

**Springfield Civic Association (SCA)
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 16 January 2018**

SCA President Bruce Waggoner called the meeting to order and led pledge of allegiance at 7:30 pm.

SCA President's Remarks:

Bruce announced that the meeting will focus on SCA hobbies/volunteer opportunities and indicated that all groups present would have an opportunity to speak. He also noted that representatives from the St James Sports Complex, the planned featured speaker, sent their regrets and would not be presenting. Bruce stated we hope to have them at a later date.

Brookfield Park Pump Track Update. Julie Childers, Executive Director, Co-Founder for TYO Youth (TYO), reported the bicycle pump track at Brookfield Park was completed at end of November and a test ride was conducted in December. Trails for Youth is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony in the Spring and plans to invite Supervisor McKay and members of his staff who were instrumental in completing the track's construction. The ribbon cutting will be open to the public and will include instruction on the track's use, helmet fitting and bike fittings. Ms. Childers fielded a few questions and noted that the track is designed for BMX or small bikes. The pump track is open for public use. She also provided some background on Trails for Youth mission and indoor/outdoor activities.

Treasurer Update. Sandy Frieswyk, SCA Treasurer, reported the balance brought forward from the last SCA meeting in September 2016 was \$10,130.72 which included collection of \$40 in dues and expenditures of \$412 bringing balance to \$9,758.66.

Support to Crestwood Teacher. Bruce Waggoner noted the SCA BOD voted unanimously to provide \$250 to support a Crestwood teacher. Principal Tim Kasik provided an update on a Crestwood third grade teacher who was in a serious car accident while visiting her sister in California. The teacher was six months pregnant and the baby was born early in California while her other child remained in Virginia. The SCA donation was given to defray the teacher's unexpected expenses caused by this accident. She and the baby have returned to Virginia. The baby remains at Arlington Hospital Center but is getting stronger. Principal Kasik thanked SCA and Crestwood family for its support to this teacher and her family.

Essex Traffic Calming Update. Jillian Hanright, Essex Ave Traffic Calming Task Force lead, provided on update the initiative. The Essex Traffic Calming Task Force held the required Community Awareness meeting on 5 December with FCDOT, Fire Department, and representatives from Supervisor McKay's staff in attendance. The initiative is in the ballot period which started on 5 January and runs through 26 January. Jillian and other members of the task force continue to visit neighbors in the balloting area. The feedback has generally been positive. Ballots must be mailed to Supervisor McKay's office and a minimum of 62 yes votes are required from the 124 residences in the balloting area. Jillian fielded a few questions from the attendees. One neighbor was concerned that full disclosure of this initiative had not been provided. He also questioned why a stop sign was a not the pursued. Jillian explained that the

stop sign option was preferred and pursued. Unfortunately, this option was disapproved by the County as the area in question did not meet criteria for a stop sign. This same neighbor was concerned that speed humps would negatively impact response times from first responders. Jillian indicated that the Fire Department believes the speed hump will have no measurable impact on response times. The neighbor also voiced concerns regarding potential damage to cars and lowering of property values.

Short-Term Lodgings (STL)/Airbnb. Bruce brought forward the rapidly evolving and complicated topic of STL's that is facing Fairfax County. Bruce stated Fairfax County is rewriting its zoning ordinance noting there are different perspectives on home-based businesses and whether they will enhance or detract property values. STLs like Airbnb are not legal now in Fairfax County, but there is also no enforcement. The Mason District Council approached SCA about partnering against STLs. Arlington County is leading the way on making policy on this issue and there is concern that Fairfax County will follow Arlington County Policy. Bruce encouraged members to get smart on this issue so that SCA can help shape its own destiny. Arlington County currently charges \$63 for Airbnb permit and Fairfax County is considering a permit charge of \$150. Fairfax County does not have staff to enforce current ordinances and permit charges would not cover costs to increase staff to enforce. Bruce intends to participate in various meetings with County Department of Planning and Zoning staff that are examining the STL topic.

Featured Speakers: Hobbies/Volunteer Opportunities

American Legion Post 176: Two representatives from the post spoke about the Legion activities. They noted Post 176 has 1,100 local members and over 1,300 members nationally making it Virginia's largest post. They spoke about various membership categories including veteran membership and the Sons of American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary. The annual cost for membership is \$40 and \$25 for Sons and Ladies Auxiliary. The Legion offers jazzercise classes 5 times a week open to the public. It also offers daily breakfast and lunch open to the public.

Women's Club of Springfield: A representative spoke about the club which meets at Grace Presbyterian Church. The group operates the Pink Elephant Thrift Shop in the Concord Centre. The profits from the shop are used for philanthropic projects. The women's club is linked to the National Women's Club headquartered in Washington, DC that was founded in late 1800s. The Women's Club is responsible for successes in many areas including removing children from factories and requiring seat belts in cars.

Messiah United Methodist Church (MUMC): A representative from MUMC provided information on MUMC Weekend Backpack Program which serves four local elementary schools including Crestwood, Lynbrook, Garfield and Cardinal Forest. The program provides nutritious food to 306 food insecure children every week in the Springfield community. Eighty percent of the recipients of the backpack program are part of the reduced-price lunch program. MUMC provides each child with a gallon-sized Ziploc bag filled with nutritious shelf-stable foods. MUMC partners with the Capitol Food Bank to bulk order food at lower prices. MUMC holds

packing nights at the church on the second Wednesday of each month and volunteers are always welcome to assist. They typically pack 1,000 bags in 1.5 hours. MUMC works with school counselors to identify children in need. MUMC delivers bags to the schools based on number provided by counselors and the school counselors then deliver the bags to the children.

Friends of Richard Byrd Library: The President of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library provided information on the group's mission and two annual book sales (June and December). The book sales underwrite programs of general interest to the community including children's Reading Buddies programs, Summer Reading Program, STEM programs like Einstein fellows, and craft programs. The group will hold its annual meeting in April. The Library accepts donations of books in good condition for its twice annual sales. They provide receipts for donations for tax purposes. They cannot accept magazines, VHS or cassette tapes. Books not sold at the sales are recycled by donating to jails or to Velocity of Books non-profit organization. Membership for Friends of Richard Byrd Library is \$10 annually for individuals and \$20 for families. Friends of Richard Byrd is looking for a volunteer to assist with Amazon sales.

First Baptist Church: A representative from First Baptist Church Springfield spoke of its work to assist Crestwood Elementary School. She spoke of the food pantry, the church's Family Resource Center which provides assistance to single mothers to include nutritional programs. The church has a program to donate funds to help pay for lunches of Lee High School students. The church sponsor's women's exercise classes. It also hosts Hispanic and Ethiopian congregations.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church: A representative of St. Christopher's provided information on the church's various outreach programs including its hypothermia prevention initiative in which the church hosts homeless guests for one week in January providing three meals daily. The church also hosts an outreach vegetable garden on its property which produced over 200 pounds of vegetables which were provided to ECHO this past year. The church also has a school physicals program and collects supplies and backpacks for children getting school physicals. The church supports an ECHO toy drive in December in which parishioners donate toys to ECHO to allow their clients to "shop" for Christmas.

Springfield United Methodist Church (SUMC): A representative from SUMC Outreach Committee provided information on upcoming activities including monthly soup kitchen and Family Movie night open to the public on 16 February.

Grace Presbyterian Church: The Associate Pastor from Grace Presbyterian Church spoke about the church's ministries. She noted the church is used as a location for community meetings. It will host an upcoming Shrove Tuesday dinner. Grace also welcomes the Camp Hanover traveling Day Camp one week each summer for children in grades 1-6.

Celebration Singers: A representative from the Celebration Singers, an all-volunteer female show choir, spoke of the group and its history which dates back 50 years when it started as the Wesleyan Singers at SUMC. The group sings and dances at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and benefits for Make-A-Wish, Salvation Army, and Fisher House at Walter Reed Hospital.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church: A representative from St. Mark's spoke about its programs including an initiative to send packages to deployed military persons. It also assists immigrants with English as Second Language and citizenship classes.

SCA President Bruce Waggoner adjourned at 9:00 pm after conducting door prize drawings donated by SCA sponsors.