

Southgate Community Center Advisory Council

Minutes – September 15, 2020 Meeting (meeting held at 6pm via ZOOM)

Council Members Present:

Jan Bradshaw, Andy Sigle, Gerald Padmore, Darlena Ricks, Kathy Jones, Maryam Ovissi, Carol Bradley, Alexandra Rossi

Community and Staff Present:

Richard Cabellos, Officer Brandi Horita, Ha Brock, Gwenn Minton

Tonight's Agenda: approved

Past Meeting Minutes: approved

Treasurer's Report (Gerald Padmore): August and September financials were presented. \$3,326.92 final balance.

Two donations received because of the press release - \$500 and \$100.

What other needs do Southgate users have? Doesn't make sense to duplicate Activities already performed by the Closet, the Coat Closet and Cornerstones.

Chair's Report (Jan Bradshaw): Going forward, meetings will be kept at 1 hour.

Secretary vacancy – the Council is looking for a volunteer to be Secretary. Andy Sigle volunteered. Gwenn Minton will take minutes and Andy will review.

Press release - Alexandra Rossi discussed the press release. The release was sent out to various organizations and media outlets including Reston Association, Connection, Fairfax Times, NBC, Washington Post, Washingtonian, 2 Spanish media outlets. It has been challenging connecting with editors and getting them to use the press release. Alexandra will continue to work on this and will also contact Reston Now. Supervisor Alcorn will be asked to put press release information into his newsletter.

Black Lives Matter – Alexandra will write another press release about the Council's position on Black Lives Matter. A statement has been crafted for the Council's website.

Ricardo Cabellos suggested that there should be an effort to improve relations between the Southgate community (in particular, youth) and the police. Perhaps a unity summit could be held in the future.

Kathy Jones suggested that the Council's view of Black Lives Matter be expanded to incorporate the statement "liberty and justice for all" – reflecting concerns of all people of color.

Integration of goals – Discussion deferred about the integration of Council goals with Neighborhood and Community Services goals and RestON goals since the Cornerstones representative was not present.

Youth Member – it is unlikely that a youth member will be recruited soon due to COVID-19 challenges.

SGCC Director’s Report (Ricardo Cabellos):

The basketball and soccer courts were opened yesterday. The large crack (4 inches wide) is still an issue. It is expected that the crack will be repaired next year.

Southgate Community Center will have a soft opening this Friday. Only 3 staff members remain. The others resigned and as a result there are staffing issues. Appointments are needed to use the rooms inside the building and social distancing will be in effect.

Supper meals are still being provided Monday-Friday. All 80 meals are distributed each day. Also, Capital Area Food Bank continues its food distribution service at Southgate.

It is okay for the League of Women Voters to leave flyers at Southgate for distribution. Carol Bradley will deliver these flyers.

Cornerstones Report (representative not present):

No report.

Reston Association (RA) Report (Ha Brock):RA is doing the Hunters Woods/Dogwood listening session on Monday, September 21 at 7pm.

Member Services will be available by appointment.

Programming will soon be coming back.

RA volunteers are available for placement.

Reston Police Liaison Report (Officer Brandi Horita):

Bike team is active at Hunters Woods due to community concerns.

Police are handling calls using social distancing.

Will distribute Coat Closet flyer to those in need when it is available.

Old Business:

Lighting and playground status – effort to get lighting installed still underway.

New Business:

Alexandra has written a children’s book about bullying (Wally and the Bully Lion). For every 5 books sold, she will donate 1 book to Southgate. She plans on writing other books, including e-books, as well as creating a website to feature her books.

Adjourn:

Alexandra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Darlene Ricks.