

**Bluemont Civic Association
Executive Board Meeting
January 9, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Arlington Traditional School**

Second Vice President Carl Drummond called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. (President Judah dal Cais arrived shortly after the meeting started.)

In attendance were Judah dal Cais, Carl Drummond, Judy Collins, Wendy Dean, Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, and Terry Serie.

January/February Newsletter

At the December 2006 general membership meeting, the group had not planned to print/distribute a second newsletter in January 2007. However, Treasurer Judy Collins noted that approximately 200 members still had not renewed their memberships and that a second newsletter would be needed to spur renewals. The group agreed that a second newsletter would be required.

President Judah dal Cais said that he would contact County staff member Dennis Leach of the transportation division to present the pedestrian crossing plans for N. Glebe Road (between N. Fairfax Drive and N. Randolph Street) at Bluemont Civic Association's (BCA's) January general membership meeting. [Note: At the January 8, 2007, SPRC meeting, Leach had stated that these plans were 100 percent complete and had been funded.]

Newsletter Editor Suzanne Sundburg noted that there were two outstanding items that would need to be confirmed before the newsletter text could be completed: 1) confirmation of the speaker for January's meeting and 2) confirmation of the date, time and place for the previously planned January 22 Peck-Staples Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meeting.

Dal Cais said that he would confirm the speaker. Member Terry Serie said that he would confirm the SPRC meeting date, time and place.

The group established a text deadline for the second January newsletter on Friday, January 12, 2007, with a print deadline of Wednesday, January 17, 2007, and a mailing deadline of Thursday, January 18, 2007.

The proposed content for the newsletter (based upon space available and confirmation of the details as listed above) were:

- 1) Repeat ads from the previous January newsletter.
- 2) Advertise the January 24 BCA meeting date and speaker.
- 3) Advertise the January 22 Peck-Staples SPRC meeting date, time and place (if appropriate).

- 4) Advertise the interested parties list handled by County staff member Lisa Maher of the planning office.
- 5) Advertise the February 28 BCA meeting date and the speaker (County Board member Walter Tejada was the proposed speaker), as applicable.
- 6) Include the dues renewal form.

Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro noted that he would be out of town from Saturday, January 13, through Monday, January 15. He asked that the text be reviewed and vetted by the Executive Board prior to delivery in order to expedite the layout and printing process.

Other Business

President dal Cais asked that deadlines be set for upcoming newsletters. The group set a text deadline of Tuesday, February 13, 2007, for the February newsletter. The printing deadline would be Wednesday, February 21, with a mailing deadline of Thursday, February 22.

The group decided that the March newsletter should be the neighborhood-wide distribution issue (in advance of the April 21 and 24 County Board meetings). The newsletter is to be a 4-page issue. With the additional time for hand delivery factored in, a text deadline was set for Tuesday, March 6, 2007. (The printing deadline would be Wednesday, March 14, with the newsletter being ready for pick-up by Thursday or Friday, March 14 or 15.) Hand delivery will take place on the weekends of March 17–18 and March 24–25.

Ferro told the group that he would be out of town during the first week of April.

Peck-Staples SPRC Discussion

Peck-Staples Information Coordinator Terry Serie handed out his draft resolution that would be sent from President dal Cais to the SPRC to thank the members for their work and to confirm the request for additional information.

Whereas: The purpose of the January 8, 2007, SPRC meeting was to “... begin its work by analyzing the major planning policy issues of appropriate land use and transportation for this site, in order to develop a framework for evaluating the site plan proposal [Peck-Staples],” and

Whereas: The research presented at the January 8, 2007, SPRC meeting about the land use and zoning history in west Ballston was very informative and essential to developing a “framework,” and

Whereas: The research comparing the by-right and site plan processes identified many key differences between the two procedures, and

Whereas: Additional and clarified land use, zoning and transportation information that is essential to finishing the “framework” was requested by SPRC members and others in attendance.

Now, therefore be it resolved that:

A. The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) recommends that the SPRC conduct a follow-up discussion at the January 22 SPRC meeting, or as soon as possible at another SPRC meeting in January 2007, to review the requested land use, zoning and transportation information and finish development of the “framework,”

B. The BCA recommends that the start of the Peck-Staples Site Plan Application review be scheduled only after a follow-up SPRC meeting has been held to discuss the requested planning, zoning and transportation information in order to finish the “framework,”

C. The BCA compliments the SPRC members, particularly the site plan Co-Chairs, and the Arlington County staff on the significant progress made at the January 8, 2007, meeting on developing said framework, and

D. The BCA also compliments the Co-Chairs on their efforts to include all the SRPC members and members of the neighborhood and general public in the “framework” discussion at the January 8, 2007 SPRC meeting.

The Executive Board discussed the resolution and held a vote on its approval. Three officers voted for its approval, while NC Representative Wendy Dean abstained, so the motion to approve was carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Judy Collins reported that 89 members had renewed their memberships for 2007; approximately 200 members have not yet renewed. There are approximately 40 former members who did not renew in December 2005 for 2006. Renewal must be a priority. Accordingly, President dal Cais asked Collins to send the membership list [specifically showing those members who have not renewed] to Executive Board members.

Dal Cais also asked member Suzanne Sundburg to print approximately 20 renewal/application forms and to make them available at the next BCA general membership meeting and the next Peck-Staples SPRC meeting.

Collins presented the 2006 year-end report. Briefly, she noted that the association currently has cash on hand that is approximately equal to the amount the association had spent for all of 2006, or \$3,476.58.

Judy said that she would follow up with The Printed Page to negotiate a reduced price for newsletter printing in exchange for ongoing advertising space in the newsletter.

The group discussed various options for presenting classified ads in the newsletter.

Web Site Updates

Designer Sam Ferro presented his concept of a revised design for BCA's home page/Web site. He did include items that are currently listed/linked to the home page, but all other old information will still need to be linked. Sam also noted that he would like to add a "Hot Topics" section to the home page.

President dal Cais asked all present to review the new site design and provide feedback within 36 hours. The new design can be found at www.bluemontcivic.org.index2.html.

Dal Cais added that Dave Leichtman will update and rename the pages that have not yet been added to the new design.

Dal Cais asked Peck-Staples Information Coordinator Terry Serie to work directly with Sam Ferro to set up the Peck-Staples site plan Web page. That page should include visuals, written information and a tickler telling people how they may become involved and/or get up to speed on this site plan.

Dal Cais and Serie discussed other items for the Peck-Staples Web page, including a mission/vision statement and a concrete analogy/description of the benefit that the site plan applicant [JBG] is requesting from the County.

Door-to-door canvassing to disseminate information on Peck-Staples will take place sometime in the early spring to coordinate with the various plan review meetings.

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.