

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

16 Feb 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

*Location:* Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes**

- Attendees – 19 attendees
- Treasurers report (Norm Lisy):
  - Current balance \$ 10,168.00.
  - Expenses are for service work. This month advertising and mailing expenses, plus an annual fee for incorporation status with the state Commerce Commission.
  - We are still considered a nonprofit private foundation, so will need to file our 990 form in May electronically, which has additional cost to paper filing. Still trying to get the IRS to change AFSS's nonprofit classification status to a public charity versus a private foundation. We filed correctly. The IRS mistake creates problems for a family private foundation to donate to AFSS. We are trying to fix this.
  - AFSS's major fund raiser is Spring2Action in April 2021.
- Guest Speakers: Lt. Jason North, Alexandria Police Dept.
  - Update on the driver charges for Pedestrian fatality at S. Washington & Wilkes (see January minutes for details)
    - Commonwealth Attorney, Bryan Porter, was successful in dismissing the initial charge, which was a simple traffic charge of failure to yield to pedestrian, in order to be able to file a more serious charge or whatever Porter decides is appropriate. Waiting on medical examiner's report.
    - There was a protocol issue regarding the initial traffic charge against the driver. Oscar Gonzalez, in conjunction with AFSS, was instrumental in having APD reexamine its communications protocols with the Commonwealth Attorney's office.
  - January Pedestrian/ Vulnerable Road Users crash report – 5 crashes (versus 3 in December):
    - Jan 1, Duke and S. Pickett at 6:30pm. Rainy weather. Vehicle westbound on Duke, left turn onto S. Pickett. Pedestrian legally in crosswalk was crashed into. Dark colored Rav-4 left the scene. Minor injuries. Under investigation. Suggestions made, regarding "left on green" versus removing that if a pedestrian hits the crossing button. Another suggestion is to add a median strip at the intersection to slow left turning drivers down.
    - Jan 3, Richmond Hwy (Route 1) and Swann Ave, 6:20pm. Rainy weather. Vehicle traveling SB and cyclist also on Richmond Hwy. Vehicle came into same lane and sideswiped the cyclist. Driver left scene. Minor injuries. Under investigation. There is no plan to add bike lanes on Route 1.
    - Jan 5, 299 S. Van Dorn (Safeway Parking Lot), 2:30pm. Driver under influence backed into a man pushing grocery cart. Man had both legs severed but

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- survived. Driver apprehended, arrested for DUI Maiming. Is in custody awaiting trial.
- Jan 23, Fillmore Ave at Seminary, 3:45pm. Vehicle on Fillmore stopped at Seminary. Pedestrian crossed over Fillmore, vehicle didn't see pedestrian, was hit and minor injuries. Driver cited for failure to yield to pedestrian. There are no crosswalks on road, and there is a tree which obstructs views.
- Jan 23, Potomac and E. Glebe, 4pm. Cyclist southbound on Potomac. Approached red light at E. Glebe but ran the light and vehicle hit cyclist. Cyclist at fault but not cited by officer (in error). No injuries.
- Old Business:
  - T&ES report on S. Washington crossings at Wilkes & Gibbons
    - Christine Mayeur will have a more complete report next month for South Washington and these intersections.
    - Some VZ agenda items are on for tomorrow's T&ES briefing at the Transportation Committee meeting including only adding two left turn road "bump" to discourage drivers from 45-degree turns and forces a 90-degree left turn.
    - Also, cars turning right from Southbound Washington & Gibbon don't appear to see pedestrians in the crosswalk (per Rebecca's NM report.)
  - 15 mph speed limit (HB1903) at discretion of local jurisdiction
    - NoVA FSS chapters sent ~400 postcards to legislators
    - Bill passed the House & Senate Trans. Committee, vote on Senate floor in special session after the budget discussion, vote due soon.
  - Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE, i.e. Speed Cameras) are an issue for 2022 GA session, not 2021 b/c of vendors
    - APD is setting up ASE data collection around schools. This is critical to acceptance.
      - Pilot at 1700 Beauregard, technology worked well.
      - Vendor is same one who runs red light program.
      - Chief has given green light to work up details for City Council in April. Lt. North will present the options for more ASE set ups and let AFSS know if and when he would like our support.
    - Fairfax FSS is advocating that FCPD do same to collect the data to prove the technology works.
    - Arlington FSS has lost their Chief of Police so not sure who to contact.
  - AFSS sent Letter to City Council regarding high-visibility Crosswalks
    - Received a couple responses to this. Issue is especially important in West End.
    - There's a large cost difference between high visibility and standard crosswalks (several thousand dollars each).
    - The State General Assembly voted unanimously to have a study on this, due to the Girl Scouts vision impaired leader. Issue of who pays for upgrades is the challenge.

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- New Business
  - AFSS Winter Newsletter published, thanks to Abigail Casas. The Newsletter is on our AFSS Web Site.
  - AFSS could help T&ES conduct audits at 5 or 6 high crash intersection in the City this spring and summer.
    - Christine Mayeur has very limited resources, needs help.
    - Guidance to be provided by Christine.
  - Sidewalk audits to improve Ped / Bike infrastructure.
    - Ped/Bike counts for ped/bike infrastructure advocacy.
    - There are templates we could utilize for this.
    - This is not on Christine's Complete Streets agenda, but we could do it.
  - **ALX Budget public discussion this evening, Feb 16<sup>th</sup> & on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>**
    - Process goes through April, so we have time to review and comment
    - Called "Fiscal 2022" which starts in July 2021.
    - Concern is what happened to the VZ budget in subsequent years
  - **Traffic & Parking Board – Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> mtg. Commonwealth Daylighting + Parking**
    - Proposal to remove parking on Commonwealth Avenue to allow buses to pull to side, as well as removing parking at corners so drivers can see pedestrians and cyclists better.
    - Debate on whether to add more parking spaces on other corners then.
  - Jeff Pool brought up if there's an opportunity for the City to review policies for salting or brining the roads during snow and ice conditions, and the policy impact on pedestrians. In particular, the sidewalk curb ramps, as those were extremely slippery, which is a problem given they are for the sight-impaired and wheelchair users. This was corroborated by Brian Shankman.
    - AFSS should bring this issue up with T&ES
  - Accelerating Active Transportation Alternatives Seminar, March 25, 2021
    - Regional all-day conference with interesting speakers and breakout panels, including Data Analytics panel with AFSS's Near Miss Data App presented by the Virginia Tech Grad Students that are working with us.
    - Registration link for the Seminar is: [Registration for Accelerating Active Transportation Change in N. VA \(gmu.edu\)](#)
- Upcoming Events:
  - Traffic & Parking Board Meeting – Mon, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm
  - Sister Arl FSS Meeting – the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the Month, Feb 24, 2021
  - Sister Fairfax FSS Meeting – changed to Mon, Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
  - **Next AFSS Meeting – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, March 16, 2021**
  - **Accelerating Active Transportation Alternatives Seminar - March 25, 2021**