

December 2001
Volume I, Issue 1

Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2001
7:30 PM
Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street



This is the first newsletter of the NorthEast Citizens' Association. We hope you find it informative. Please direct any questions or comments using the email address on the last page.



Association Meeting on December 12, 2001

Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit has been investigating public transit options to serve the Potomac Yard corridor from the Braddock Street Metro station to the Pentagon as this 368 acre tract is developed. They were charged with finding options to "increase the utility of transit and develop transit service and options that support transit as a preferred mode of choice for a wide variety of trips" and to "provide a high level of circulation and mode of choices within Potomac Yard and surrounding areas." They have come up with 10 options involving light rail and Bus Rapid Transit. Some of these options could have an impact on NorthEast. One of the options is a light rail or Bus Rapid Transit down Powhatan Street from Columbus Street to Slaters Lane.

Representatives of the VDRPT will be presenting the purpose, results and options of the Potomac Yard/Crystal City Corridor Transit Alternative Analysis at the December 12 meeting. We need to let them know how we feel about any or all of these proposals since part of the final decisions will be based on neighborhood and citizen input.

Pedestrian Path to Braddock Metro Station. Al Cox of the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning will be on hand to show a concept for potential pedestrian path to the Braddock Road Metro station. At a previous meeting, NorthEast approved some of these plans and Al will point these out to the new members.

NOTE: Rich Baier, Alexandria's Director of Transportation and Environmental Services plans to attend our meeting. Let's have a big turnout so the city will know that traffic and transportation issues are important to our association.

Board Meeting, Monday, November 5, 2001

The new board held its first meeting on November 5. Seventeen members attended.

Some of the things discussed were:

- ◆ Chetworth Park - a unanimous vote was taken to defer any action or position by NECA until the first of the year to give the City the opportunity to complete its next action step. The reason for this was that the City has decided to take action because the association has been unable to arrive at a consensus.
- ◆ Second phase of Powhatan Street traffic calming.
- ◆ Future Potomac Yard developments and sewer capacity.
- ◆ Monroe Avenue Bridge Project
- ◆ Traffic Issues
- ◆ Safe pedestrian access to Braddock Road Metro
- ◆ Mason Hall parking
- ◆ Old Colony development
- ◆ Future of Alexandria Marketplace
- ◆ Dixie Pig (see article on page 2)

Other things discussed were agendas for future meetings, social events for

the association, how to disseminate information about the association to the members and neighbors, park maintenance, schedules for future meetings.

Thanks to our secretary, Lois Thomas, for the detailed minutes of the meeting.

Police Walk

Our police liaison, Carol Duncan, requested we schedule a community walk for mid November before the temperature drops too much. The date and time were sent via email. A report will be given by Carol at the membership meeting on December 12. If you did not receive an email and would like to be on the list, please forward your email address to info@neca-alex.com.



Dixie Pig Update

SUP – What Does It Mean?

The SUP (Special Use Permit) process is the method by which the City of Alexandria controls development and use of property. This is necessary to keep development orderly and reasonable in size and scope. A SUP is only necessary if a developer wishes to go beyond the limits allowed by current zoning law. It is also required for all restaurants within the City limits or any property where the site is used in a way contrary to zoning. "The city council may approve an application for a special use permit...if the proposed location is appropriate for the use and if the proposed use or structure will be designated and operated so as to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse effects on the neighborhood as a whole or other properties in the vicinity." [Alexandria Zoning Ordinance]

The Dixie Pig is a property that has a SUP, both because it is a restaurant and is a nonconforming use.



In 1951 the Dixie Pig restaurant stood on property that was rezoned residential. As a result a restaurant was no longer allowed. Since the property owner had a substantial investment in the property as a restaurant, the City granted the nonconforming use for a period of 40 years at which time the property would revert to residential. The SUP expired in 1991. Because of the support of the community, the nonconforming use has continued.

The current owner, having recently acquired the property, wishes to open an Italian restaurant. A SUP has been granted. Unfortunately, they are encountering difficulties with permits so have delayed the completion of renovations and restaurant opening.

We'll keep you posted.

In the next newsletter we will bring you the history of the property.

Committees

Land Use Committee: The Land Use Committee was formed in the fall of 1999. The group meets once each month. One of the first projects the committee tackled was the Madison Homes project (Slaters Lane, Portner Road, and Bernard Street). The committee worked to get the highest standard possible of materials and design for the project. A great deal of effort has gone into the project that resulted in a development that enhances our neighborhood.

Members of the committee have worked with the new owners of the Dixie Pig. When it appeared there was a possibility a SUP would not be granted because of insufficient parking, members of the committee worked to resolve this problem by finding five off-street/off-premises parking spaces for Ruffino's employees.

The membership of the committee is Mariella Posey and Sylvia Sibrover (Co-Chairs) and Poul Hertel, Mary Jane Kramer, Mark Steinberg, Steven Troxel, Martha Welch, and Tom Witte. Members of the committee are keeping in touch with the new owners and the Planning and Zoning Department.

We will keep you updated.

Traffic Committee: The Traffic Committee was first formed in 1996 to work on traffic calming for Powhatan Street. Phase I (Powhatan Street between Second Street and Slaters Lane) resulted in the narrowing of Powhatan Street. Because the original traffic lanes were too narrow by current standards, the City provided two lanes of the proper width and the balance was set aside to provide additional parking and widen the median on the east side of the street.

After Phase I was completed, the committee ceased to meet.

The committee was reconstituted in March of 2000 to work on the reconfiguration of the city portion of land in front of the Dixie Pig. This was to provide safe pedestrian patterns for the neighborhood and Dixie Pig patrons.

Committee members living on Powhatan Street between Washington and Second Streets worked with their neighbors on a design for Phase II of the Powhatan Street Traffic Mitigation Plan. The project is now in the hands of engineers who are working to make the plan a reality. The Traffic Committee will keep a watch on the project as it proceeds. When the city completes the engineering plan, the membership will be shown the plan.

The committee members are: Richard Cooper (chair), Jean Caldwell, Dave Cooper, Connie Graham, Poul Hertel, Mary Jane Kramer, Mariella Posey, Sharon Sens, Sylvia Sibrover, Paul Smedberg, Steven Troxel, Martha Welch, and Tom Witte.

Biographical Sketches

On the next page are brief biographies of member of the Executive and Board of Directors. Space limitation and time prevents us from having bios of all the members. The rest (below) will be in the next newsletter.

James Bach	Mary Jane Kramer
Jean Caldwell	Cyra Lorenzen
Richard Cooper	Paul Smedberg
Michael Doney	Harrison Troop
Theresa Forster	Martha Welch
Poul Hertel	Claire Whitney

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ Meet Your Board ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Mark Steinberg (President) is originally from Arizona and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1971 joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and worked on policy and legislation for the federal health and welfare programs. In 1984 he returned to Arizona to join the staff of the newly elected Mayor of the City of Phoenix. Mark then served in a variety of state and local public health agencies. In 1994 Mark moved to Alexandria and became active in several community and neighborhood organizations. He is the President of the Powhatan Place Home Owners Association, and served on the Alexandria Ad Hoc Committee on the Potomac Yards. He is also a member of the Alexandria Commission on Emergency Services and a 4-year member of the Board of the NorthEast Citizens' Association. Mark is the newly elected President of NECA. Mark and Carolyn and their dog, Guy, live at 916 Rolfe Place.

Mariella Posey (Vice President) moved from the Chicago area to NorthEast in February 1985. She has been a member of NECA for 15 years, on the board for 10 years, served as co-secretary, co-treasurer and a full term as vice president. She is one of NECA's representatives to the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations and is a member of the League of Women Voters of Alexandria. She has a dog who shares his living space with feline companions. During regular working hours, Mariella is the office manager for a U.S. Senator.

Lois Thomas (Secretary) returned to her home state of Virginia two and a half years ago after 13 years in the District. She was raised in Richmond, graduated from UVA, and was delighted to be back in the world where taxation and representation go together. After earning a Master's degree in Linguistics at Georgetown University, she spent several years working in adult education both here and abroad and then moved from academia into consulting where her expertise developed in the pharmaceutical industry. Lois currently works in packaged goods sales from her home office. She is active in area league sports and a small wine-tasting group. In the past, she has volunteered for a variety of organizations related to teaching and immigrant services.

Sylvia Sibrover (Treasurer) has rented a townhouse in the NorthEast area since she moved from Chicago in 1985. In 1986, Sylvia joined NECA and became co-secretary some years later. Currently she is the treasurer, co-chairs the Land Use Committee, member of the Traffic Committee, NECA representative to the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations, and treasurer for the League of Women Voters of Alexandria.

Patrick Lawver was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and spent most of his formative years in Danville, Illinois. In 1989, he moved to Georgetown to work at the University, and later that year took a position as a draftsman in Alexandria at a landscape architecture and urban planning firm. After working in Alexandria for about a year, Patrick moved to Old Town and two years later to Bashford Lane where he currently resides.

David LeDuc was born in Connecticut and raised in a small town named Wilton. He moved to Old Town Alexandria over five years ago and purchased his home in NorthEast in July of 2000. David works in Washington D.C. as the Director of Public Policy for the Software & Information Industry Association. He has a strong interest in federal, state and local public policy.

Joan O'Connor comes from Philadelphia originally. As a Navy wife she accompanied her husband to many assignments during his career. They returned to Alexandria when he retired in 1988. After his untimely death in 1991 Joan became a member of the Board of her homeowners association and the NECA board. She has 5 grown children and 6 grandchildren.

Pattie Ryan came from Tennessee to work as a government employee. She has lived in various places in the metropolitan area for 49 years and in Alexandria for the last 17 years. She retired from the U.S. Department of the Navy in 1993. Pattie is currently President of her homeowners association in Old North Port and has been a member of NECA for many years. Her only son Pat is a captain on the Arlington County Fire Department and she has 3 grandchildren.

Steven Troxel moved to the Washington area from Ohio in 1983. He has lived in the NorthEast since 1987 and been a NECA member for the past four years. Steve is a member of the Land Use Committee and the Traffic Committee as well as a board member for the past few years.

Tom Witte has been a member of NECA since 1987 and became a homeowner in 1996. He is currently retired from military service and is active in the neighborhood. Tom joined the Board in 1991, the Land Use Committee in 1999, and Traffic Committee in 2000. He has been part of the Chetworth Park committee since 1987 and Chetworth Park adopt-a-park since 2000. Tom continues to host the NECA web page, which began in 1996 and was the editor of the meeting flyer from 1991 to 2001.

Dues are \$5 per household. Make checks payable to NorthEast Citizens' Association

Send to Sylvia Sibrover, Treasurer, 915 Second Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2347 [Please print clearly]

Your name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

The NorthEast Citizens' Association (NECA) of the City of Alexandria, Virginia is a nonprofit organization of residents who live in the area north of Montgomery Street between Patrick Street/Metro tracks and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The goal of NECA is to keep its members informed of changes in the neighborhood that may affect their quality of life and help them form reasonable courses of action to deal with these changes.

Some of our accomplishments are detailed on our web site but here a few of the headlines:

- Worked to prevent an interchange on the George Washington Memorial Parkway at Dangerfield Island

- Worked to prevent the replacement of the Old Colony Inn with massive building for office space
- Worked with a new developer to replace the Old Colony Inn with a modest scale residential development
- Worked with Mason Hall on parking
- Traffic calming measures on Powhatan Street, Phase I
- Traffic calming measures on Powhatan Street, Phase II (still in progress)
- Worked with developer on the Madison Homes on Portner and Bernard Streets
- Open space for our neighborhood, which has one of the lowest public open space ratios in the City

What is coming this year

◆ parks ◆ traffic ◆ redevelopment ◆ Monroe Avenue Bridge

For information on your citizens association call:

Mark Steinberg ☎ 703/684-7814

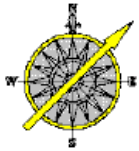
Mariella Posey ☎ 703/549-5842

See our web site for the latest information.

www.his.com/tmw/alexandria_neca.htm

For the newsletter via email send your email address to info@neca-alex.com.

This is your neighborhood. It can only be saved with your help.



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