

**Bluemont Civic Association
4/10/07 Executive Board Meeting**

**Action items/notes for the meeting held on April 10, 2007, 7:00 p.m., at
Arlington Traditional School:**

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

In attendance at the meeting were Judah dal Cais, Judy Collins, Terry Serie, Wendy Dean, Richard Best, and Suzanne Sundburg.

In the absence of BCA Secretary Lisa Byington, member Suzanne Sundburg recorded action items/notes.

Department of Environmental Services (DES) County staff member Richard Best presented the proposed plan to relocate the black electrical box from its current position (in front of the Constitution Bell) to a position just off the sidewalk next to the Fields Park trail entrance on N. George Mason Drive. Best advised the group that the electrical box needed to have a clear sightline to the traffic signal so that technicians would have easy access to the box and could adjust/repair the signal quickly when necessary.

Best and all present discussed additional items of concern as outlined below.

Dal Cais ask about previous requests to move the flashing school sign from its current position on the old cobra light pole. The suggested new location was the south side of Wilson on N. George Mason, where it would be more visible and give drivers more time to lower their speed before approaching the school. Dal Cais also asked about having the new black traffic light pole (also in front of the Constitution Bell) relocated to the site of the cobra pole. Best responded by saying that he would look into the feasibility of the changes.

Suzanne Sundburg asked about the position of the electrical box and black traffic light pole at the corner of N. Edison Street and Wilson Boulevard, as the pole, in particular, was positioned poorly for disabled people who might need to use the sidewalk ramps. Best replied that there is approximately 3 to 4 feet of clearance space between the box and pole, which meets American with Disabilities Act requirements. The electrical box was positioned near but not on the sidewalk to be as close as possible to the traffic light pole. The traffic light pole's placement was adjusted at the last minute due to the presence of fiber optic cable. Best said that the County is taking a second look at the positioning of the traffic pole and may be able to move it a bit closer to the corner to increase the clearance area.

Best advised the group that DES has asked Dominion Virginia Power to move the electrical/utility poles (on Wilson Boulevard next to the Safeway) off of the sidewalk and into the planting strips this spring. Once the poles have been moved, the affected sidewalks will be repoured. Final landscaping for this portion of the Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) site also will be delayed until the poles have been moved.

Best and the group also discussed the western most Safeway driveway apron on Wilson Boulevard. Trucks keep overrunning the eastern section of the apron and digging ruts into the grassy landscaping. Various options were discussed, including making the apron larger to provide a more generous turning radius. Increasing the radius (although it would require a loss of some of the planting strip) was seen as the more permanent and most cost-effective solution.

The group thanked Best for the new left-hand turn signal at westbound Wilson Boulevard at N. Glebe Road. The group also advised Best that during the evening rush hour, it was impossible to make a left-hand turn from westbound Wilson Boulevard onto northbound N. George Mason Drive. Drivers' desperate attempts to make the turn are endangering pedestrians in the George Mason crosswalk. Best advised the group that the new traffic light pole did contain space for a left-hand turn signal, which would make it a less costly improvement and he promised to look into the feasibility of the request.

Dal Cais thanked Best for the new bus shelter in front of the McDonald's on Wilson Boulevard and commented that the buses are not pulling far enough up and are blocking the Wilson crosswalk while they are stopped. Best said that the bus shelter was located at a particular point to satisfy property line and other requirements. The position of the buses when stopped is a Metro training issue. Best offered to contact his Metro representative to discuss correcting the problem.

Best agreed to look into all the matters discussed/requests made and to report back to BCA in May, if possible. Walking Town Meeting Coordinator Terry Serie advised Best that BCA would have its Walking Town Meeting with one or more County Board members in mid-June. He asked Best to forward any questions or concerns that should be mentioned to the County Board, especially any items that would be helpful to Best and DES staff.

Dal Cais noted that he intends to ask the local Verizon FIOS representative to speak at the May meeting about FIOS availability within the neighborhood.

Serie noted that there was a tentative Peck-Staples Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meeting set for Monday, April 16—although no site for the meeting had yet been established. Serie said that he would check with Lisa Maher to discuss the date and would announce it to the interested parties once it was confirmed. At the next SPRC meeting, JBG (the Peck-Staples site developer) will present its

revised plan, which will include the County's requested cut-through street between N. Glebe Road and N. Wakefield Street.

Serie also noted that the SPRC was still working on its "notes" from the last SPRC meeting in March. [The SPRC does not produce minutes for these advance "discussion" meetings, but it will provide some notes of the discussion.] Several items are being decided, including the recommendations for the height limit and distribution. Serie recommended that the group ask for the density and height be concentrated toward the north and east ends of the site (with tapering down to the south [Wilson] and west [Wakefield]). Member Wendy Dean reported that Wakefield residents were more likely to want the density concentrated toward the corner of Glebe and Wilson. Serie countered that the massing of the height/density toward the Gateway building and the Metro (and tapering as the site approaches the residential neighborhoods to the south and east) was consistent with established practice in North Ballston and would offer greater protection to the neighborhood.

Treasurer Judy Collins reported that there were 233 current members.

Dal Cais reported that Neighborhood Conservation (NC) petitions had been signed for N. 5th Street.

Dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.