

The Old Town Crier

The Monthly Newsletter of the Old Town Civic Association, Inc.

Announcing the April Program and Notice of the Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 11, 2007
TIME: 7:00 p.m., Socializing with Neighbors; 7:30 p.m., Program
LOCATION: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street

PROGRAM AGENDA:

- (1) POLICE REPORT: LT. JAMIE BARTLETT**

- (2) WATERFRONT VISION PRESENTATION: LINDA COUTURE**

WATERFRONT VISION PRESENTATION

Linda Couture, OTCA's Waterfront Planning Committee Chairperson, will facilitate an interactive presentation by this Committee to the Membership regarding the results of the waterfront survey. OTCA distributed 540 surveys and had 172 returned, essentially a 32% return, which in the survey world is truly outstanding. In addition 45% of the respondents took the time to provide written comments. The Committee will not only present the analysis of the answers to the survey but they will also provide additional data regarding parking, the Chesapeake Bay Act/Resource Protection Areas, the historic preservation aspects and more. All of this will culminate in an overall vision of what the waterfront should look like based upon the membership's responses to the survey.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has been constituted to make nominations for the election of Officers and Directors of the Association for the coming year. The Committee will report its nominees in advance of the May 9 Members Meeting. Nominations from the floor will be in order at that meeting, and the election will take place at the Annual Members Meeting June 13.

The offices to be filled at this year's election include the five officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary) and the following Directors: North of King-East, Central, South of Franklin-East, and North of King-West. The President (Van Van Fleet), Vice-President (Linda Couture), Treasurer (Michael Zarlenga), Corresponding Secretary (Susan Brita) and Recording Secretary (Douglas Thurman) are completing their first one-year terms and are eligible for re-nomination to another term. Director Jon Aaronsohn (North of King-East) was elected in late 2006 to fill an unexpired term and is eligible for re-nomination to a new two-year term in his own right. Director Tim Elliott (Central) is completing his first two-year term and is eligible for re-nomination to another term. Director Boyd Walker (North of King-West) is completing his second term and has moved out of Old Town, therefore he is not eligible for re-nomination to that office. The seat of the Director for South of Franklin-East is vacant. The terms of two of the present Directors continue until June 2008: John Johansen (At Large) and Russell George (South of King-West).

Any member who wishes to suggest consideration of him- or herself or another member for nomination is invited to contact the Chairman or any other member of the Nominating Committee. The members are:

Michael Hobbs, Chairman
(Past President)
mhobbs27@oldtowncivic.org

John Johansen
(Central)
jjohansen@oldtowncivic.org

Chip Carlin
(West)
carlincollc@comcast.net

Michael Sauls
(South)
msauls@dudinskyassociates.com

Miles Holtzman
(North)
miles.holtzman@dla.mil

TRANSPORTATION FORUM

Old Town Civic, the Federation of Civic Associations, In My Opinion, and others are sponsoring a Regional Transportation Mobility Public Participation Forum on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 beginning at 7pm in the Exhibit Hall at the Lee Center at 1106 Jefferson St. (corner of Jefferson and S. Fayette Sts.). This forum is especially for Alexandria citizens and small business persons. We all use or live near Route 1, US395, the George Washington Parkway, and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Knowing what is happening with regional transportation and how it will affect us is important. Our thoughts and ideas are also welcomed for land-use and transportation. The OTCA Board voted unanimously to sponsor this forum. We encourage you to attend.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Learn more and be heard at Alexandria's Historic Preservation Conference and Town Meeting on the 4 and 5th of May. This will give you the opportunity to learn more about historic preservation and its importance for Alexandria's economy and quality of life. On Friday night, May the 4th, the keynote address will be given by the noted author and historian William Seale at 7p.m. at Saint Paul's Church, located at 228 South Pitt Street. This will be followed by a reception at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 North Royal Street.

On Saturday, May the 5th, the Conference and Town Hall Meeting will occur from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church located at 2932 King Street. The luncheon presentation will be delivered by the renowned preservationist and author Donovan Rypkema. Saturday's workshop sessions include "Basic Preservation Tools", "Design Concepts" and "Preservation in Alexandria: Current Problems and challenges". The town meeting Saturday afternoon allows participants to speak up, contribute to Alexandria's historic preservation action plan and make an impact on how Alexandria's rich history can remain part of the future. The registration fee is \$25 per person. You can register on line by visiting www.historicalexandriafoundation.org or call 703-549-5811. Space is very limited; therefore the registration deadline is April 20, 2007. This event is sponsored by the City of Alexandria and the Historic Alexandria Foundation.

BRADDOCK METRO NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

The Alexandria Planning Commission and the Department of Planning and Zoning invites you to a community meeting to participate in a comprehensive review and discussion of the Draft Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Jefferson Houston School. Following this meeting the Plan will be considered by the Planning Commission and Council in May. Notes from the previous citizen meeting on the 20th of March will be posted on the City's web site next week:

www.alexandriava.gov/planningandzoning/braddock_road.php. This is an important meeting, as the impact of this massive development will not only affect the Braddock Metro area but will also potentially impact adversely upon the Parker Grey and Old Town Historic Districts. The Route 1 corridor is already a traffic disaster and this additional uncontrolled development will make it even worse. When Potomac Yard is fully developed an additional 20,000 cars will enter Route 1 every day. This in addition to the other developments on Route 1 and the full opening of the Wilson Bridge next year will add to our traffic woes. There is absolutely no hurry to approve this plan until the citizens living in all the Alexandria areas affected by this plan are convinced that the development has been well thought out and accompanied by a detailed traffic plan. Not the usual unprofessional traffic plans we see coming out of the Office of the Transportation and Environmental Services Department of the City!

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Attended the Transportation Task Forces Meeting regarding putting Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Route 1. The City wants to dedicate two lanes to BRT. Attended, as OTCA's representative, the City's Collaborative Group meeting to study new ways to get ready for the opening of National Harbor on the 1st of April 2008; in addition, attended with five other Board Members a meeting aboard the Cherry Blossom wherein citizens and business owners were given the opportunity to make their concerns known. Testified at the BAR to defer the redevelopment of the Armed Forces Benefit buildings at 901 North Washington. Since then the applicant has withdrawn his request to redevelop this area. The OTCA Waterfront Planning Committee has spent considerable time analyzing the survey statistics and getting ready for the 11 April briefing. Attended the Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan meeting. All of the citizens that spoke at this meeting were very unhappy with this process and loudly expressed their displeasure with the City. The Historic Preservation Committee has met a number of times to address streetscapes, trash in the streets and the appointment of new citizens to the BAR. The Board has approved my addressing the outlandish behavior of the BAR in approving the 900 North Washington Street development at the Council's 14 April meeting. Linda Couture and Jan Olson continue to recruit new OTCA members from among the newly arrived Old Town residents.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
President, OTCA

THE NEXT OLD TOWN CIVIC MEMBER MEET IS ON 9 MAY 2007