

## RFCA General Membership Meeting

April 16, 2020

Minutes

(Zoom Meeting rescheduled from March 19, 2020)

### **Introduction**

The March 19, 2020, General Membership Meeting was held via Zoom Call on April 16, 2020 due to the Coronavirus Stay-At-Home Executive Order issued by Governor Northam. Allan Robertson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The minutes from the October 19, 2019, General Membership Meeting were approved. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

### **Business Meeting**

#### **Budget:**

John Ritchie advised that there is a \$186 surplus for this year. The Association's annual Revenue is about \$10K, with Expenses around \$10K. The savings account has about \$50K.

#### **Announcements:**

Board of Directors Slate: May 2020 Elections

All the current officers are candidates for the May elections. No other members on the call volunteered to nominate themselves to be a candidate.

#### Committee Vacancies:

- Editor, *The Farmer*
- Director of Advertising for *The Farmer* and the Directory

Scott mentioned that before the March meeting was cancelled due to the Stay-At-Home order, the committee chairs were going to give a short overview of their committee with the hopes of bringing in more volunteers.

#### By-Law Changes:

There will be two By-Law changes that will be voted upon at the May 19, 2020, General Annual Membership Meeting.

- Change the FY from January – December to October – September to coincide with the membership drive.
- Change the number and dates for the General Membership Meetings from September, November, January, and March to October and March, with the Annual Membership Meeting to be held in May. The January meetings are usually cancelled when the school is closed due to bad weather/snow.

### AUMC Mission Center:

Scott mentioned the AUMC Mission Center was looking for donations of bags of food and/or cash donations for those without food during the Stay-At-Home order. Scott will share the information on Facebook, to include items of food that are needed. He also mentioned that Jose Andres, AMUC's Heritage Campus.

### Feature Presentation:

James Walkinshaw – Braddock District Supervisor

James gave updates on Covid-19, local issues, and the county budget.

- Covid-19:
  - As of April 16, 2020, there were 1300 cases with 30 deaths.
  - The Health Department has its own lab to test.
    - 50-100 tests/day, with 6 hr. turn-around.
    - Many tests are going to facilities such as jails, nursing homes and assisted living locations.
    - Homeless population is high risk.
      - 500-600 have been identified with 200 at high risk.
      - Use of hotel rooms will isolate them.
  - Data
    - Initially, specific information on each case was published; but now since there are so many cases specific information for each case is unmanageable.
    - Currently the data is broken down by age and next week more demographic information, such as zip code, will be available.
    - The county is trying to be as transparent as possible.
  - Macro loans for small businesses, up to 50 employees. Hopefully, the loans will be given out by May 1, 2020.
- Local Issues:
  - Glass Recycling – has been on hiatus since Covid-19. Arrangements have been made to have a collection site at Wakefield Park when recycling resumes.
  - Braddock Nights Concerts – No decision has been made re cancellation.
  - Arts in the Parks for Kids – This new program will be like Braddock Nights Concerts except will be held on Saturday mornings. No decision when/if it will start.
- Trash/Yard Debris Pick-Up: County pick-up has been cancelled; American is picking up, Republican/AAA is not. The county is allowing private companies to cancel if they want. Alternatives are to use yard debris as mulch or compost.
- Lake Accotink:
  - Everything is currently on hold.
  - Dredging process plan is not complete.
  - Pipeline will not be fixed, but soft, plastic, and temporary.
  - Funding will be through Storm Water Fee (no bond).
  - Master Plan will be totally revised, but currently on hold.

- Budget:
  - Proposed budget was released in February but must go back to the drawing board. It was updated on April 7, 2020. Revenue was reduced with a drop in revenue from sales taxes, business licensing, classes at Rec Centers, Golf Courses, SACC, etc.
  - Scaled back hiring through hiring freeze.
  - 2021 Real Estate Tax will remain the same at \$1.15.

Q & A:

Q. Will the budget affect the county's credit rating?

A. Fairfax County's credit rating is AAA which saves the county on interest costs. It has reserve funds of \$7M-\$8M.

Q. What happened with the on-line learning for schools?

A. James was disappointed with the first day of distance learning. It was down the first day, then the whole week. Oversight of Blackboard, the platform, is with the School Board. James feels confident that it will be fixed by next week. We have let people down and must fix it; we need to have a full airing as to what happened. Very disappointing.

Q. Do the those who receive a micro loan have to re-pay it, sign a note.?

A. Yes.

Q. American Disposal cut its service from 2 days a week to one day a week and reduced the rate by 10 %.

A. It is very frustrating. The County is limited by the county code. The market is very opaque. If residents want the county to pick-up its trash, it must petition the neighborhood with 60% agreeing. It will then become a "sanctuary district" in which no other garbage hauler is allowed. All residents will then be required to use the county service, whether they want to or not.

Q. Will the purple glass recycling bins be at Wakefield? Will the other recycling bin be returned?

A. Yes, the glass recycling bin will be at Wakefield when the quarantine is over. The other bin will not be returned. It was being used by construction companies to dump their debris.

Q. The parking lot at the Rec Center is supposed to be closed, but there are cars parked there.

A. James will check it out tomorrow and get back to him.

Q. There is pollution run-off from construction sites running into the creek.

A. James will investigate it tomorrow.

Q. Fairfax County mailer sheet does not mention Social Distancing.

A. Trails are full; Burke Lake Loop, use other trails. Trying to do public education; police are shutting down restaurants that are not complying.

Q. Could you give an overview on the zoning ordinance change?

A. The changes have not been finalized. Basically, trying to clean up documents: modernize and update. For example, there are no zoning regulations for trampoline parks or hookah lounges. Accessory Dwelling Units – a secondary unit in the house currently for ages 55 and older; separate building in the backyard.

Q. Will we get to vote on changes/updates or change the definition of a single detached house?

A. The Board of Supervisors will vote on it. ADU are currently allowed for 55 and older.

**Adjourn:** 8:53PM