

Donaldson Run Civic Association
General Membership Meeting
Microsoft Teams
February 12, 2022 7:30 p.m.

- EC attending: Bill Richardson, President, John Seggerman, 1st VP, Deirdre Dessingue 2nd VP, Kathy Rehill, treasurer, Charlie Henkin, Secretary; other Directors Susan Cunningham, Anne Wilson, Amanda Weaver

1. Welcome (Bill Richardson)

2. Minutes from October 6 meeting (available at table back of room)

3. Reports of Secretary, Treasurer, and Board members

Treasurer's report -- \$2059 in treasury and request for dues from members

4. Nomination of John Fisher to fill vacant DRCA director position was approved by members

5. Discussion of Zoning Ordinance reform and enforcement

County Board Member Takis Karantonis

Takis addressed the study DRCA desires on zoning reform, which was not included in the county manager's draft budget recently published. He agreed this is an important issue albeit with many stakeholders. He noted that in the county board (CB) review two weeks previous that he was joined by two other CB members, Matt De Ferranti and Libby Garvey, who pushed for such a study. He later opined that 3 CB members constituted a majority and boded well for inclusion in the final budget.

Regarding inspections he agrees there should be more inspection of projects generally and regarding impervious surfaces specifically. There is currently a stormwater fee attached to projects and he would welcome more credits for tree retention. He did note that inspectors and staff for the zoning reform study both pose budget issues.

Regarding trees specifically, the county wishes to have Richmond approve more regulatory authority for trees and using incentives and penalties to cause developers to make better decisions regarding trees. Senate bill 531 (was this 537) and delegates' bills 1346 are part of the county requests for Richmond to pass. Lot coverage need not be our only tool.

He also supported more biophilic principles being inserted up front in projects rather than as an afterthought. He cited the heated discussion of this matter in the Pentagon City Sector Plan.

6. Discussion with County Board Member Karantonis of other issues of interest to Donaldson Run Civic Association members

One resident recited harassment by an inspector on his home and Takis asked to follow up with him

Other questions concerned the Board of Zoning Appeals (who appoints them, which is the State); Potholes; Contractor “mess” around their projects, including runoff; more discussion of inadequate and inconsistent inspection; the Nellie Custis roundabout (members were generally critical of the design and the ability to actually “measure” how effective it is against any baseline metrics) to which Takis admits the county lacks much expertise; and management of deer population

7. Adjournment (9:15 p.m.)