



July 24, 2017



Southampton Citizens Association

Dear Neighbor:

Comprised of 2,500 homes, the Southampton Citizens Association (SCA) for over a half a century has been an active participant in the region and a leader in all relevant deliberations pertinent to the neighborhood.

Accomplishments include a new Huguenot Bridge, Pony Pasture, rehabilitation of the Forest Hill commercial corridor, defeat of countless bad developments including most recently e.g. a proposed self-storage unit, installation of gas lines, adoption of traffic calming measures including enhanced speeding fines, etc. The neighborhood, like all communities does best when we have an active association. This is **only possible because of your support!**

In the past few weeks and partly because of so much activity including e.g. our decision to reject new commercial construction on Forest Hill in what did constitute an oasis of trees before bulldozed and to disapprove a townhouse project on Cherokee and to evaluate the proposal for a water tank in Larus Park, the organization is having a **debate about how best to continue to advocate** for the community.

To that end, SCA has established a special committee to be comprised of members-at-large along with board directors to review the organization's Articles of Incorporation along with bylaws. The latter were most recently amended in 2014 though the Articles have not been revised since 1974. Forty-three years later, it is well overdue.

In addition to just good housekeeping, the **impetus for the review regards organizational matters and how decisions are made.** For as long as the organization can remember, board directors voted on issues however the association has recently at times **departed from that practice and provided for members that attend meetings to vote.**

Past efforts to determine neighbors' opinions and to arrive at a consensus on issues utilized online anonymous surveys, collection of signatures at persons' doorsteps, mailing of opinion cards, convening of focus groups, hosting community discussions, etc. Candidly, the challenge has always been to do everything in the group's power to **ensure that all neighbors' voices are heard and not give primacy to just a select few.** Because on the board or because attending meetings should not provide an unfair advantage in a voice being heard.

We want to know your opinion. How do we proceed as a group to ensure all neighbors have a voice? Is it best to provide for a vote by members present at a meeting, how are folks that cannot attend meetings accommodated, what should constitute a quorum, what role should directors have as it relates to voting, etc? There are arguably immeasurable options to consider.

If willing to serve on the aforementioned committee, please contact me by no later than August 7th and as always SCA's mission continues to be to ensure that all voices are heard. **Let your voice be heard!**

Sincerely,

Jonathan Young

Jonathan Young
President
Southampton Citizens Association
www.scarichmond.com
804-320-4251