

Minutes of the 890th Meeting - Virtual
"Celebrating Over 60 Years of Continuous Environmental Excellence"
Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Tuesday, January 18, 2022

On Tuesday, January 18, 2022, the Alexandria Renew Enterprises Board of Directors held its regular Board of Directors meeting electronically using the Zoom software with no members physically present. The meeting was recorded, and a recording has been posted on the Alexandria Renew website. The following individuals attended electronically:

Members: Mr. John Hill, Chairman
 Mr. James Beall, Vice Chairman
 Mr. William Dickinson, Secretary-Treasurer
 Ms. Adriana Caldarelli, Member
 Mr. Kerry Donley, Member

Staff: Ms. Karen Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer
 Ms. Liliana Maldonado, Chief Environmental Performance Officer
 Ms. Christine McIntyre, Chief Financial Officer
 Ms. Catlin Feehan, RiverRenew Program Director
 Ms. Lorna Huff, Secretary to the Board

Counsel: Mr. Jonathan Rak, General Counsel,
 McGuireWoods LLP

Fairfax County
Representative: Mr. Shahram Mohsenin, Director,
 Wastewater Planning & Monitoring Division

City Representative: Ms. Erin Bevis-Carver, Acting Division Chief,
 T&ES/Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Division

Consultants: Mr. Justin Carl, Owner's Advisor
 Brown & Caldwell

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The Chairman requested that members review the agenda and inquired if there were changes. There being no changes, the Chairman requested a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Caldarelli moved, and Mr. Beall seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Rak who reviewed the procedures for holding an electronic meeting.

Explanation of Required Procedures for an Electronic Meeting

Mr. Rak reported that City Council has extended the local State of Emergency through June 30, 2022. The Alexandria Renew Enterprises Board can meet virtually under Board-approved procedures. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency, the January 18, 2022, Alexandria Renew Enterprises Board of Directors meeting is being held electronically pursuant to our electronic meeting guidelines and the local state of emergency. The meeting is being recorded, and a recording will be posted to the Alexandria Renew website. The public has been notified that if they wish to comment during the public comment period, they can do so through the Zoom platform.

Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public in attendance wishing to speak. The Chairman moved to the Consent Agenda.

Consent Agenda

The Chairman requested that members review the Minutes from the December 21, 2021, meeting. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Beall moved, and Ms. Caldarelli seconded. The Chairman called the roll with all members voting aye.

Unfinished Business

- A. None

New Business

- A. Welcome New Board Member Kerry Donley

Discussion

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Kerry Donley. He noted that the City received seven responses to AlexRenew's Board vacancy announcement and AlexRenew enters a period of higher visibility due to the impact of large construction projects on the neighborhoods and the rates. AlexRenew is fortunate to have to have someone with Mr. Donley's knowledge of the City and experience in City government as a member.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Donley who reported that he lives in the West End of Alexandria in Seminary Hill, and recently retired from John Marshall Bank after a 40-year career in commercial banking. He noted 18 years' experience on City Council with 8 years as Mayor, bringing finance and bond rating agency experience to AlexRenew. He looks forward to serving on the Board and meeting members and staff in person.

Mr. Hill offered the idea of walks around the City to Mr. Donley and the other members as an opportunity to meet safely and visit the AlexRenew sites under construction.

There were no additional questions or comments and the Chairman recognized Ms. Pallansch.

CEO Monthly Outcome Reports

Ms. Pallansch reviewed in depth, her CEO Report to familiarize the new member. AlexRenew has gone two years without a case of Covid. Over the holidays, and as staff returned from vacations, AlexRenew experienced 14 cases of Covid-19. AlexRenew is currently at 16 cases. She reported that AlexRenew has a 97% vaccination rate as of January 1. The vaccination rate is not expected to increase significantly due to remaining staff having legitimate medical or religious exemptions. She noted that the Covid vaccine policy has helped AlexRenew achieve the vaccine rate and all requirements are in place to keep staff safe.

Operational Excellence

The Operational Excellence section is where staff reports mandatory permit compliance. She reported AlexRenew's mission is to treat wastewater. AlexRenew continues to meet or exceed permit requirements.

Ms. Pallansch provided clarification on a recent article on wastewater surveillance and reported on the details of the program participation with CDC and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). AlexRenew is participating through grant funding from the CDC through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Sampling takes place once a week and the analysis looks for the covid-19 genetic material load. The load provides an indication of the amount of Covid in the community with data used by hospitals to determine if a surge is imminent.

Members inquired about AlexRenew trends tracking with other organizations and the expense attached to the surveillance. Ms. Pallansch reported that AlexRenew trends are tracking with data from other organizations. She further reported that AlexRenew is part of the grant program and does not pay for the testing. Private firms charge approximately \$350 per sample. The data is shared with the Alexandria Health Department and the VDH is looking to create a dashboard for this information for distribution.

Public Engagement & customer Serv

Reported that she would review the account delinquency numbers later in the financial report.

RiverRenew Dashboard

Ms. Pallansch reported that the RiverRenew Dashboard is provided monthly to the AlexRenew Board. A similar Dashboard is provided quarterly to City Council members serving on the Council Board Workgroup. Ms. Pallansch reviewed the Dashboard noting the key features on each of the pages. She noted the tunnel segment mold manufacturer had an outbreak of Covid and work has been moved to a manufacturer in Turkey. A 4-week delay is expected.

Mr. Beall and Mr. Dickinson inquired about managing absences during the surge at AlexRenew and whether staff had been hospitalized. Ms. Pallansch reported that the absences were managed through overtime and contractors. No staff members have been hospitalized during the pandemic.

Ms. Pallansch noted educational elements with Chloe the Tunnel Boring Machine and reported on "the Sip and See" exhibits. Wherever there is a major construction event that could negatively impact the community, AlexRenew stages a tent with staff to respond to questions from the community. She requested that Board members contact her if they have an HOA or others that would like a briefing on current construction. She requested that members email her with any questions on the Dashboard.

Ms. Pallansch recognized Mr. Carl who gave a presentation on the progress of the tunnel boring machine (TBM). (See attached) Mr. Carl reported that the TBM is currently under construction in Germany. He reviewed its major components noting the location of the shield, cutter head, main drive, trailing gear and airlock. He reported there is a factory test in due early April with shipping by early May.

Financial Report

Ms. Pallansch reviewed the financial reported noting expenses are broken out on page 3 of the report. She reported significant cost increases in chemical and trucking costs and other basic needs of equipment and tools. She reported AlexRenew is trending positively relative to the budget.

Delinquencies

Ms. Pallansch reported that delinquencies fluctuate monthly and AlexRenew is not currently disconnecting customers. AlexRenew currently has 1,500 customers over 60 days delinquent. She reported CARES Act Funding of \$430,000 and noted that AlexRenew provided 9 rounds of payouts that expended all funds. AlexRenew used a company called Promise Pay who helped with customer outreach. AlexRenew has received \$229,00 from ARPA. The program begins at the end of August and runs through the end of the year. Customers who qualify must be over 60 days delinquent.

Ms. Pallansch reported that AlexRenew uses PFM as a financial advisor for financial policy, cash reserves and debt service discussions.

The Chairman noted that personnel expenses are down. Ms. Pallansch reported that much of this is pandemic related. Many staff were well-trained and have moved into very good jobs in other areas. She noted that AlexRenew is rebuilding and retooling staff as needed.

Ms. Pallansch noted AlexRenew's 2021 Annual Report has been simplified. Staff will mostly use the electronic format for distribution. She noted the Board calendar which has been placed in BoardEffect and is updated monthly. She reported 25 people registered for the upcoming Listening Session.

Mr. Dickinson noted the new City Manager and that as soon as possible the CEO will introduce him to AlexRenew. Ms. Pallansch reported that the new City Manager is currently working on the budget. She will work with Ms. Emily Baker, a Deputy City Manager to accomplish this.

There were no additional questions or comments, and the Chairman requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Donley and Ms. Caldarelli seconded. The Chairman called the roll with all members voting aye.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Secretary-Treasurer