

15 September 2020

Meeting was held via a Zoom call

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting**Discussion points:**

- **Treasurer's Report** (Norm Lisy)
 - ❖ \$9,513.16 bank balance as of Sept. 1, 2020
- **Guest Speakers:**
 1. **APD – Lt Jason North:** *only two Vehicle / Ped-Bicycle Crash Reports for July / Aug!*
JULY 2020 CRASHES:
 - 07/12/2020, Sunday, 5PM; 48 South Walker Street; clear, dry conditions
 - A vehicle was driving westbound on Stevenson Avenue intending to turn right and travel northbound on Walker Street. The vehicle entered the intersection, striking a 16-year old cyclist who was lawfully within the crosswalk. The cyclist was transported to the Alexandria Hospital for leg injuries.
 - driver was cited for Failure to Pay Full Time and AttentionAUGUST 2020 CRASHES
 - 8/1/2020, Saturday, 7:30AM; 5700 Duke Steet; clear, dry conditions
 - Vehicle was traveling westbound on Duke Street, merging onto Northbound Van Dorn Street. Pedestrian was going across the crosswalk and was struck. The victim sent the driver away. A 3rd party called the police and they tracked down the driver and pedestrian. No injuries, no charges filed. (No citation given).
 2. **Update on SRTS¹ “Walk To School Day/Week”** - Jen Wiser
 - Health initiative for students/adults to get out and about on the first day of school.
 - ACPS has concern about kids sitting in front of a Chromebook for 6 hours a day, so encouraging parents to exercise the children before school.
 - National Walk to School day will still be held Oct. 7. Will be on Social Media to encourage people to walk around their neighborhood.
 - In addition, there will be Pedestrian safety education for K-8 and maybe K-12
 - AFSS offered to share its K-8 street safety handout education material
 - Jen has new boss, Kristin Donley, was PE Teacher at MVCS
 - Return to School Travel Plan
 - If there's a COVID restriction on bus capacity, there will be a traffic congestion problem, so looking at being pro-active to encourage biking or walking to school.
- **Old Business**
 - ❖ **Update on 501(c)(3)** (Nora Brownell)
 - IRS designation as private foundation was incorrect, interferes with fundraising.
 - Our application was correct, so letter is being sent to correct IRS's mistake. Pending.

¹SRTS (Safe Routes to School)²NVRC (Northern Virginia Regional Commission)

- ❖ **New Board Member** (Nora Brownell)
 - Bob Trencheny was unanimously approved by AFSS's Board as a new member.
- ❖ **AFSS's Accomplishments over last two months** (Mike Doyle)
 - Web site & social media updates on AFSS & Arl FSS – thanks to Bob Trencheny, Antonella Nicholas, and Josephine Llorente
 - Arl FSS FB, website is now up and running.
 - We are always looking for content to keep people engaged.
 - AFSS will support the Drive Smart Virginia's fall campaign for putting down the cell phone per the new "hands free" law that goes into effect 1/1/2021
 - We also have material to post Sept as Bicycle and Pedestrian Month so AFSS is pushing this out on social media.
 - Anyone with Social Media skills, please contact Bob Trencheny if you're interested in helping push these messages forward.
 - NVRC² collaboration with AFSS / Arl FSS on Near Miss Survey
 - They have a website and have taken our near miss survey and put it on their website, to help extend collection of "Near Misses" for the region.
 - Publication of AFSS 3rd Year Anniversary Newsletter and an Arl FSS Inaugural Newsletter – thanks to Abigail Casas
 - AFSS published letter regarding racial justice in traffic enforcement (see web site)
 - Virginia Conservatory Network (VCN) – AFSS partnership
 - Part of their mission is transportation and looking to reach out to organizations that focus on bicyclists and pedestrians. We are one of the few organizations that is focused on pedestrians.
 - VCN is based in Richmond and have lobbyists and other resources we can use.
 - We are now one of VCN's 125 partners.
- ❖ **Uncontrolled Crosswalk survey** (Melissa McMahan)
 - We were tasked by the City to help them inventory all the uncontrolled crosswalks in the Alexandria. (i.e. no stop signs or stoplight where there is a crosswalk).
 - We researched street level views via Google Maps, documented the uncontrolled crosswalks, followed by actual fieldwork to find, document more detail and photograph each of those locations, and discovered additional uncontrolled crosswalks.
 - Full dataset is being worked by Melissa and about ready to hand off to Christine Mayeur at T&ES. Goal is to fold these findings into the City's improvement plans (depending on the specific crosswalk and where it is located). The budget will also determine what gets done as part of Complete Streets.
 - About 450 crossings were identified and audited. City staff wouldn't have had the person-hours to complete this. (11 AFSS and several BPAC volunteers spent over 200 hours on this project).
 - Lessons Learned: Entire project was done during COVID, so everything was remote and slightly difficult. When field work was done by a different person than who did the original mapping, a few issues occurred. Some of the questions in the submittal

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form had subjectivity causing Melissa to put out FAQs. Need to be as concrete as possible with examples when volunteers are following data entry forms.

- Otherwise, a very successful project that can improve safety on our streets.

- **New Business**

- ❖ **VT Grad School of Urban Planning** (Brian Shankman)

- Virginia Tech has a year-long class which is a capstone studio that all students in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program must take as a requirement. Each year the studio works with a particular community partner to both provide assistance in a planning related area as well as build their practical skills working on "real life" questions/issues. AFSS / NoVA FSS will be the community partner this year.
 - An introductory Zoom call took place on August 25 with Mike Doyle and Professor Tom Sanchez and his students in the studio class.
 - The studio has 10 students in the program. Mike provided the background on AFSS / NoVA FSS and the students asked several good questions about crash data from APD, record keeping of the crash data, what type of regional crash data analytics are available, does anyone keep records on crash data to handicapped people, do we have crash data from the hospitals, etc. Also, some questions on public outreach efforts and legislative advocacy.
 - AFSS provided a variety of suggested studio projects; e.g. in the topics of GIS/data, education, and outreach. The student sub-groups are starting to meet and mentioned that they will want to arrange a time to ask AFSS additional questions now that they are getting more familiar with the associated topics. Some of the students may be attending AFSS & Arl FSS Zoom meetings to give them more context.
 - The VT Grad School projects will be in three areas include:
 1. Integrate AFSS's online "near miss data" into a Google / Waze map to alert drivers about locations with crashes and to facilitate submission of near misses, including analysis of specific traffic crash and near miss locations in Alexandria and why are they dangerous.
 2. Research and help develop street safety educational programs for school curricula and training for school pupils at different levels (primary, middle, and high school)
 3. Elevate NoVA FSS outreach programs in Arlington, Fairfax, and Alexandria
 - a. Public outreach
 - b. Government outreach
 - Tom Sanchez, VT Professor in charge of the capstone studio added – "Part of the challenge is not only assess the partner's projects but also how to match with student's skills and interest in the studio. Project scoping is important – what the partner needs as well as parsing into smaller projects that are a good match for student opportunities to learn." At some point, they'll have questions as to what resources are already in place and fine tuning their projects to better fit AFSS's interests.

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- ❖ **Ideas & plans for Pedestrian Safety Week – Oct 26th to Nov 1st, 2020**
 - Week has Halloween and end of Daylight Savings
 - We are asking City Council for a new Ped Safety Awareness Proclamation from City
 - Mike sent a note to Chief Brown about Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week, requesting APD join AFSS in an advertising event. Asked Lt. North to take the request back to the PD, since the Fall is a statistically higher crash period time.
 - Lt. North says there will be two specific days in September targeting crosswalk safety, looking to enforce and educate pedestrians. Lt. North suggested repeating that in October for the Safety Week along with Social Media advertising.
 - This is a regional issue – how to convey message about risk of DST and nightfall when people aren't wearing reflective gear.
 - Neighborhoods are talking about doing socially distanced Halloween
- ❖ **Public educational campaign of Hands-Free Law effective 1/1/21 (Jeff Pool)**
 - SB 160 and HB 864 merged to have this statewide ban while driving.
 - Any hand-held. Exceptions are parked cars, or reporting an emergency, or emergency vehicles. First offense \$125 (\$250 in work zones and school zones).
 - Suggest videos or other social media about distracted driving.
 - Police are getting additional training on this to minimize racial profiling.
- ❖ **Plan for World Day of Remembrance event, Sun, Nov 15th**
 - International Day of remembering those killed or seriously injured due to traffic violence. AFSS has had marches and speeches for this the past two years.
 - Suggestions: collage of pictures and story-telling events. Mike says there's already a lot of stress with COVID and losing family members or jobs. Jeff suggests adding to the City proclamation about World Day of Remembrance.
 - Selena offered to assist to get testimonials. There is a group in the DC area looking to put these testimonials together – Mike will send that contact info to Selena from the Street Smart safety campaign digital project.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ❖ Sept. 24, 2020 – Washington Regional Vision Zero Summit – all day summit with a Families for Safe Streets breakout session. Let Mike know if you want to attend.
 - ❖ Wed, Oct 7, 2020 - Walk to School / Week
 - ❖ **Oct 20., 2020 - Next AFSS Meeting** – the 3rd Tuesday of Month
 - ❖ Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week – Mon, Oct 26th to Sun, Nov 1st
 - ❖ **Sister Ffx FSS kick off meeting** – Thursday, Oct 22nd
 - ❖ Sister Arl FSS Meeting – the 4th Tuesday of Month, Oct 27th

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