

**Bluemont Civic Association  
General Membership Meeting  
May 23, 2007, 7:00 pm  
Arlington Traditional School**

**Call to Order**

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

In attendance were Judah dal Cais, Carl Drummond, Terry Serie, Wendy Dean, Sam Ferro and Lisa Byington. Also in attendance were several Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) members.

**Verizon Presentation on FiOS**

Verizon Representative Celes Foster presented information to BCA members regarding the new fiber optic network that Verizon is offering to residential customers. The FiOS service will include voice (telephone), data (broadband Internet access), and television service. Verizon is scheduled to begin installing fiber optic cables throughout the Bluemont neighborhood this fall, some underground and some overhead. Once installed, Bluemont residents will have the option to sign up for FiOS and obtain a bundle of services for one price. This summer and fall, residents should receive door-hanger notices informing them of Verizon's work in their neighborhood, and details on FiOS services and costs should come in mail solicitations. Celes Foster is available to speak with BCA residents if they have any questions about the installation process or the FiOS services. She can be reached at 888.250.9710 or 804.772.5498 or at [celes.foster@verizon.com](mailto:celes.foster@verizon.com).

**Old Business**

BCA resident Jim Thorne updated BCA members on the properties neighboring his house that are rented out to several members of a fraternity who host long and rowdy parties. Thorne reported that the parties have been the subject of blog entries where the party hosts boast of their ability to evade police scrutiny and violate underage drinking laws. Thorne's discussions with the owner of the properties have been unsuccessful. Thorne will continue working with Arlington County Police and Code Enforcement staff to abate this nuisance.

**Approval of Minutes for 3/28/07 and 4/25/07 Meetings**

Secretary Lisa Byington distributed draft minutes for the 3/28/07 membership meeting and action items and notes taken by Suzanne Sundburg for the 4/25/07 membership meeting. A motion to approve the 3/28/07 minutes was made and seconded. The membership voted unanimously to approve the 3/28/07 minutes. A motion to approve the 4/25/07 action items and notes was made and seconded. The membership voted unanimously to approve the 4/25/07 action items and notes.

**County Board Walking Town Meeting**

Terry Serie, the Coordinator for the 2007 Walking Town Meeting, distributed a list of topics to be covered and issues to be highlighted during the tour. Serie reminded the membership that only three civic associations are chosen to participate in the County Board's WTM each year. So residents are unlikely to get a similar opportunity to highlight their neighborhood's concerns for another decade. It is important that many residents participate in the walking tour to show the

County the importance and severity of some of the issues to be discussed. The walking tour is a way for Bluemont to garner attention and helpfulness from County Board members and staff in a very short period of time.

The tour will begin at Fire Station No. 2 at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and George Mason Drive at 6:30pm. The tour will have scheduled stops at four key points in Bluemont:

- 6:30pm and 7:00pm – at 720 N. Abingdon St.;
- 7:00pm and 7:30pm – in Fields Park at the picnic table behind the fire station;
- 7:30pm to 8:00pm – where Bluemont Junction Trail crosses N. Emerson St.; and
- 8:00pm to 8:30pm – in the Safeway parking lot.

The walking tour will end at 8:30pm at the Fire Station for refreshments and final remarks.

### **Peck-Staples Site Plan**

Terry Serie, BCA's Information Coordinator for the Peck-Staples Site Plan Redevelopment, reported that JBG's application to redevelop the Peck-Staples site has been delayed by the County Board until further information on "community benefits" is submitted by the applicant. County staff does not expect a Site Plan Review Committee hearing on the Peck-Staples site proposal late July or August.

Serie reported that another complicating factor in the Peck-Staples site plan is the request by Arlington Housing Corp. (AHC) to redevelop the Jordan Manor apartment building located at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and Woodrow St. Serie distributed a copy of AHC's letter to the County Board requesting a height/density increase in the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) for Jordan Manor that would allow for an apartment building up to 16 stories in height.

### **New Business**

Secretary Lisa Byington reported on the installation of several porta-potties on or near several sports fields. While the porta-potties may be useful to children playing softball or soccer on the fields, they are also attractive to homeless persons (who have taken up residence in a tent near the porta-potty) and persons holding outdoor parties in the fields. The porta-potties have locks on them to prevent use by anyone other than sports teams, but the locks appear to have been disabled. Byington will contact the Arlington County Parks Department and Code Enforcement staff to ensure that residents' concerns are being heard.

### **Officers' Reports**

#### **NCAC Representative**

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative Wendy Dean reported on the changes to the missing link program, which allows residents to apply for installation of missing sidewalk sections. Dean distributed a copy of the new requirements and the application to be used by civic associations. The next funding round will expire on June 14, 2007.

Dean reminded members of BCA's request to add projects to the Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP). BCA's list is on the BCA website at [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org).

**President's Report**

President Judah dal Cais reported on the County's promise to relocate the junction box from in front of the Constitution Bell at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and N. George Mason Drive Dr.

Elections for officer positions with BCA will be held at the Annual Meeting in June. Secretary Lisa Byington stated that she would not run for the Secretary position again. Jim Thorne stated that he might be interested in running for the Secretary position.

**Adjournment**

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.