

November 17, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Announcements

Farmer's Market – UKSNA volunteers needed for a Summer kick-off

Kathy Murphy, 703-824-8252, kmm_dc@yahoo.com

Need to go in front of city council. Probably not before next summer. Probably get something together in 2008. Depends on what we propose. Community event. Fresh food farmer's market. If we do this, we have to have your assistance and help. Please contact Kathy Murphy to help our farmer's market committee.

Some advertising, some costs associated with that.

Lt. Michael G. Eller, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Security Division
2001 Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-838-4111 x4220
Fax: 703-838-4036

Sheriff office could be available for crisis work. Anything need cleaning up? Please contact sheriff's office or Trey Hanbury to identify areas that need targeting for clean up.

- 1400 block of Prince, overnight camping, lots of trash and sleeping bags
- Units on the street after midnight

Called all the local jurisdictions to see what they do. They would do criminal background checks for only non-violent offenders. Rigorous background check. Put to work inside the jail first to see if they are candidates to try to use outside. Start just outside the jail and then outside the community.

Question about releasing prisoners at Christ House during the weekdays. Lt. Eller indicated that that's not a practice of the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office provides no transportation for prisoners upon release and is not dropping them off at Christ House, though it may refer people who are released to this facility as a resource.

10:30 to 2 a.m. Request from community to cruise around corner of King and West Street at Rocket Grill. There's a lot of nefarious activity when people are leaving the bar and there are indigents who hang out there late at night.

Edmundson Plaza, Jonathan Rak and Ed Lash

Here to provide a quick update on one component of the proposal. There's an office building proposal. The planning commission and city council approved the development

last June. One important element was the preservation of the historic building at Reinkers and Duke Streets. The site is the former location of the Bruin slave jail. The developer has wanted to preserve the history of this site as a local and national historical point of interest. The developer has engaged historians to research the slaves who were actually held at the slave jail and convened some follow-up meeting with members of the African American community and the community at large and took in a lot of comment about what this memorial should be. The developer received some very consistent direction. They had originally envisioned a glass wall and some narrative to describe some of the history. The group that came to our workshop wanted something more literal and more figurative in terms of a sculpture or bas relief. The developer submitted a proposal late today with the city that will go to the board of architectural review currently scheduled for Dec. 16. The developer reviewed a diagram for context. The developer does propose a restaurant on the first floor and some tables. The memorial will have some sort of visibility from Duke Street.

The developer is proposing to take an area that is adjacent to the historic building and frame the space with four trees that would frame the area. The proposal is for a bronze statue of the Edmundson sisters, who attempted to escape from Washington on the *Pearl*, but were captured and held at the slave jail here in Alexandria. They eventually gained their freedom and became an inspiration to Harriet Beecher Stowe. They would incorporate four glass panels which would become an opportunity for narrative.

Members had mostly praise for the proposal, both for its involvement of the community in the process and for the public gesture to involve the pedestrian traffic with the Whole Foods across the street on Duke Street.

Boyd Walker

April 1, 2007 Anticipated Opening Date for Bakery Orlov

Ice House

Painted, has an approval below the city to paint the mutual ice company. Not an incorporated company, Mutual Ice Company, LLC. They still have annual board meetings and stockholders meetings. But they ceased to do business in the early 1960s. They are doing a film of the whole process. It was actually two companies that came together and that's why it was called Mutual Ice Company. There were some adjustments made in the original plans. The windows will be the last phase. They've rebuilt the canopy and will have some skylights with shades. Will complete the interior and will probably rent it for a year while I'm in the process of doing the work to prepare for operations, and it's at that point that repairs such as planting street trees and repairing sidewalks.

Why couldn't you do the street trees and sidewalks now? Anything done now would mess up any installations.

Are you designing the interior now? Unclear. Just designing the exterior now and he's planning for an expansion to 1032 square feet without an SUP or variance.

Exterior will be done January 1, 2007.

Suggestion to install a stop sign on Prince Street. Boyd said he's in favor of a stop sign right there. For additional information, contact boydwalker@hotmail.com 703-732-7269

Laura Schepis, Laura.Schepis@nreca.coop, provided a brief update on neighborhood concerns with the Christ House homeless shelter. The shelter is not fully resumed operations, but any day now they will begin serving 18 men at the shelter, who will live there full time. We have talked to Steve Luteran, who's information is listed in the flyer and with Steve Milone and expressed that we want them to be a good neighbor. They have the best of intentions, but I don't know what their plans are for enforcing boundaries. We have agreed to sit down as neighbors on a quarterly basis to address concerns and offer suggestions. There are some people who are coming far before the meal and staying far after the meal. Small things can add up and make a difference. The notion of a tipping point is very important because there are two populations that come there every day and it's not clear how the dinner crowd will interact with the homeless shelter population, which can only be in the shelter from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. There are 30-50 people coming for a meal and another group of people coming for housing. Tickets are handed out starting at 4:30 p.m. and they have two seatings, first at 4:30 and then at 5:30. There's a courtyard that's not big enough for 30 people but maybe it would eliminate some of the street traffic. Steve Luteran was very receptive and helpful to address the problem. There's a large kitchen vent that discharges into a very narrow area, which is quite loud and comes on in an odd way and discharges smoke and grease. Did the special use permit allow for this type of upgrade to an industrial ventilation system when it was granted back in 1979? The answer is not clear, but seems to be yes and Laura and Chris Schepis. Code enforcement has been very responsive about responding to the noise.

Suggestions for future agenda items:

Safe Haven.

Steve Luteran from Christ House

Tim Lovain.