



**Reston Community Center
Board of Governors Monthly Meeting
December 6, 2021
8:00 p.m.
Meeting Agenda**

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| 8:00 – Call to Order | Beverly Cosham, Chair |
| 8:02 – Approval of Agenda | Beverly Cosham, Chair |
| 8:03 – Approval of Minutes and Board Actions | Beverly Cosham, Chair |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of November 1, 2021 Board Minutes
(as reviewed and approved by the Board Secretary) • Approval of November 1, 2021 Board Actions
(as reviewed and approved by the Board Secretary) | |
| 8:05 – Chair’s Remarks | Beverly Cosham, Chair |
| 8:08 – Introduction of Visitors | |
| 8:10 – Citizen Input | |
| 8:12 – Committee Reports | Beverly Cosham, Chair |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 1 Preference Poll Committee Report • November 13 Board Orientation – Long Range Planning | Paul Thomas, Committee Chair
Bill Bouie, Committee Chair |
| 8:20 – Board Member Input on Activities Attended | |
| 8:30 – Executive Director’s Report | Leila Gordon, Executive Director |
| 8:35 – Old Business | Board Chair |
| 8:40 – New Business | Board Chair |
| 8:45 – Adjournment | |

Reminders:

Event	Date	Time
<i>Gifts from the HeART:</i>		
Exhibit and Online Directory	Throughout the month	
RTC Holiday Performances	Sat and Sun, Dec 4 – 19	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Equity Matters: <i>Crescendo</i>	December 19	3:00 p.m.
Annual Board and Staff Planning Meetings	January 7, 8	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Held at Reston Association)		10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
November 1, 2021, 8:00 p.m.**

Present:

- Bev Cosham, Chair
- Bill Bouie
- Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
- Paul Thomas
- Vicky Wingert

Absent and Excused:

- Laurie Dodd
- Bill Keefe
- Bill Penniman
- Dick Stillson

Attending from RCC Staff:

- Leila Gordon, Executive Director
- Karen Goff, Public Information Officer
- Rebekah Wingert

Bev called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION #1:

Approval of the Agenda

Bill B. moved that the agenda be approved as written. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #2:

Approval of the October 4, 2021 Board Minutes

Bill B. moved that the Board approve the October 4, 2021 Board Minutes. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #3:

Approval of the October 4, 2021 Board Actions

Bill B. moved that the Board approve the October 4, 2021 Board Actions. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Remarks

Bev said she is mourning the loss of Rev. Laverne Gill, who died on Saturday. She was happy she got to see her a few weeks ago. Rev. Gill had been sick for about two years. Bev's birthday was on Sunday. She cannot believe she is heading toward 80. She read a poem:

You Can

By Elizabeth Ammons

You can shed tears because they are gone,
or you can smile because they lived.
You can close your eyes and pray they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,

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or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember only that they are gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind and feel empty,
or you can do what they would want.
Smile, Open your heart, Love and go on.

Bev congratulated the Reston Garden Club on its 50th anniversary.

Introduction of Visitors

None

Citizen Input

None

Committee Reports

November 1, 2021 Preference Poll Committee report – Paul directed everyone to the handout for the Preference Poll committee report. Voting totals and breakdown by ZIP Code were in line with past years for uncontested elections. Everything went smoothly with mechanics. The committee had asked that staff look at options for uncontested polls with all incumbents and where we could reduce balloting and mailing costs. The County Attorney said there is not a lot of leeway for poll mechanics if security and increasing options for voting are considered; those are considerations enumerated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RCC and the Board of Supervisors. Postcards would present a security issue; dropping balloting options would be an accessibility issue. Therefore we will need to follow the general approach regardless of a poll not being competitive.

Paul put forth the committee's recommendation (since there was no quorum) that if a poll offers incumbents only and is uncontested, that the Board could skip the orientation session and Candidates Forum. There were no questions, and Bill B. said he agreed.

MOTION #4

To accept the Preference Poll Committee's recommendation to cancel the Candidates Forum/Orientation in an uncontested election involving only incumbents.

Bill B. moved that the Board accept the Preference Poll Committee's recommendation. Vicky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #5

To accept the November 1, 2021 Preference Poll Committee report.

Paul moved that the Board accept the November 1, 2021 Preference Poll Committee report. Bill B. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Input on Activities Attended

Paul attended the Preference Poll Committee meeting and the ArtsFairfax Arts Awards at the Capital One Hall. The school year is going well, though Paul had to do some heavy lifting for the South Lakes High School band at a competition last week.

Bill B. attended lots of meetings. He was pleased to be at Frying Pan Park's 60th anniversary celebration and the renaming of Southgate Community Center in honor of longtime former Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

Lisa attended the ArtsFairfax lunch, the Southgate renaming and the Reston Home Tour.

Vicky attended the Preference Poll Committee meeting and gave out lots of candy on Halloween.

Bev attended the Preference Poll Committee meeting. She enjoyed Darden Purcell at last week's Meet the Artist performance. She saw *The Blackest Battle*. She had mixed feelings on the performance. She also attended the ArtsFairfax lunch and the Southgate renaming ceremony.

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Leila congratulated the Board for a very productive year and thanked members for adopting the new Strategic Plan, and Bill B., whose work for RCC earned Distinguished Volunteer Service honors at the VRPS Conference in late October. The pool renovation also won Best New Renovation (bricks and mortar) in its population category. She acknowledged that board leadership assured that project's success as much as the other contributors from RCC staff and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

Bev adjourned the 2020-21 Board and called to order the first meeting of the 2021-22 Board.

Convening of New Board Members

Returning board members Bill B. and Lisa were seated; Dick was absent, but his reappointment was acknowledged.

Nominating Committee: Proposed Officer Slate

Vicky said she and Bill K. discussed the options, and since members are satisfied with the status quo, the committee proposed officers for the 2021-22 Board consisting of Bev Cosham, Chair; Bill B., Vice Chair; Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt, Secretary; and Paul Thomas, Treasurer.

MOTION #6

To Close the Board Officer Nominations

Bill B. moved to close the nominations for the 2021-22 Board officers. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #7

To Approve the Board Officer Slate

Bill B. motioned to approve the 2021-22 Board officer slate as presented. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Leila directed everyone to the printed report. She said RCC and DPWES are looking into contracting with an architectural firm to lead community engagement discussions regarding a new arts center related to a possible proffer from Boston Properties. The County has until this July to move forward on that proffer. The discussions will better show what kind of program the community desires, what the costs of a center may be and how those costs should be met.

Leila said RCC's employees' compliance with the County vaccine mandate is at 99 percent. We are waiting on three unreported statuses. This should give the public tremendous confidence in the public health protocols of this agency.

RCC recently underwent an internal audit. Only a few minor things were found: one is already acknowledged to be satisfied and the other documenting two instances of invoices missing dates and signatures of the receiving staff. Leila thanked Renata Wojcicki and the Finance/HR team; a clean report is a testament to our accountability, and compliance with County policies and procedures.

RCC filed its 2020-21 Equity Plan. Highlights include the series of Equity Matters dialogues, two full-time minority hires, ongoing equity training and support of Reston Opportunity Neighborhood.

In Capital Projects, nearly \$100,000 more is coming back to the fund in unused contingencies from the Aquatics project, bringing the total savings to about \$850,000. The closeout of the architectural and engineering account is coming soon.

The new Aquatics Operations Director will start next week. This hire replaces Brittany Kartchner, who moved to Texas.

The Reston Baby Expo had 20 vendors and 49 participants. Collaboration and Outreach Director LaTanja Snelling also took surplus formal dresses over to South Lakes High School for students to wear for Homecoming last month.

We are seeing increases in enrollments, and RCC Rides has started up again.

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Paul asked if there was a timeline for hiring a new deputy director. Leila said she should have a certified list of candidates from Fairfax County Human Resources by next week. The Executive Director of McLean Community Center will sit on the panel. Realistically, hiring processes would occur in December at the soonest given the upcoming cycle of holidays.

Leila said we will also be advertising for an Aquatics assistant operations manager.

Old Business

Bev noted that Bill B. must be the most recognized person in the county; her granddaughter talks about him constantly. Bev reminded everyone to vote and of the Board orientation with Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn on November 13 at RCC Hunters Woods.

New Business

None

The meeting adjourned 8:31 p.m.



Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
Board Secretary

_____ 11-9-21 _____

BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN AT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2021

- 21-1101-1 Bd That the Board approve the Agenda**
- 21-1101-2 Bd That the Board approve the October 4, 2021 Board Minutes as corrected**
- 21-1101-3 Bd That the Board approve the October 4, 2021 Board Actions**
- 21-1101-4 Bd That the Board accept the Preference Poll Committee recommendations**
- 21-1101-5 Bd That the Board approve the 2021 Preference Poll Report**
- 21-1101-6 Bd That the Board close the nominations for 2021-22 Board Officers**
- 21-1101-7 Bd That the Board approve the proposed 2021-22 Board Officers**



Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
Board Secretary

_____ 11-9-21 _____
Date



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER
PREFERENCE POLL COMMITTEE MEETING
November 1, 2021**

Present:

- Paul Thomas, Chair
- Bev Cosham
- Vicky Wingert
- Non-committee member Bill Bouie joined the meeting.

Absent and Excused:

- Laurie Dodd
- Bill Keefe
- Bill Penniman

Attending from the RCC Staff:

- Leila Gordon, Executive Director
- Karen Goff, Public Information Officer

Chair Paul Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Paul directed everyone to the report. He noted that there were no remarkable changes in terms of numbers, and that turnout was about what was expected for an uncontested election.

He explained that Leila consulted with the County Attorney's office on what kind of flexibility, if any, RCC has in changing balloting procedures, such as less print- and postage-intensive options. The County Attorney said we are pretty much bound by the Memorandum of Understanding to use procedures that ensure voting accessibility and security; which means essentially leaving things as they are. Leila said she also looked into Bill P.'s suggestion of offering a ballot postcard mailed in an envelope (for security). Leila said that would not save much money because it still would have to be mailed First Class.

Paul said that if a poll is uncontested and only incumbents are running, RCC should have the option to not have the Candidate Orientation session and Candidates Forum. He asked if there were any concerns. Bill B. said he had no concerns and Bev and Vicky concurred. Paul noted that the 2022 schedule will follow the same timeline as 2021.

Because the meeting did not have a quorum, Paul said the committee would make a recommendation to the Board regarding the ability to not hold the orientation or forum in the event of incumbents only running. The Board could then make the motion and vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER
BOARD OF GOVERNORS ORIENTATION
November 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

Present:

- Bev Cosham, Chair
- Bill Bouie
- Laurie Dodd
- Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
- Dick Stillson
- Paul Thomas
- Vicky Wingert

Absent and Excused:

- Bill Keefe
- Bill Penniman

Attending from RCC Staff:

- Leila Gordon, Executive Director
- Karen Goff, Public Information Officer

Visitor:

- Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District Supervisor

Bev called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. She welcomed Walter Alcorn to the meeting and expressed the Board's pleasure at having him chat with us. Walter thanked Leila and the RCC Board and staff for their continued good work during the pandemic.

Finances – Walter said the county's financial situation is in pretty good shape. He expects residential property tax assessments to rise, which will have a positive effect on RCC revenue. He said the commercial real estate tax base is somewhat stable with differences among types of properties with respect to vacancies and therefore lowered assessments. Reston has many new properties coming available (such as Boston Properties' new Fannie Mae development) but also many older Class B and Class C buildings with high vacancy rates. Tax payments will be adjusted to reflect the high vacancy rates. Dick asked if Walter knew offhand what the average vacancy rate for Reston commercial properties is. Walter said Class A properties around Metro are doing well with few vacancies; he noted that strip centers and older office buildings were suffering vacancies to a significantly greater degree; he is not able to provide exact percentages. There will have to be future considerations about uses for old office parks, such as data centers and other uses. Leila agreed and said the Small District 5 breakdown is still about 51-53 percent residential and 47-49 percent commercial in terms of the ratio of residential to commercial properties tax receipts; that ratio continues to support residential use of RCC programs and services.

Strategic Plan – Walter thanked the Board for the new RCC Strategic Plan. The Board of Supervisors also recently adopted a new Countywide Strategic Plan. That plan takes a good look at equity and communities that need attention. In formulating the new Reston Comprehensive Plan, discussions have focused on equity considerations for developers seeking density. Those consideration topics have included affordable housing, apprenticeships, internships and school partnerships.

Challenges – The discussion turned to Lake Anne. Walter has reached out to the new Lake Anne of Reston Condominium Association (LARCA) Board president. He continues to be concerned about the infrastructure issues present there and the challenges of the LARCA model to be able to absorb all the costs associated with those.



Executive Director Report November 2021

With adoption of the new RCC Strategic Plan 2021-2026, the monthly report to the Board of Governors will be reorganized into that plan's pillar categories.

Pillar I – Facilities

RCC is engaging the firm of Grimm and Parker via their task order agreement with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to facilitate the engagement process for investigating community response to a potential arts venue in Reston Town Center. We anticipate having a proposed timeline and deliverables by the annual planning meeting for board and staff. Community engagement will be sensitive to language and other barriers to enable the fullest possible participation.

Work continues to adapt space in RCC Lake Anne for the purpose of supporting mobile employees. Two workstations will be installed in the conference room.

Pillar II – Equity

We continue to explore a teen apprentice/intern program involving Reston National Golf Course, Opportunity Neighborhood and potentially South Lakes High School. RCC would provide half the funding for the teen experience, Reston National would provide the oversight, balance of funding and supervision of the selected teens. On the job training will provide skills in ecologically sound course management and other skills development.

Pillar IV – Community Connections

We continue to participate in exploration of possible sponsorship of improvements to Lake Anne Plaza. There are significant hurdles that must be overcome, but we remain interested in supporting the project. Development of a community event calendar and related processes is on track in the context of RCC's new website development. Offsite programming in November included the Annual Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center, and a slate of concerts there for December is planned.

Pillar V – Programs and Services

Program participation continues to increase across all cost centers. Despite news about variants and expected holiday surges, most people in the area are vaccinated and feel much more confident about participating than last year. Our numbers are solid in all areas. Even older adults are returning to things like trips – we had our first one to Toby's Dinner Theatre with 29 participants. We continue to support people with the mask requirement indoors and a mix of online and outdoor offerings. All program departments and our facility rentals services will see increased participation and revenue for calendar year 2021 compared to 2020.

Pillar VI – Stewardship and Accreditation

As noted in my email to the Board, RCC has received the internal audit report with just two reportable findings that have been addressed. It was another outstanding result on an agency HR, purchasing and financial procedures audit, and is a credit to our whole team, led by RCC Director of Finance/HR Renata Wojcicki.

Executive Director Activity

I attended an ArtsFairfax Executive Committee meeting. Health, Housing and Human Services Leadership Team and Senior Management Team meetings occur monthly. The Master Arts Plan Task Force continues to shepherd the *Fairfax County Master Arts Plan: Facilities* draft through various cycles of review; DMB review has concluded, and it moves now to Aimee Brobst to assure it aligns with the Countywide Strategic Plan. I am pleased to be participating on the Leadership Fairfax and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce boards of directors.

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Leila said Margaret and Shashi Gupta's foundation is considering an initiative to beautify the plaza. We will be a community sponsor if other key partnerships emerge as well. The long-term situation at Lake Anne will affect us with respect to buying the space where RCC Lake Anne is located in 2039 when that option comes available.

Dick asked if the County is responsible for paying for structural repairs. Walter said Lake Anne is 100 percent private property, so the County has no legal obligation. The relevance of the property and its historical nature suggest that there would be community benefit to be realized there that should be considered. He said he hopes a model will emerge to support Lake Anne. The various structural and engineering systems are more than 50 years old and need major work. If the issues are not addressed, the worst-case scenario is a collapse of infrastructure. When it gets to that point, the County's focus turns to code enforcement.

Leila said we have recovered our costs for the buildout and expansion of RCC Lake Anne from the 20-plus years of operations there. There is very little in fixtures and furnishings that we can't pack up and move. Leila said RCC should have two parallel planning tracks. In a five-to-seven-year period we need to see evidence of change to the association structure that will put it on sounder fiscal footing. The second path for us is looking at the options in the community as a whole and whether or not other locations would provide a more stable and fiscally prudent RCC facility location. There was discussion about the Lake Anne Master Plan, consideration of having civic anchors rather than commercial anchors there and viewing the plaza as a public space that could enable broader financial support for its upkeep.

Walter said there was not market support from the previous proposal to redevelop Lake Anne property parcels comprehensively. The County has made an \$18 million investment in the purchase of Crescent Apartments. Lake Anne is a long-term revitalization area and a federal opportunity zone. We need to take a communitywide look at what Lake Anne should be going forward (e.g., an arts district, civic center or culinary arts mecca).

Leila said there is a launch meeting for the Gupta project November 18, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery. She added that Reston Association should invest too; they are responsible for the retaining wall at the lake. Walter said he has discussed it with RA leadership.

Public Safety – Walter said there have been no recent homicides in the Hunters Woods area. Police staffing is struggling. Walter and Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk are looking into a third type of first responder – mental health. Walter has also talked to Sen. Janet Howell and Del. Ken Plum about a partnership with the state for mental health services/inpatient beds.

Leila said the County's Community Services Board also has a staff shortage. There was discussion about how low morale and high cost of living are affecting county employees such as teachers and first responders. Some solutions include alleviating student debt, adding more workforce housing and how private companies such as Capital One have addressed the situation by using nearby turn-key apartments for employees at their Tysons campus.

The conversation returned to equity. Leila mentioned RCC is working with Cornerstones and Reston National on teen job apprenticeships and other joint efforts.

Walter left at 10:10 a.m. Leila directed everyone to the contact sheet and committee assignments, as well as the new Strategic Plan document in the folders. She will report out monthly on RCC's progress regarding the new plan within her executive director reports. She will be working with Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to contract a facilitator for the Community Relations/Program Policy meeting in February to start the performing arts planning conversation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.