

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

21 February 2023: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 7 People in Attendance

Treasurer's Report

- The bank balance for AFSS is \$22,317. We had about \$370 of various expenses in the past month. The overall balance for the NoVA FSS is \$25,700.
- We've completed the transition from the AFSS 501(c)3 that the IRS incorrectly classified us as a "private foundation" in 2018 to the correct 501(c)3 "public charity" that is now NoVA FSS. All of the other links to our bank account, PayPal etc. have been switched to the NoVA FSS's account we will be closing out the AFSS accounts shortly.
- The entity of AFSS will be modified in the VA State Charter to be part of the NoVA FSS nonprofit, DBA (doing business as) AFSS

Old Business

- ACPS - Brian Shankman and Mike spent four days at Hammond and George Washington Middle School presenting to over 1,000 Sixth Graders on pedestrian safety. The project was coordinated with Kristin Donley who did an excellent job of creating an engaging pedestrian safety presentation for Sixth Graders. We were joined by SRO police officer, Rich Sandoval, who is the SRO officer for Hammond and GWMS, Andrew Harrell, he also helped out at George Washington middle school. The presentations went from the morning to about to 1:30 pm most days. AFSS handed out over 1000 blinkers and equal number of the Near Miss QR codes cards
 - We still may have the opportunity to do pedestrian safety presentations at Jefferson Houston and maybe Tucker but not sure of the timing.
- AARP Grant application has been worked on by Patrick Wise who did a great job. We have the letters of reference from Norman Lisy, Nora Brownell, Mayor Wilson and the Deputy County Executive of Fairfax County in charge of transportation. We also had a very nice write up from Sarah Hashimi about her crash experience, and how by participating in many of AFSS's outreach programs it has helped her cope with the trauma of surviving a crash.
- General Assembly legislative update is unfortunately disappointing. We advocated for three bills at the House of Delegates Transportation Committee but all three failed. Two bills provided jurisdictional discretion on lowering the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph and the third bill would allocate 10% of State budget surplus to improving safety on the roads. Senator Saslaw's bill about mandatory driver's stopping when there is a pedestrian sign in the middle of the crosswalk is the only bill that has a good chance of becoming law.

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- The Duke Street Mobility Project – Dane provided an update. The curb blub-out (aka, curb extension) and a few other ped safety features along Duke Street seem to be supported by the majority of the Duke Street Mobility Committee members. Another feature would be a continuous pedestrian route on the northside of Duke street from King Street to the west-end (Landmark?) where there will be a pedestrian continuous route. At times there might be a combined ped / bike pathway, and then in other parts it will be a shared use between vehicles and cyclists but always a pedestrian path / sidewalk parallel to the north side of the road. The committee is going to finish in a few months. The issue of the BRT in the center lane is being discussed for the East side and in the West side of the road but in the center portion of Duke, it's not likely to have a two way BRT dedicated lane b/c of space limitation. One idea is a bi-directional one lane with alternating bus traffic going east and then west.

New Business

- Drive Smart Virginia - Brian Shankman reports that Ben Bruce from Drive Smart Virginia approached AFSS and wants to see if there's an opportunity to work together. Drive Smart's major concern is about distracted driving. Brian's going to explore how the two groups can work together.
- APD's Lieutenant Dalton is about to be transferred so we don't have an APD liaison person right now. We will invite the new APD liaison person to one of our spring meetings. There was a pedestrian seriously injured at the intersection at Mount Vernon and Monroe in January 2023. The lady was severely injured and sent to the ICU. We hope to get an update at the next AFSS meeting
- ACPS Walk Audits – Alex Carroll will inform us of a date for the walk audits around 5 schools will start with the two high schools, both middle schools and maybe Ferdinand T Day. AFSS will help with the walk audits. It will give us an opportunity to see how we can incorporate the near miss survey with the student population.
- Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) - Charles suggested that we connect with Senior Services of Alexandria. Mary Lee Anderson is the head of the program. SSA runs a program called senior ambassadors, where they have somewhere between 75 and 100 volunteers who go out into the community, different homeowners association and other organizations to talk about taxes, food distribution, housing, etc. The idea of pedestrian safety could be a topic that could be of interest to the ambassadors. Also, Charles suggested that we talk to the City Department of senior services.
- AFSS has recently written letters of support to City Council and/or the Traffic & Parking Board regarding;
 - Curbs blub-outs for ped safety features in regard to the Duke Street Mobility Committee

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- No turn on red at intersection of Duke and Patrick / Henry plus 10 or 11 other intersections along the Patrick & Henry road corridors
- Duke Street not in the Mobility Study There was a lot of discussion about the dangers of on Duke Street from the King Street Metro east (near Whole Foods) all the way through to the intersection to Duke & Washington. A deacon from the Alfred Street Baptist community wrote to AFSS today saying how they want to support improvements on the lower east side of Duke Street. They have had two parishioners crashed into recently at that intersection of Alfred Street and Duke Street. They don't know what to do but they want change. I told him there is a City survey about street safety at the intersections of Duke Street and Patrick / Henry. His parishioners should fill out the survey as well as he can encourage parishioners to fill out the AFSS Near Miss survey.
- **Next AFSS meeting** – Next meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023