sarah: Not yet, this specific one is not on the agenda yet. May not be implemented until 2026

8:16pm: Land Use Committee Update from Kristine Hesse, co-chair

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

- 404A East Alexandria had public hearing last night in front of City Council- long 2 hour meeting
 - City Council voted to deny the SUP
 - Lack of street frontage was the concern, does not meet standard development patterns in the neighborhood
 - We need to keep pushing the City to maintain the character - staff is seeming to overlook the character of Del Ray and compliance with development requirements
- New subdivision request on May docket, we will review at the next LUC meeting at the end of April

8:19pm: Parks Committee Update from Peter Garafalo

Contact the Parks Committee: parks@delraycitizen.net

- AdoptaPark
 - April - November as usual.
 - contracts from the city are pending.
 - Don't anticipate any changes.
- St. Asaph
 - Revised MOU for St. Asaph also pending from the city. We have 5 new trees in the park with one more coming. We verbally agreed to have volunteers take care of watering for the time being since the city isn't paying for it at present.
 - Group of neighbors signed up for that effort.
- Charles Hill Park
 - DRCA can pay for a table and chairs in Charles Hill. Cost is between \$2800-\$3800. We need to have an agreement with them.
 - Parks Committee will submit a request to the board once it is known exactly what they need from us

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

8:20 pm: Arena Committee Update from Elena Hutchison, DRCA CIO

Contact the Executive Board: execboard@delraycitizen.net

- Survey - Created by DRCA, shared with other local Civic Associations
 - Didn't want a gamable survey that could be stuffed
 - Designed a survey using one time use links to known list of Association members
 - DRCA used primary and secondary email addresses
 - 40%+ response rate, very high quality response
 - This is a survey of association members, not everyone that lives in the neighborhood
 - Awareness is high
 - Across Civic Associations about 2:1 oppose the project
 - Ranked concerns and opportunities
 - Traffic / parking / finance
 - Diversify tax base / amenities
 - Shared with elected officials
 - Media interested in process
 - Broken out DRCA specific data and all data
- First meeting of the committee last month
 - Next meeting Monday March 18th
 - Formalizing a list of concerns - if this does come to fruition, DRCA wants to be at the table during the discussions and we will be ready to respond once on the City dockets
 - Monumental sounds like they are trying to move forward
- Katie Waynick, DRCA President has attended two meetings, both for presidents of area associations. One was hosted by JBG/Monumental and the other was hosted by City staff and AEDP. Both were some of the most productive interactions thus far. Traffic was a large conversation topic at both but many of the other concerns were also discussed. The City is working to set up additional meetings and all parties have volunteered to come speak with us at a point in the near future.
- Questions:
 - Carol Black: Fact based question - is anyone in the Association who knows if the Governor could put this on the agenda. Could either house override something that he did.
 - Elena: Governor can come back with his amendments in mid April. Can't do that over the House and Senate, or he could call a special session.
 - James: I believe it is a simple majority vote.

8:27 Historical Committee Update: Lisa Quandt, Secretary

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

Contact the Executive Board: execboard@delraycitizen.net

- Trying to get people back involved in the committee after a non-active period
- Had first meeting two weeks ago for interested members
- Second meeting will be Thursday March 14th

Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

- Education and advocacy for Del Ray
 - Determine process for establishing Historic District in Del Ray
 - Educate residents and developers

Work with the City

8:30 pm: Announcements

Rachel Lazarus, Activities director

Contact Rachel: drca_activities_director@delraycitizen.net

DRCA 2024 Chili Cook Off

- Raised \$4,000 for ALIVE at the Chili Cook Off

Del Ray Gardenfest

- Gardenfest moved to Colasanto baseball field April 21, noon - 4pm
- Special Event permit
- 36 booths this year
- Giveaway plants, seeds
- Interactive demonstrations
- City presenting environmental excellence awards
- Hoping to have a stage
- Presenting Sponsor is still up for grabs

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

- Call for volunteers will be coming out soon
 - Get a free ticket to the event for volunteering time in one of the homes on the day of the tour
- Homes will be open from 11am - 5pm
- DRCA members can receive a \$5 discount off the standard ticket price (does not include day of ticket sales) use the code "DRCA-MEMBER" when purchasing tickets online through Eventbrite
- Tickets will be \$45, compared to other local Home and Garden shows and this is still below their costs

DRBA Gayler Reuter, Liaison

- Asking Jet Man to race in the mascot race during the Del Ray / Old Town game on May 23
- Vintage Flea Market is this Saturday
- April 4th First Thursday will have a gardening theme
- Del Ray Dog Fest: April 14th, behind GW middle school 10am - 3pm
 - Yappy Hour at the beer garden

Del Ray Citizens Association
Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - 7:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

8:38pm: Meeting adjourn