

**Minutes of the Rosemont Citizens Association Meeting
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
November 20, 2024**

Attendance. 14, including RCA Board members, plus four presenters invited to speak.

Police Report. Sgt. Michele Garcia reported that there were 21 calls for service in the past month, including one petty larceny from a business and one from a vehicle.

Sheriff's Report. Lt. Dave Hoffmaster spoke about Project Lifesaver, under which the Sheriff's Office can provide a tracking device that looks like a watch for a person who may become disoriented, can check the device's battery monthly, and can track the person when requested. He also spoke about a program under which Alexandrians away from home on vacation can ask the Sheriff's Department to keep tabs on their house. Anyone interested can call the Sheriff's office main line. Finally, he noted that Operation Elf is seeking donations of cash and items for family members of the incarcerated.

Friends of the Duncan Library. Patty Riley, president of the Friends of the Duncan Library, spoke about the work of that volunteer organization, which includes raising money for the Duncan Library through book sales and other activities, raising awareness of library programs, advocating for libraries with city government, and outreach to Arlandria's underserved immigrant community. Each of Alexandria's four libraries has a Friends group. The Duncan group's fundraising pays for all of its children's programs. Volunteers meet monthly and are expected to donate at least \$25 to the Duncan Library annually. The group accepts donations of books for its spring and fall book sales, but it does not accept bibles, textbooks, or poetry books, which fail to attract buyers. The group has a Facebook page and a website at FriendsofDuncanLibrary.org.

Following Ms. Riley's presentation, the president offered the RCA's good offices to publicize any information the Friends wished to disseminate in Rosemont.

Alexandria Sustainability Coordinator. Samatha Hatch, the sustainability coordinator in Alexandria City Government's Office of Climate Action spoke on city environmental plans and initiatives under its "eco-city charter," which Alexandria was the first jurisdiction in Virginia to obtain. She is on the staff of the Alexandria Office of Climate Action, created two years ago to centralize environmental work and coordinate with other city departments and with the public. The Office is currently coordinating the development of an environmental plan for the city.

The Office's new Eco-City Homes initiative provides city residents with information on being environmentally friendly, including the use of contractors, materials, and renewable energy and how to improve home electrical installations and indoor air quality. The initiative includes financial incentives and equipment such as thermal devices and other thermal detectors that can be checked out of city libraries. QR codes on the Office of Climate Action website enable Alexandria residents to access a brief application for the Eco-City Homes, and the city provides participants with yard signs and window stickers. The website also provides information on Dominion Energy's energy-saving and renewable programs.

Announcements.

The president announced that repaving of Oak Street would take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26-27. *It was later learned that the city has postponed the repaving until spring of 2025 due to a conflict with digging up the street to expand the wastewater line.*

The annual treasurer's report will take place at the RCA meeting in January.

The RCA Board will look into reviving the use of one or more signs to announce RCA meetings and identifying suitable venues for displaying them. At one time, the RCA announced meetings with a banner hung on the fence of the Brooks School playground, but Alexandria now prohibits non-city signage on city property.

The RCA Board is working on new bylaws to replace both the RCA's constitution and its current bylaws, neither of which accurately reflects how the RCA's functions have evolved.

The 5th annual holiday decoration contest will be undertaken by two separate groups of volunteers, one to identify candidate houses, and the other to choose 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

The president thanked Second Vice President John Leary and the many volunteers he led in making the revival of Rosemont's Oktoberfest such a success that the RCA Board has voted to make it a regular yearly event once again.

A meeting attendee announced that the Coalition for a Livable Alexandria needs donations to support its lawsuit against the city's Zoning for Housing initiative. Another attendee proposed that the RCA newsletter include material on the Coalition. The president agreed to consider it but cautioned that it might be misconstrued as taking a position in the divisive controversy over zoning changes.

- Submitted Dec. 14, 2024 by John J. Patrick, RCA Secretary