

UKSNA Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2004

Announcements:

- 1) **Ice House** – permit application hasn't been filed yet and developer/owner is looking for community support. Some UKSNA members believe that this project is not viable without a liquor license due to the high construction costs. Some believe that the developer is likely getting opposition to the concept of having a restaurant.
- 2) **Congestion mitigation studies** currently underway around Duke Street and Eisenhower Avenue. (\$700,000 was received from State of Virginia, and \$100,000 from federal government to support the traffic studies)
- 3) **Old Town Theater** on King Street is now up and running
- 4) **Public meeting on Mirant Power Plant** will take place at the Lyceum, Monday, May 24 at 7pm.
- 5) **UKSNA website** – plans are in progress to create a UKSNA website. More details will be forthcoming at future UKSNA meetings.
- 6) **UKSNA Planter Project** – Planting for the UKSNA boundary planters is scheduled for the weekend of May 22. Plaques recognizing the contributions of both UKSNA and the City in this effort are being made for each of the planters. A discussion followed on how to hold down the costs of the plants. One idea was to approach the new nursery on Mt. Vernon Avenue to see if they would be interested in donating some plants which could help in their marketing to the local community. Additional cost saving measures include using City mulch and filling the bottom third of the planters with plastic containers to save on potting soil costs. Ashley Spencer will coordinate the planting with volunteers via e-mail/telephone.
- 7) **King Street metro task force** met last Tuesday, May 11, 2004. Construction around metro station will begin November 2004. Currently, the site is being excavated. The construction trailer at the end of Cameron St. will remain throughout the construction process until November 2005. The metro transit office (located near Embassy Suites on Diagonal Rd.) extended its office hours from 7am to 7pm. Monthly sales of metro passes have increased from 4,000 to 16,000 because of newly re-located PTO employees. Increased sales are anticipated, as more PTO employees will be using the King St. Metro.
- 8) **Alexandria Electoral Board** wants to give demonstrations to members of the local civic associations and the public on how to use the City's voting machines.

- 9) **UKSNA's by-law changes** might be sought to alter the current boundaries of the association. Some residents who live right outside UKSNA's boundaries have expressed interest in UKSNA membership. Any by-law changes will require a vote of the entire membership.
- 10) There was a recent article in the Gazette Packet on **Ashley Spencer's art work** for the pedestrian tunnel between King Street metro and PTO. Ashley is creating six murals depicting how life in Alexandria has changed over time.
- 11) **Next UKSNA meeting will be held June 21 or June 28** perhaps at Stella's.

Community Events:

- 1) **ALIVE House** is having a sidewalk sale this Saturday, May 22 at 125 S. Payne Street, 8am – 1pm. Donations are sought for this annual event (i.e., books, bric-a-brac, etc.) Donation drop off before 8 am on Saturday or Friday. Rain date is Sunday, May 23.
- 2) **WWII celebrations** happening in Old Town, see americasgreatestgeneration.com
- 3) **2004 King Street Garden Park Activities Schedule** (sponsored by KSMET) For more information, call KSMET at (703) 838-8098

Ice Cream Social w/ bluegrass music	June 6, 2-4pm
Story Telling at A Likely Story	June 16, 3:30pm
Supper Under the Stars, Casablanca Restaurant	June 21, 6:30-8:30pm
Story Telling at A Likely Story	July 14, 3:30pm
U.S. Army Band	July 17, 7:30pm
Supper Under the Stars, Joe Theismann's	July 20, 6:30-8:30pm
Concert w/ The Ken Smith Band	August 4, 6:30-7:30pm
Story Telling at A Likely Story	August 11, 3:30pm
Supper Under the Stars, The Hilton Restaurant	August 18, 6:30-8:30pm
Pizza in the Park – Generous George's	September 10, 6-7:30pm
Lunch Concert with Lori Kelley	September 14, 12:30pm

- 4) **Ethnic Festivals in Alexandria:** (see www.ci.Alexandria.va.us for more info)

Arlandria-Chirilagua Festival	June 13, 12-7 pm
African-American Heritage & Cultural Festival	July 24, 1-7 pm
Irish Festival	August 7, 12-7 pm
Cambodian Community Day	August 15, 11am-6pm
American Indian Festival	August 21, 1-6pm
Scottish Heritage Fair	September 19, 10am-5pm
Italian Festival	September 26, 12-5pm

New developments:

1) American Society of Florists on Dangerfield and Duke Streets reviewed a proposal for a new project with some UKSNA and Rosemont representatives. Some residents want to ensure that the City addresses rat issues connected with the neighborhood's current on-going construction.

2) 1600 King Street – Owner of Table Talk and Tanning Salon has had permit for the last two years for new construction. Owner sold out to another developer. Plans are being contemplated to build residential condos and mixed retail for this area. Developer is open to informally brief representatives of UKSNA. Parking density and aesthetics are two big issues that affect UKSNA residents. It was suggested that UKSNA develop some minimum standards in those areas to give to developers at the developmental stage. UKSNA should also look at short-term impacts of construction on 1600 block of King Street like traffic delays, especially considering other construction projects in the area. UKSNA needs to make sure that the various City departments (i.e., traffic and planning) coordinate with each other.

3) Harambee – will likely proceed to zoning and planning.