

**Springfield Civic Association (SCA)  
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 21 November 2017**

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

**SCA President's Remarks:**

Bruce announced the latest edition of the SCA Newsletter is out and thanked Sandy Frieswyk for her efforts in producing. Sandy thanked all those who contributed to the Newsletter and introduced Lynne Clark, a local lawyer and SCA sponsor. Lynne provided a few remarks on her practice specializing in estate, business and tax planning and left business cards for those interested. Bruce reminded attendees of annual \$15 annual membership dues, noting dues could be paid to the treasurer in person or could be paid using PayPal online via SCA Facebook page.

**Crestwood Parent Teachers Association Update (PTA).** Esther Berg, President of Crestwood PTA, and Jillian Hanright, Vice President of Crestwood PTA, reported on the school's first fund raiser and noted two upcoming events.

1. **Crestwood Night at Chipotle:** Chipotle at Springfield Plaza is sponsoring Crestwood Night on 5 December between 4-8 pm. Chipotle will donate 50 percent of the night's proceeds to Crestwood PTA. PTA encouraged the community to bring the Crestwood "Taco Tuesday" flyer (available on Nextdoor Springfield) or show it on smart phone to the cashier to ensure proceeds will go to Crestwood PTA.
2. **PTA Meeting:** Crestwood will hold its second PTA meeting on 6 December at 6:45-8 pm focused on compliance and the science curriculum at Crestwood. Child care will be provided on site by volunteers from Lee High School.

**Treasurer Update.** Sandy Frieswyk, SCA Treasurer, reported the balance brought forward from the last SCA meeting in September 2016 was \$9,945.27. She reported SCA took in \$60 for dues and expended \$49.89 for printing services bringing balance to \$9,955.38.

**Essex Traffic Calming Update.** Jillian Hanright, Essex Ave Traffic Calming Task Force lead, provided on update the initiative. Jillian reported Fairfax County has determined the corner of Essex and Craig streets is eligible for traffic calming measures. The FCDOT traffic calming plan consists of two speed humps on Essex Ave. The affected residences (6 houses adjacent to humps) have approved the initiative.

**Next steps:** The next step is a Community Awareness meeting which is scheduled for 5 December at 7pm at Crestwood Elementary School. At this meeting Fairfax County will discuss the plan and will include reps from FCDOT, police and fire department along with Crestwood Elementary School Principal Tim Kasik. After the community awareness meeting, a ballot process will be conducted over a three-week period by postal mail. For the proposal to pass at least 50 percent of 128 residences (defined by County) must participate in the ballot process and among that 50 percent at least 60 percent (37 residences) must vote in favor of the traffic calming initiative. The task force plans to go door-to-door to engage neighbors about the speed hump proposal and to educate residents about the ballot process requirements. The task force

intends to distribute documents regarding the proposal in both English and Spanish and will have Spanish speaker available to assist as required. Jillian fielded a few questions regarding the initiative noting that a stop sign was the Task Force's initial goal, but it did not meet FCDOT criteria. Jillian noted that another similar initiative in North Springfield failed given insufficient ballot responses, reinforcing the importance of mailing ballots.

**Trails for Youth (TYO) Update.** Julie Childers, Executive Director, Co-Founder for TYO Youth (TYO), reported on status of the bicycle pump track at Brookfield Park that was constructed with approval of the Fairfax County Parks Board. The pump track, which is a type of off-road terrain for cycle sport consisting of a circuit of banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping" - creating momentum by up and down body movements, was not constructed properly making it unsafe. TYO with assistance from the SCA met with representatives from Supervisor McKay's office to develop corrective action plan to resolve longstanding track safety concerns. Julie reported that TYO met with Brookfield Park representatives on 19 November to discuss plan to reconstruct track properly. Brookfield Park representatives are making the project a priority and intend to move quickly. Reconstruction is scheduled to start the week after Thanksgiving with aid from a Maryland consultant who has experience in successfully building pump tracks. Reconstruction is expected to take two weeks.

**Post Meeting Update:** The pump track rebuild was completed 29 November. A soft opening was held on 3 December to celebrate completion of the project and to allow local children enjoy the new track. The track is open to the community and will be maintained by TYO.

### **Featured Speakers: Planned Developments in Springfield**

Bruce welcomed Nancy-Jo Manney Executive Director Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and Doug Loescher, Revitalization Program Manager Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization, to speak on planned commercial developments in Springfield.

Ms. Manney reported on several planned developments.

1. **Proposed Continuing Care Community.** Erickson Living plans to purchase from the Commonwealth of Virginia the 78-acre site on Braddock Road that was formerly home to the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC). The company has proposed to construct a Continuing Care Community on the site, similar to Greenspring Village in Springfield, which is owned and operated by Erickson. In order to do this, Erickson Living will pursue a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and rezoning approval from the county. This process provides opportunities for citizen input on a number of aspects of the proposal. Ms. Manney is optimistic the NVTC land can be rezoned. She noted this would be a high tax revenue producing venture with low impact on police and no impact on schools. She also noted that the wait list on Greenspring Village is 1,200 suggesting there is a community need for such a facility.
2. **Rolling Road Widening.** There are plans to widen Rolling Road between Old Keene Mill Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. A meeting on this project is scheduled for 30 November at Rolling Valley Elementary School at 7pm.
3. **Springfield Town Center.** The Springfield Town Center will be 95 percent leased by the end of the year. Ms. Manney noted an expansion of the Dave and Busters restaurant is underway to add a banquet room for special events. The renovation will be completed in Jan/Feb 2018. Maggiano's restaurant is also considering expansion to accommodate

catering. A new restaurant is planned for the now vacant space previously occupied by Wood Ranch BBQ and Grill. Details about the new restaurant could not yet be revealed. Ms. Manney fielded a couple of questions regarding the Town Center. She encouraged residents interested in early morning mall walking to speak directly with mall officials regarding their desires.

4. **Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Headquarters.** TSA has selected Springfield for site of its new headquarters at a site adjacent to the GSA facility and Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. Boston properties will build the 620,000 sqft building which will house 3,000 TSA employees. The headquarters project will be completed by 2021.
5. **The St. James.** The St James, an Olympic level training facility/waterpark, is under construction at the old Washington Gas Complex on Industrial Drive. The St. James will be a membership-based large-scale health club that will operate 24/7 and bring new life to an under used area of Springfield. Ms. Manney stated she was not certain whether roads/bridges leading to this complex will be improved to accommodate anticipated increase in traffic volume.

Ms. Manney concluded by encouraging attendees to shop local when conducting holiday shopping.

Doug Loescher noted that his focus is on commercial projects and major construction projects that can improve the greater Springfield area including roads. He spoke favorably about the recently concluded Greater Springfield Business and Economic Summit sponsored by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Doug noted that fast changes to the retail landscape are impacting commercial business sites and may provide opportunities for future revitalization. He noted these changes and other technological changes like autonomous vehicles may impact land use in Springfield. Doug provided snap shots of several planned projects in Springfield.

1. **Planned Commuter Parking Garage on Old Keene Mill Road.** The garage is planned for site where existing DC slug lines now operate in vicinity of the Springfield United Methodist Church and Sunoco Gas Station. Mr. Loescher noted the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services has developed an initial plan for the garage and is holding meetings to gain community input on the project. Information on the project and future community meetings can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/springfieldgarage.htm>. Comments for the project team representatives can be submitted online at this same site. Doug noted that a pedestrian walkway is planned to connect the garage with Springfield Plaza. Supervisor McKay is interested in this pedestrian overpass hosting a “Welcome to Springfield” sign.
2. **Springfield Branding Effort.** Mr. Loescher discussed an ongoing branding initiative and effort to create a new logo for Springfield. He noted 116 responses were provided to recent survey on several proposed Springfield logos. There was not an overwhelming positive response to any of the options, so Doug stated the branding effort is going back to the drawing board. While a professional company has been hired for the branding initiative, Mr. Loescher was open to the idea of involving local high school students and Springfield Art Guild members in designing a fresh logo for Springfield.
3. **Lidl Grocery Store.** Lidl has yet to file a site plan for the potential 40,000 sqft single use facility with 140 parking spaces at the old Safford Dodge location. Mr. Loescher expects to know more about this potential development in next few months.

4. **Hampton Inn Suites.** Hampton Inn Suites is interested in building a 100,000 sqft 160 room hotel near Springfield Blvd and Backlick Road that would encompass land on the former Merv's Garage site. Mr. Loescher noted concerns regarding VDOT plans and future access challenges must be resolved before this plan can move forward.
5. **Property Improvements.** Five Guys restaurant on Backlick Road plans to improve/expand its property. Virginia Tire near Brookfield Plaza is pursuing rezoning to improve its property. Spot improvements are coming to Bland Street in Spring/Summer 2018. Improvements are planned for the 16 Bland Street tree boxes includes installation of ADA compliant tree grates. The cobblestone crosswalk at Bland/Brandon Streets will also be replaced with a high visibility crosswalk
6. **Central Springfield Maintenance/Upkeep.** Mr. Loescher is working a plan with Fairfax County to conduct recurring street sweeping and grass cutting three times a year. He noted these services have been hampered as no single entity has responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of Springfield's commercial center. Fairfax County and VDOT have shared responsibilities, but have not to date developed a coordinated plan to sweep streets and mow grass.

Mr. Loescher concluded by highlighting a six-month reporting pilot program for Springfield that is being developed with the goal to improve response time to various community infrastructure concerns like broken curbs, light that are out, trash pick-up.

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