

**Bluemont Civic Association
General Membership Meeting
December 20, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Arlington Traditional School**

Second Vice President Carl Drummond called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m. (President Judah dal Cais arrived shortly after the meeting started.)

In attendance were Judah dal Cais, Carl Drummond, Wendy Dean, Suzanne Sundburg, Joel Silversmith, Robert Atkins, Lloyd Douglas, Sam Ferro, John McClelland, and John Huennekens.

Late December/Early January Newsletter

Due to the last-minute change of the initial Peck-Staples Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meeting date change, the group decided to push back the publication of the December newsletter. The following items are to be included in the revised newsletter text: 1) Announce the SPRC meeting on January 8, 2007, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) building at N. Taylor Street and Wilson Boulevard; 2) Announce the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) general membership meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2007, 7 p.m., at Arlington Traditional School (ATS); and 3) Include a notice/recap of the Washington Boulevard sidewalk project construction and the Wilson Boulevard Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) project construction on Wilson Boulevard.

President dal Cais asked that the newsletter be printed and delivered to Treasurer/newsletter distributor Judy Collins by Thursday, December 28, and mailed by Saturday, December 30, 2006, for an early January delivery.

The group concluded that BCA would skip producing an additional newsletter for the January 24 BCA meeting and would, instead, post a recap of the initial SPRC on the BCA Web site. A recap would also be given at the January 24 meeting.

It was noted that the meeting date for the March general membership meeting would need to be adjusted to avoid the closing of ATS for spring break. (Note: The regularly scheduled date would have been Wednesday, March 28, 2007.)

Peck-Staples Initial SPRC Meeting

The group discussed various options for presentations at the Peck-Staples initial SPRC meeting. It was thought that citizen/public input/questions would be taken and that individuals should present their own suggestions/questions.

There has been speculation that either a science lab/museum or Virginia Tech may be located at the building replacing Staples.

Bob Atkins reminded the group that when the Marymount Ballston Campus site plan was approved, the County Board approved construction of only a limited number of floors. The zoning office subsequently approved additional floors without public comment or going back to the site plan process for approval and without requiring additional parking.

Other Business

Member Bob Atkins noted that Marymount University is currently using both the Holiday Inn and the Comfort Inn as overflow dormitory space without anyone having notified BCA. One member who had received a Marymount publication thought that this was only temporary, but it does appear that Marymount is and will continue using these hotels for supplemental dorm space until new on-campus dormitories are built, which may not occur for some time.

President dal Cais authorized Atkins to continue to press for BCA notification on this point.

Dal Cais also noted that he needed to draft a letter to the County Board to request the relocation of the erroneously placed electrical box at N. George Mason Drive and Wilson Boulevard (in front of the Constitution bell).

It was noted that the first public comment period at a County Board meeting in 2007 would be at the Saturday, January 27, meeting.

Web Site Updates

President dal Cais requested that upcoming meeting dates be posted on the BCA Web site.

It was noted that BCA needs someone dedicated to updating Web site content. Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro said that he would discuss the matter with member Paul Chernoff who had previously volunteered to help maintain the Web site.

NCAC Report

Neighborhood Conservation Action Committee (NCAC) Representative Wendy Dean asked members to comment on NC plans to move the paving process out of the NC process and to allow curb and gutter to be constructed without requiring sidewalks to also be constructed. The link to provide feedback on this plan to ease the NC backlog is available at:
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/ons/conservation/CPHDOnsConse rvationPolicyDocs.aspx>.

President dal Cais asked Dean to check on two Bluemont NC projects that are in limbo (one of which is the N. 5th Street project), while another project (N. 7th Street) that was underfunded and further down on the queue had been granted additional funding (\$130,000) over its original funding of \$95,000. Dal Cais had

previously had no luck in getting a status update on NC projects from the County's project manager, Suzanne Burroughs.

Atkins brought a copy of the new Buckingham NC Plan, which mentions concerns about traffic on N. Glebe Road.

President dal Cais noted that we currently have no NC alternate representative to back-up Wendy Dean. Dean agreed that she would ask member Terry Serie if he would be willing to serve as the NC alternate representative.

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Old Business

Member Bob Atkins reported that at the last County Board meeting, he had mentioned that the Sunrise retirement community at Wilson Boulevard and N. Manchester Street continues to place its signs on the Civil War cemetery graves (public property).

It was noted that this area lies outside the civic association's boundaries, and President dal Cais said that he would contact the appropriate civic association president to discuss the matter.

Dal Cais asked member Sam Ferro about sign options for advertising BCA meetings. The general consensus was that a wooden attachment to the permanent sign(s) would not be practical. A plastic yard sign for repeated temporary placement would, however, meet this need.

A resident living nearby Washington Boulevard expressed concern that the construction warning/notice sign was obstructing visibility of pedestrians who are crossing the street. There was also concern expressed about the lack of street parking along Washington Boulevard during construction (which should be a temporary problem corrected once construction is complete).

President dal Cais noted that due to the unseasonably warm weather the sidewalk improvements and other construction related to the Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) project for Wilson Boulevard would begin in December and would be completed within 60 days. Landscaping will not be completed until the spring.

Dal Cais also asked for volunteers and to begin planning for the 2007 Neighborhood Day picnic (Saturday, May 12). He also suggested planning a function/festival for this coming fall.

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 pm.