

Alexandria's Families for Safe Streets ("AFSS") Advisory Committee

15 Dec 2020: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

- Attendees – 18 attendees
- Treasurers report –
 - Current balance \$11,361. Boosted due to successful “Giving Tuesday” of \$2,775, across 16 donors. Exceeded our goal of \$1,000. Meghan Hendy initiated the event.
 - Expenses for November included costs for PeachJar (additional school flyers) and a new order for safety reflectors/lights (approx. \$1,000 pre-Giving Tuesday event).
 - Regarding the re-classification of 501(c)(3), the request for change to “public charity” was sent in September and still resides with the IRS for their action.
- Guest Speaker: Lt. Jason North (Alexandria Police Dept, Traffic Safety Commander).
November had 5 pedestrian crashes, all in clear weather: **60% were drivers turning left**
 - Nov. 2nd – 5:45pm, Franklin at S. Columbus. **Left turning driver of vehicle**, was going eastbound on Franklin. Pedestrian within crosswalk, was struck, knocked to ground, and went to hospital with minor injuries. Driver charged for failure to pay full-time attention.
 - Nov. 10th – 500 block S. Van Dorn. **Driver turning vehicle right** into shopping center. Struck cyclist who was traveling opposite direction on sidewalk and had turned into parking lot. Cyclist went to hospital with lacerations. Driver cited for failure to pay full-time attention.
 - Nov. 21st – N. Union at Cameron. **Left-turning driver of vehicle** from N. Union onto Cameron. Pedestrian was in crosswalk and suffered minor injuries, requiring no medical treatment. Driver cited for failure to pay full-time attention.
 - Nov. (Late in month - date not specified), at Princess and N. Alfred. Vehicle stopped at stop sign and **pedestrian in wheelchair began to cross N. Alfred**. Driver didn't see pedestrian, continued on and struck gentleman, knocked him to ground, but no injuries reported by pedestrian. Driver cited for disregarding a stop sign.
 - Nov. 20 -- S. Washington and Wilkes. **Driver of vehicle (pickup truck) traveling westbound, turned left on S. Washington**, and hit pedestrian within crosswalk. **Victim succumbed to injuries at hospital**. Currently at crash-reconstruction team and under investigation, as a death was involved.
 - APD is proactively enforcing disregard of stop signs in Old Town and speeding on Washington St. Lt. North will add Gibbon St. to that list after the discussion at the meeting. Results can take a few months.
 - Contact Jason.North@alexandriava.gov for further concerns.
- Old Business
 - Advocacy of New Traffic Regulations, post WDoR - (Mike Doyle):
 - ASE (cameras) will be an issue for the 2022 GA session (not 2021).

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- Cameras are currently allowed only in Work Zones and School Zones, although none implemented yet.
- AFSS proposed adding residential and business districts, but the 2021 session is too short, and no elected officials will sponsor such a bill as cameras are considered "Big Brother" or a "Revenue Driver" by many citizens.
- The camera vendors are also against trying to expand to the law in 2021 because of the bad experience in Washington DC where the cameras were placed where they could generate the most money and not at the higher crash-risk areas. (Loss of credibility.)
- AFSS will do advocacy plus encourage the City to put in allowable cameras in a couple places **around School Zones to gather statistics**
- Speed limits to 15 or 20 mph in residential / business districts.
 - A municipality can petition for this today, but the State requires a \$10-15k study even if just one or two streets.
 - We are advocating that the municipality doesn't require a study but can implement their own discretion.
- Improving AFSS outreach with State policymakers.
 - We are going to try a postcard campaign as well as discussing with local policymakers. Advocacy and reaching out to the state policy makers takes about 12 months.
 - To date, we have talked to two City Council members (John Chapman and Mayor Wilson) who appear supportive. We hope to talk to all Council members
- More detailed information is on the AFSS web site.
- Social Media – (Bob Trencheny):
 - Wear White (or reflector) at Night communications.
 - Two versions: ACPS (kids' level) via PeachJar & Adult level.
 - On FB and Twitter.
 - Public educational campaign Hands-Free Law on 1 Jan '21.
 - Pushing this info out on FB and Twitter every couple days to ensure people are informed.
 - Using graphics from Drive Smart Virginia.
<https://www.drivesmartva.org/>
 - Herndon Police Dept has put something out on their Twitter feed, so Lt. Jason North will contact their PIO to see if Chief Brown would do something we could Retweet.
 - Also will message via mobile signage 7 days in advance.
- Virginia Tech Masters of Urban Planning Program – (Brian Shankman):
 - Dec. 8th was "end of first semester" presentation (Zoom call). The Studio Program runs two semesters. The first semester was to identify the projects and provide proposals for approval. The class has split into 3 teams:

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- Team 1 - Media Outreach:
 - Met separately via Zoom on Dec. 11.
 - Provided NoVA FSS Points of Contact for VT.
 - NoVA FSS members are assembling a list of potential cooperation partners to broaden our outreach in Northern Virginia. These organizational names and contact information list will be provided to the Virginia Tech Media Outreach team to help in this effort.
 - The current list includes over 20 partners. Mike Doyle has the current master list, and it covers Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax organizations. **We welcome additional organizational ideas**
- Team 2 - Data Advocacy Outreach:
 - Initial meeting via Zoom on Dec. 1.
 - This is a new team formed due to a gap discovered when the Media Outreach team and Data Analytics team began meeting.
 - Data Advocacy Outreach focuses on communicating the importance of the Near Miss data in terms of pedestrian safety in the communities and explaining how to enter data in the data collection tool in the app or on the website.
 - This process will involve the creation of literature and media presentations to demonstrate how to submit Near-Miss data and navigate the NoVA FSS respective local website (e.g. AFSS)
- Team 3 - Data Analytics
 - Separate Zoom call Dec. 4th.
 - This group is focused on a full rewrite and redesign of the existing AFSS Near Miss survey into the ArcGIS Survey123 platform to make the survey more user-friendly (and mobile), including a definition of what a "near miss" is, encouraging a higher-level participation by the general population. And overlay the history of crashes and new Near Miss clusters are showing up. VDOT doesn't have this information.
 - ArcGIS will enable creation of maps along with spatial analysis and sharable data – both on the FSS Website as well as between groups -- that will help in our advocacy efforts.
 - **The City GIS department has complementary layers of data that might be useful to the VT Grad Data team.**
- Melissa suggested that the City knows what to do with Crashes, but not with Near Miss data. Therefore, the VT group should capture what a near-miss data set can do that a crash data set can't do. For example, where there are expected population increases plus no controls, or current near miss hot spots, the City could apply best practices to avoid future crash KSIs.

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- 2021 Events Calendar & Volunteer Coordination
 - Lists 2021 events with description, such as "education campaign" or "walking tour", "policy advocacy projects", etc.
 - We need volunteers to help identify additional tasks
 - Daniella assisting with volunteer coordination
- New Business:
 - Walk audits to improve understanding of Ped / Bike infrastructure and identify dangerous areas.
 - Ped/Bike counts for ped/bike infrastructure
 - Health Dept. and T&ES
 - Giving Tuesday results enabled additional outreach.
 - AFSS doubled outreach to ACPS students via PeachJar with the "Wear White (or reflector) at Night" flyers
 - Allowed purchasing an additional 1,000 blinkers going to ALIVE, West End Food Pantry and Saint Joseph Church.
 - Other locations to consider – Carpenter's Shelter, other churches could be contacted by Jeff Pool as a follow up to a previous outreach.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Sister Fairfax FSS Kick Off Meeting – Thursday, Dec 17th
 - Sister Arl FSS Meeting – the 2nd Tuesday of the Month, Jan 12, 2021
 - **Next AFSS Meeting – the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, Jan 19, 2021**

Happy Holidays Everyone!

