



SEMINARY RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Meeting Minutes

SRCA BOARD MEETING

May 14, 2025 – 7:30-9:30 PM by Zoom Conference Call

In attendance: Mike Souza, President; Jeanne Jacob, First Vice President; Kristen Comeau - Second Vice President; Janet Merrifield, Secretary; Mike Brookbank, Historian Chair; David Pritzker, Parliamentarian; Alexis Carena, Communications; Beth Chase, SSSAS Liaison; Bee Stripling, SSSAS Liaison; Jeremy Flachs BEHC Liaison, Officer Tony Moore, ACPD Liaison; Cordell Fields, Volunteer Alexandria; Patricia Evan, community member; Jaclyn, community member

Not in attendance: Scott Sutherland, Treasurer; Lisa Sutherland, Welcome Committee; Kate Hennigan, community member

Action Items are in italics and bold throughout the minutes and listed at the end.

1. Welcome and President's Report – Mike Souza

1.1. Welcome to SRCA Board Members and SR Residents joining meeting

1.1.1. Questions/Comments from SR Residents – “Open Mic”

1.2. Priority Areas for tonight's meeting. *Reserve discussion until agenda item:*

1.2.1. Reba Winstead (Cordell) - Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with Volunteer Alexandria (3)

1.2.2. ACPS Redistricting (14.1)

2. Reports from SRCA's ACPD Liaison/Alexandria's Sheriff's Liaison

- Secretary has the crime updates - Please reach out with any questions
 - **Call Data for Seminary Ridge Civic Association as follows from Jan 1, 2025, to May 12, 2025.**
 - 25-019566- Police Information
 - 25-019567- Police Information
 - 25-029279- Larceny Petit from a Vehicle
 - **Crash Data**
 - 25-003386-1/14/2025- 1609 Hours- N. Quaker Lane & Trinity Drive- Tuesday- Angle Collision
 - 25-019129-3/12/2025 1744 Hours- 4200 Seminary Road- Wednesday- Rear End Collision

- **Traffic Data**
- Type of Infraction # Cited % of Total
- SIGNALS/SIGNS 76 27.54%
- REGISTRATION/VEH/ID 44 15.94%
- INSPECTION 41 14.86%
- OPERATORS LICENSE 30 10.87%
- MOVING VIOLATIONS 28 10.14%
- SPEEDING 22 7.97%
- EQUIPMENT 14 5.07%
- PASSING 3 1.09%
- RECKLESS DRIVING 1 0.36%
- RIGHT OF WAY 1 0.36%
- DWI/DUI 1 0.36%
- INSURANCE 1 0.36%
- LARCENY 1 0.36%
- MISCELLANEOUS TRAFFIC 1 0.36%
- Schedule time with the Police Chief - Annual Meeting

3. **Emergency Preparedness Presentation - Cordell Fields, Volunteer Alexandria**

- Cordell is the Program and Volunteer and Database Manager with a focus on youth and family programs. [VRC webpage](#)
- They offer a youth program during June-August as well as additional programming throughout the year. Upcoming events include an Arts and Crafts festival the first Saturday in June.
- Presentation about Emergency Response Volunteer Program is available [HERE](#).
- Training is offered throughout the year. Including a training that starts May 14. A makeup session is being offered for the first day to SRCA members.
- No prior training is necessary.
- Any middle and high school students that are looking to volunteer, there are many single day options over the summer. [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- Information about Boards and Commissions can be located at this [webpage](#).

4. **St. Stephens & St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Liaison – Beth Chase/Bee Stribling**

- Upper school students are taking their exams this week
- June 7th is graduation, so there will be increased traffic
- Bee will be taking over as of the June meeting
- Thanks and appreciation were given for Beth's years of service. We hope that she will enjoy her retirement.

5. **Beth El Hebrew Congregation (BEHC) Update – Jeremy Flachs**

- Rabbi David Spinrad will be leaving. A permanent replacement has not been located as of yet.
- They have a climate action committee and the congregation has transitioned to all compostable cups, plates, and silverware. A company collects it from a disposal bin.
- They have not made progress with solar panels yet.

- They are working hard to manage the invasive growth in the areas with paths and invite the community to use it as a walking space.
- No current information on what will happen with the private land adjoining the synagogue.
- There are concerns about the impact of tree removal at George Mason Elementary.

6. Secretary's Report – Janet Merrifield

6.1. Approve meeting minutes - Virtual

- Minutes are Google docs and will be linked on the website

6.2. Meeting Dates - June 11, July 9, August 13

- Increase in communication with the community due to redistricting
- Over 100 paper flyers distributed for each event and emails sent to Block Captains
- Positive Feedback on the digital directory

7. First Vice President's Report – Key Updates from Partner Associations/Coalitions – Jeanne Jacob

- There is concern around splitting students between two middle schools as part of redistricting.
- Episcopal HS is seeking a Special Use Permit to have 10 lights on Braddock Road, including a 10 year set approval. These are 100' poles not 80' poles. They are also requesting additional lights for other fields. Additional details are available in this [email from Carter Flemming](#). It is on the docket for the city council for Saturday, May 17.

8. Second Vice President's Report – SRCA Events – Kristen Comeau

8.1. Community Clean-Up Day and Community Yard Sale Recap

- Thank you to all those who participated. Our community is looking great!
- The signs worked to drive traffic and the digital sign up worked for everyone except three people and the numbers were consistent with last year with 15 houses participating and 1 lemonade stand.

8.2. Volunteers can support these events at [Sign-Up Genius](#)

8.2.1. Screen on the Green - July 13, 6:00-9:00 PM

- **Janet will connect Kristen with Ms. Esanu**

8.2.2. Annual Picnic and Meeting at SSSAS - September 20, 3:00-8:00 PM (rental times)

- Move to September 21 with official start time of 4pm and official end time of 7pm
 - Picnic 4-5:30 and 5:30-7:00 for annual meeting.
- We need tables, tents, and chairs from SSSAS
- Catering has been from Old Blue BBQ or Rocklands in prior years
- A bounce house will need to be rented
- **Mike S will provide Kristen the details for catering and rentals**

9. Communications Report – Alexis Carena

9.1. Digital Directory Launch

- This was successful, and we have received multiple personal edits and new entries
- Additionally, information was distributed about joining Facebook and what is available on our website.

- Concern about spam requests for Facebook will be addressed by having Lisa Sutherland or the Block Captain follow up in person.

10. Parliamentary Report – David Pritzker

- David shared his concerns about accessing the digital directory. Alexis added a direct link to the directory on the website.

11. Home Sales in Seminary Ridge – Kate Hennigan (digital report provided)

- 3809 Ft Worth sold for \$1,300,000 on 4/17 and 4004 Featherstone Place was active Monday and listed at \$1,695,000.
- As always, our neighborhood remains desirable, but the overall market has slowed a bit in the wake of interest rate increases and unstable global environments. Additionally, the redistricting conversation around a change to our zoned middle school could have an impact on future resale values.

12. Welcome Committee for New Residents – Lisa Sutherland (not in attendance)

- Lisa will be the first person to investigate requests to join Facebook that do not match the directory.

13. New Business – Mike Souza

13.1. ACPS Redistricting

- David says that there was a similar issue historically.
- Being given choices is always a benefit for families

13.2. Ft. William's Parkway 311 report (Janet)

- Concerns have been filed by community members about the current state of Ft. William's Parkway just downhill from Griffith Place.

13.3. Duke Street Land Use Plan (Janet)

- Duke Street is continuing with their meetings about the small area plan. Please consider attending the Kick-off Meeting for the Duke Street Land Use Plan, Monday, June 9th at 7 PM at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. The meeting will be in-person with a virtual option and translation in Amharic and Spanish provided, with other languages upon request before 5/28. Additional details can be found in the flyers below and on their [website](#).
 - [Flyer for Kick-off Meeting](#)
 - [Flyer for currently scheduled pop-up engagement events \(through the end of June\)](#)

14. Adjournment of SRCA Board Meeting – Mike Souza

- Mike called to adjourn at 9:34PM and it was seconded by Janet. All were in favor.