

## **Del Ray Citizens Association Membership Meeting Minutes**

March 12, 2025 7:00PM

Virtual via Zoom

### **DRCA Board Introduction and Welcome by President Katie Waynick**

Contact the DRCA Executive Board: [execboard@DelRayCitizen.net](mailto:execboard@DelRayCitizen.net)  
[Del Ray Citizens Association](#)

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|--|--|
| ● President: Tim Laderach                  | <a href="mailto:president@delraycitizen.net">president@delraycitizen.net</a>                               |
| ● Vice President: Elena Hutchison          | <a href="mailto:vp@delraycitizen.net">vp@delraycitizen.net</a>   |
| ● Membership Chair: Elizabeth Reyna        | <a href="mailto:membership@delraycitizen.net">membership@delraycitizen.net</a>                             |
| ● Activities Director: Rachel Lazarus      | <a href="mailto:drca_activities_director@delraycitizen.net">drca_activities_director@delraycitizen.net</a> |
| ● Treasurer: Lisa Quandt                   | <a href="mailto:treasurer@delraycitizen.net">treasurer@delraycitizen.net</a>                               |
| ● Secretary: James Miceli                  | <a href="mailto:secretary@delraycitizen.net">secretary@delraycitizen.net</a>                               |
| ● Chief Information Officer: Caitlin Leach | <a href="mailto:admin@delraycitizen.net">admin@delraycitizen.net</a>                                       |
| ● Immediate Past President: Katie Waynick  | <a href="mailto:pastpresident@delraycitizen.net">pastpresident@delraycitizen.net</a>                       |

### **Crime/Traffic report from Captain Dennis Andreas**

Contact Captain Andreas: [dennis.andreas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:dennis.andreas@alexandriava.gov) 703.746.6872  
[Alexandria Police Department](#)

Citywide YTD looking good, down double digits in all categories including larceny. In Del Ray, all categories are down this YTD

Since last meeting, 8 offenses in Del Ray:

- 6 larcenies (half of what we had this time last year)
  - 5 larcenies were related to shoplifting - CVS Mt Vernon, Walgreens, CVS Richmond Hwy
  - 1 larceny was credit card theft - USAA caller ID, was not USAA, asked security questions and seemed very legit. Tip: hang up, call number on back of your credit card to restart conversation with your legitimate financial institution; APD working on leads
- 1 Robbery: 711 on 2100 block of Mt Vernon
  - suspect took out hammer and stole cigarettes; it was an armed robbery, APD working on leads
- First stolen vehicle of year
- 10 traffic crashes
  - 4 on MVA corridor - all minor, no reports taken
  - 2 were intersections (Braddock & MVA, E Del Ray & MVA)
  - other 2 were mid-block addresses, speculating parking-related

Q: pedestrian related accident in Arlandria

A: don't have much to share

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Q: TCC working with City on MVA designation, looking at traffic issues - don't want to abuse our requests but can we from time to time request the non-reportable information?

A: Yes, we are happy to share notes from non-reportable calls, but sometimes there isn't much information to share

Q: Accident at Del Ray & MVA - called non-emergency number. Is it good to call even if it looks minor and drivers have exchanged information?

A: Yes, no requirement to do that if folks going to work it out on their own, but yes if you want to call you always can. When in doubt, always give us a call – gives us more data points, facilitate the information exchange, put notes in the record, etc

### **Sheriff's office report from Captain Gilmore**

Contact Sheriff Casey: [sean.casey@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sean.casey@alexandriava.gov)

[Alexandria Sheriff's Office](#)

Community Academy started on the 1st, will have another in the Fall

This week ASO JH talking to the students

Virginia DMV came to the jail yesterday to help 10 inmates obtain state IDs so that they can get back into community and get jobs, etc when they are released

**ASO is seeking exhibitors for a Resource Fair at the Adult Detention Center on April 15. Please contact Reentry Counselor Mustafa Saboor by email ([Mustafa.saboor@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Mustafa.saboor@alexandriava.gov)) or phone at 703.746.5106 if your organization would like to be an exhibitor.**

If you come to ASO front gate area, you can get free gun locks and medication lockers to keep your home safe.

If you have expired medications, please safely dispose at Neighborhood Pharmacy - you can drop off anytime at their dropbox.

### **7:20pm: Updates from the ACPS Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC)**

Jessica Primary representative from MVCS [jwintfeld@gmail.com](mailto:jwintfeld@gmail.com)

Sonia secondary from MVCS [Sonia.M.Herman@gmail.com](mailto:Sonia.M.Herman@gmail.com)


School Board Member Ryan Reyna also joined [ryan.reyna@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:ryan.reyna@acps.k12.va.us)  
[mvcspresident@gmail.com](mailto:mvcspresident@gmail.com)

Process - ACPS redistricted in 2018. Policy to revisit every 5 years, ACPS has been collecting data for last few years

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Shared PDF:  250312\_Redistricting Steering Committee Meeting\_Excerpt.pdf

Guiding principles ACPS using to make decisions

- Equitable utilization
- Prioritize neighborhood schools
- Demographic alignment

Data on where things stand now

- utilization (MVCS at 120%)
- All schools should be between 90-110%
- MVCS over utilization driven by transfers

Maps just released

- Redistricting steering cmte earlier today
- Shared 3 proposals
- None of 3 current proposals impact MVCS boundaries

How you can get involved

- Upcoming community engagement meetings
- 3/18 6-7:30
- 4/22 6-7:30
- ACHS hybrid with zoom option
- Email [ask@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:ask@acps.k12.va.us)

Q: any plans to address MVCS crowding?

A: will also update policies in addition to updating boundaries, transfer into dual language program is parallel up for discussion

Q: any plans for another dual language program?

A: Jessica will take this feedback back to the group, Ryan offered to speak with anyone who'd like to discuss further

Next school board mtg will discuss, upcoming meetings will prioritize policies

Potential for other dual language programs - we are aware of the interest, doing programmatic reviews and considering opening more slots.

Timing - redistricting this spring, policies on another timeline

Q: mtg today - implied that more maps coming out that will impact MVCS?

A: iterative process, 3 maps are not the only ones. RAC and community all engaging. These maps assume the JH conversion but now that city council likely not including in CIP, we have to rethink use of space and additional maps will be coming out. Maybe one with bigger zone for JH to bring it to full utilization including policies

Maybe one that allows for MVCS programmatic transfers but maybe one that does not

Q: in policy discussions, any consideration of Cora Kelly rebuild impacting zoning?

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A: when Cora Kelly and George Mason come back online, there will be a mini relook at boundaries based on more space in new buildings

These maps assume current facilities but do factor in timeline of rebuilds

Also projecting new housing developments

Q: if kids currently opting into MVCS, can they continue?

A: grandfathering - among policies up for consideration by board in upcoming meetings

7:35pm: Special Guests

### **Parks Department**

- Mt Jefferson park updates
- Construction Started in 2020
- Thank you for your patience as we got this online for the community
- Stone bridge developer providing improvements to community
- Dog exercise area
  - Drainage issues longstanding concern
  - Updated drainage plan addressing grading, drains
  - Drains completed 2024
  - January 2025 open
  - Winter use caused damage to turf, now looking at alternatives to turf
  - Maybe woodchips/bonded woodchips
  - Installing ADA compliant gate handles in addition to double gates
  - April/May estimate for double corral gate installation at Raymond Ave
- Landscaping
  - Removing trees of heaven, host plant for invasive lantern flies
  - Volunteers working with invasive plant removals

Q: artificial turf?


A: no, not at this site. Natural alternatives

Q: join invasive plant removal?

A: DRCA parks cmte, City Parks Natural Resources unit

Signage in park for group that is volunteering if you're interested in joining

### **Rebuilding Alexandria**

- DRCA donating to Rebuilding Together this month
- For information to get involved:  Rebuilding Together DC Alx.jpeg

7:50pm: Committee Updates

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Parks - from Amy - Gateway Park is starting construction, October 2025 opening

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway>

The Parks Committee will be looking for volunteers to help with the AdoptaPark program starting in April. Please contact Peter Garafola at [parks@delraycitizen.net](mailto:parks@delraycitizen.net) if you are interested.

Adopt-a-Park runs April through October/November

Parks Cmte meets 1st Wed of the month via Zoom

Q: Mason Ave park?

A: Yes we do

TCC - from Leanna - many accidents along MVA, seem to be increasing

Reportable vs nonreportable

Obtain from APD the history of accidents along MVA to see where issue intersections are

Working with TES to figure out MVA designation/classification to help determine what traffic calming options we have

April 12 at 11am - TCC doing walking audit of Del Ray looking for daylighting issues – email

[tcc\\_chair@delraycitizen.net](mailto:tcc_chair@delraycitizen.net)

Posting signage in partnership with Nova Families for Safe Streets encouraging folks to report problem intersections, issues, etc

Historic - no updates

LUC - meeting 3/25 to review proposal for 2525 MVA

Details in newsletter

Please join if you want to hear more

7:55pm: Announcements

DRBA -

First Thursdays

Dog Fest

DRCA Save the Date:

GardenFest

Sunday April 27

12-4pm

Colasanto Park Baseball Field

(Commonwealth x Mt Vernon)

<https://delrayalx.wixsite.com/gardenfest2025>

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DRCA Board elections in June

Please reach out to exec cmte if you're interested in participating

8:00pm: Adjourn