

## Minutes AFSS October 20, 2020

Mike Doyle, Chairman, opened the meeting with a brief update on item to be covered and an introduction of board members, guest speakers, and volunteers.

Norm Lisy, Treasurer, gave a treasury update including a recent gift of \$1000 from the Kiwanis Club. Mike Doyle reported current status of 501c3 status: retained outside accountant determined AFSS has filed the correct documents, IRS made a mistake in designation, an appeal was filed several weeks ago and remains pending.

### APD

Guest speaker, Lt. Jason North, AFSS liaison reported an incident involving a car and scooter occurred on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at the corner of King and Payne. No injuries were reported. No citation was issued. Lt. North explained that even though City Council had passed an ordinance prohibiting no scooters allowed on sidewalks, Alexandria police are not permitted to enforce civil penalties. He added this was the first incident this year. Questions regarding scooter companies' agreements with City were referred to [Victoria.cadullo@Alexandria.gov](mailto:Victoria.cadullo@Alexandria.gov).

### SRTS "Walk to School"

Jen Wisner delivered an update on the success of the SRTS "Walk to School week program. In what is now a mandatory program, over 7,000 Alexandrian children, grades K-5 participated in a highly interactive street safety exercise designed to teach pedestrian safety. ACPS has new management for its PE and SRTS program. The new management team developed this interactive program on their own. Congratulations to SRTS for such an effective program for K-5 students. This pedestrian safety program will continue to be mandatory under the SRTS grant from the State.

### OLD BUSINESS

Brian Shankman gave an update on the AFSS engagement with the VT Grad School of Urban Planning, who will take this semester to focus on developing a plan and focus on execution during the following semester. Among the tasks they will undertake is an update of the Near Miss Survey overlaid on crash data and then perform data analytics to see if future potential hot spot crash sites can be identified and improved before a crash happens. In addition, some of the Grad Students will help AFSS / NoVA FSS with its marketing outreach programs.

### NEW BUSINESS

Daniela Negrette shared information on upgrading AFSS / NoVA FSS's volunteer programs. Her efforts have focused on ways to leverage the talents of the many volunteers who have expressed interested in engaging with AFSS. She is developing a 2021 events calendar to facilitate sign ups and enhanced coordination for specific events. It will optimize individual talents for specific needs while increasing our effectiveness as an organization.

There was an extensive discussion of Ideas and Plans for Pedestrian Safety week (Oct 26<sup>th</sup> to Nov 1<sup>st</sup>), including the City's "Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week" proclamation, as well as the multi-language "Stop Look Wave" flyer for ACPS's school distribution system on PeachJar (cost ~ \$450). Other suggestions included greater use of social media during this week.

AFSS, in conjunction with APD's help, created a photo of children crossing the street in a crosswalk while a policeman stood behind the crosswalk with his hand raised in a "stop or halt" motion while a car approached the crosswalk. The photo plus a short write up on the new law that requires drivers to stop at crosswalks when pedestrians are in the crosswalk was made into a Press Release and posted on our Social Media Sites. The Alexandria Gazette did a write up on the press release and used the photo.

AFSS is also looking for ways to promote a public education campaign around the effective date of the Hand Free Law which will become enforceable on 1 January 2021. At a minimum, AFSS will issue a statement and do some social media postings.

Activities to support World Day of Remembrance, Sunday, November 15th were reviewed to try to include a virtual event that the national network of FSS chapters is trying to plan. We can look into using photos / videos of AFSS crash survivor members or family members of a pedestrian killed by a distracted driver. One suggestion was to reuse the Jerry Rubin pedestrian memorial (he was killed on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> while crossing a street... mid-block) video and post that on the WDoR social media site.

Discussion also included plans to coordinate with the other NoVA FSS chapters and other street safety advocate organizations like BPAC to plan for the upcoming Virginia State 2021 legislation that goes from mid-January to the end of February 2021. We need to prioritize our collective new traffic laws changes that we want to advocate for with our State Policymakers. Anyone who is interested in helping to advocate for certain changes in the State's traffic laws should contact Mike Doyle ASAP.

Upcoming events were reviewed to encourage participation.

- Sister Fairfax FSS Kick Off Meeting – Thursday, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week – Mon, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> to Sun, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
- Next AFSS Meeting – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>
- Sister Ffx FSS Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>
- Sister Arl FSS Meeting – the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>

8:01 pm The meeting was adjourned.