

Kings Park West Civic Association
Volunteer Meeting
11 May 2021
Via Zoom

Members Present: Sarah Lennon/President, Mike Stonkey/Vice President, Jonathan Reiser/Treasurer, Adrienne Barna/Member at Large, Kaycie Blaylock/Member at Large, Donna Thomas/Member at Large, Karen Cosgrove/Secretary

Others Present: Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw, Tim Hartle/Membership Committee, Autumn Riley/Autumn Interiors, Terra Wathen/Girl Scouts, Maria Harwood/Urban Conservation Specialist (Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District), Natasha Lennon/Cocoa Bomb entrepreneur, Bradley Webster/Robinson High School teacher, KPWCA community members

Call to Order: Sarah called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She stated the three main purposes of today's meeting: 1) provide updates on civic association activities, and ways for the community to volunteer, 2) provide Supervisor Walkinshaw an opportunity to discuss his priorities for the community, and 3) thank the members and volunteers. She stated that we will have small "how-to" presentations as a small thank you. She then stated that the meeting would be recorded and posted on YouTube.

Sarah welcomed Supervisor Walkinshaw and stated that he has dedicated his career to ensuring community wellness.

Words from the District Supervisor: Supervisor Walkinshaw thanked all volunteers and stated that he has spent a lot of time as a neighborhood civic volunteer. He said it is important to come together as a community, and that his position allows him to facilitate those efforts in the community. He then provided several community updates: COVID is at 24 positive test cases in the Fairfax health district, which is down dramatically. The 2.37% positivity rate is way down thanks to our healthcare workers and everyone following the guidance. 51% of Fairfax county residents received at least 1 dose. Supervisor Walkinshaw encouraged everyone to get the vaccine and use vaccinefinder.org to find opportunities. He also stated that 12–15-year-olds can now be vaccinated.

He then stated that the county budget passed at \$4.5B for FY22 – 52% go to schools, while the rest go to police, parks, and other services. The average homeowner will pay \$224 more in taxes this year due to assessment increases. Revenue sources from business dramatically declined with the pandemic. There will be a 2% increase for teachers, and a 1% increase for county employees.

The Braddock rd project ends at Guinea road, and will include 17 interchange improvements, including shared use paths. The detailed design work for the county paving will be publicized for resident feedback this summer. In addition, the county

plans to build a DMV customer service center next door to the Greenspring 1100-unit senior facility. He raised the community concerns about the location of the DMV, and the county did host a community input session, but the project will still move forward. Supervisor Walkinshaw is working on legislation for the county to hold input sessions before projects move forward with their final approval.

Braddock nights will resume this summer with a 5 July Rutherford park concert, as well as a 9 July Royal Lake concert. Both events will begin at 7:30pm. There will also be a new series at Wakefield park that will include children's bands, magicians, and family-oriented activities. These events will be held Saturday mornings behind the Audrey Moore rec center. Arts in the Park will commence 7 July at 10am. The community can get more information on these and other events, through the Braddock Beacon newsletter – sign-ups are at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

A community member asked if the Monticello park would have further additions. Supervisor Walkinshaw stated that the existing amenities are what was planned for, and if anyone has further suggestions, to raise them in the future. He then thanked everyone and congratulated all the KPCWA volunteers.

President's Report: Sarah stated that the Spring Eggstavaganza had a great turnout, and that we would like to continue a similar activity next year. She thanked the Mary and Cathy team for partnering with the KPWCA. She notified everyone of the new and more user-friendly KPWCA website. She thanked Tim Hartle for his instrumental work in standing it up and asked the community for any feedback on website improvements. Sarah then thanked the board for helping in this effort. Sarah spoke about the recent park cleanup, as well as the Friends of Royal Lake trail cleanup this Saturday. She then stated that the Board is a small set of individuals, and we will need new volunteers this fall – At Large and Herald Content Editor, as well as 10 block captains, and additional membership team members.

Vice President: Mike spoke about the Scout units within KPWCA – two Cub Packs and one Scout Pack. The units have been safe and successful in their virtual and outdoor events.

Treasurer's Report: Jonathan stated that all bills are paid, and that he is happy to be back in the Treasurer position.

Member at Large: Adrienne stated that it was her last term, and that she has enjoyed the past six years on the board. Kaycie reminded everyone that this Saturday is Dumpster Day at the Lakeview pool, starting at 8am. She also thanked the Mary and Cathy team for helping with arrangements for Saturday.

Membership: Tim stated that current membership is at 879 households.

Volunteer Appreciation: Sarah thanked Greg, a former member of the sign board team, who has been actively involved for over 20 years! She then thanked Adrienne for being a board member for 6 years and has been instrumental in many activities as well as doing an amazing job with sign boards. Sarah also thanked Jonathan for stepping up to fill the treasurer role on short notice, and thanked Donna Thomas for backfilling Jonathan's At Large position. Sarah thanked Tim Hartle and Jen McVay for working on the member database. She also said that we could not have gotten the website running without Tim and Mike, who got the platform back. Lastly, we have two new block captains – Ray Traugott and Kris Ritter; we have 100 blocks – thanks to all our block captains!

We then had five presenters cover a variety of topics:

Autumn Riley from Autumn Interiors has been a resident in KPW for seven years and has had her own firm for 18 months. She does a lot of work with the Mary and Cathy team, and she is available to work with individual homeowners. She shared a presentation that covered common KPW design questions which included: favorite paint colors, as well as small updates that can be done a little at a time – paint, pantries, lighting, barn doors, flooring, as well as remodeling kitchens and baths by “stealing space” from other spaces.

Terra Wathen hosted the Girl Scout troop 1356 presentation on pollinator gardens. Five 5th grade scouts are working toward their bronze award for this project, and asked the community to take the bee pledge, to be more responsible KPW gardeners. The scouts presented the pollinator garden information, and Terra showed two bee pictures that could be placed in KPW resident windows that chose to take the pledge.

Maria Harwood, an Urban Conservation Specialist provided a presentation concerning rain gardens, which filter rainwater and reduce the flow of stormwater from impermeable surfaces. She also spoke about the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP).

Natasha Lennon, Cozy Cocoa Creations, gave a presentation of tricks and tips for making cocoa bombs.

Brad Webster, a Robinson High School teacher who teaches geospatial analysis, discussed the cicada population, and how its being tracked in the region. He spoke about the data collection opportunities and the number of cicadas we expect to see this season.

The next meeting will be the May 18th board meeting.

Adjournment: Sarah adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm. She thanked everyone for sharing their ideas and expertise and thanked the community for their involvement.