

**Bluemont Civic Association
Annual Meeting
June 27, 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, Sam Ferro, Bob Atkins and Lisa Byington. Also in attendance were 13 Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) members.

Approval of Minutes for 5/23/07 Meeting

Secretary Lisa Byington distributed draft minutes for the 5/23/07 membership meeting. A motion to approve the 5/23/07 minutes was made and seconded. The membership voted unanimously to approve the 5/23/07 minutes. Byington will forward the approved minutes for posting on the BCA website.

Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP)

BCA member Suzanne Sundburg distributed, on behalf of NCAC Representative Wendy Dean, a draft list of neighborhood improvement projects to be included in BCA's submission to the County. Sundburg explained that the County requested feedback from civic associations on the NIP to guide their budget planning. Sundburg also reported that a project's inclusion in the NIP does not mean the project will be approved, funded or completed. Rather, all projects would continue to need to go through the Neighborhood Conservation approval process. A motion was made and seconded to grant the Executive Board authority to amend the NIP as appropriate and finalize it for submission to the County later in the summer. The motion was unanimously approved by the membership. BCA's NIP list is on the BCA website at www.bluemontcivic.org.

Elections for BCA Officers

Nominating Committee Chair Bob Atkins reported that, of the six existing officers, five have agreed to serve again. Atkins made a motion to nominate the five officers – Judah dal Cais as President, Carl Drummond as First Vice President, Talmadge Williams as Second Vice President, Judy Collins as Treasurer, and Wendy Dean as NCAC Representative – and the motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Secretary Lisa Byington reported that she would not be able to serve as Secretary again. Atkins nominated BCA member Mary Thorne to the position of Secretary. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Atkins made a motion to nominate Terry Serie to serve as Alternate NCAC Representative (a previously unfilled position). The motion was unanimously approved by the membership.

BCA delegates to the Civic Federation represent BCA's interests and serve on Civic Federation committees. Alternate delegates fill in for the delegates and also serve on Civic Federation commissions. Atkins nominated the four existing delegates – Kate Mesches, Ed Fendley, Terry Serie and Talmadge Williams – to serve another term. Atkins made a motion to nominate three

existing alternate delegates – Adrienne Pilot, Ellen Armbruster and Judah dal Cais – to serve again as alternate delegates. Atkins also nominated Sam Ferro to serve as an alternate delegate. All three motions with respect to the Civic Federation were seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

President dal Cais made a call for new volunteers to add their vision and ideas to BCA, to reinvigorate BCA over the coming years. Any BCA residents interested in serving their community should contact Bob Atkins at luddite2003@yahoo.com.

Officers' Reports

President's Report

President Judah dal Cais reported on neighbor complaints about speeding on N. Edison Street between N. Fairfax Drive and Wilson Blvd., drivers going east-bound on N. Fairfax Drive between N. Edison St. and N. George Mason Drive (in violation of the one-way), and truck parking in the Safeway parking lot. The membership discussed their concerns about a large number of Budget rental trucks and 18-wheeler tractor trailers in the Safeway parking lot. Of most concern to residents is the need to park the trucks away from Wilson Blvd. and away from the parking lot entrances to Safeway. In addition, many felt that no 18-wheeler tractor trailers should be parking in the lot overnight. The Executive Board agreed to work with Safeway management and the owner of the Budget rental truck agency to express BCA's concerns.

New Business

Atkins reported on a new County initiative entitled "Mobilizing for Action for Planning and Partnerships" (or "MAPP") to identify gaps between health services caused by recent cuts in the public health budget. Interested members should contact Bob Atkins at luddite2003@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro requested that BCA consider starting its meetings at 7:30 pm, rather than 7 pm. The membership discussed the difficulties of arriving on time for 7 pm meetings. However, others noted that BCA is required to leave Arlington Traditional School by 9 pm. A motion was made, and seconded, to move the start time for future general membership meetings to 7:30 pm, unless the Executive Board determines that a 7 pm start time is necessary to accommodate a lengthy agenda or speakers' schedules. The membership voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Old Business

The 90% engineering plan is near completion for installing sidewalk, curb and gutter on N. Buchanan Street between N. 7th Road and N. 7th Street and on N. 7th Street between N. Buchanan St. and N. George Mason Dr.

BCA member James Thorne updated BCA on the property neighboring his house on N. 7th Street that is rented out to four recent college graduates who have hosted several extensive beer keg parties since 2005. Thorne reported that the BCA police liaison visited the tenants to discuss these events, resulting in a reduction in the frequency and duration of the parties. Although the landlord of the property has corrected specific items listed in a recent citation from Code

Enforcement, the property remains an eyesore, with permanent party decorations and excessive trash in the backyard and high grass on the boundaries. After unsuccessfully appealing to the landlord for help with the conditions and their effect on neighboring property values, Thorne will continue working with Code Enforcement staff to ensure that they issue citations as necessary.

Another BCA member cited similar complaints about a house on N. 9th Street that is in total disrepair and is used as a parking lot for a salvage business. Dal Cais and Atkins encouraged the homeowners to continue to complain to the County Board, County Manager and Code Enforcement staff. The County Board and County Manager would be present at a number of upcoming community events, such as the County Fair in August and the Candidates' Night in September.

Byington reported that the porta-potty installed on N. Fairfax Drive near N. George Mason Drive had been removed. (It is unclear whether it would be reinstalled when the softball season resumes.) Byington reported that, in addition to being used by the homeless person who had set up a tent across the street in the bushes on N. Fairfax Drive, the porta-potty was popular with passing construction workers who parked their large construction vehicles on N. George Mason Drive (blocking the bike lane and a lane of car traffic) while using the porta-potty. The porta-potty was originally intended to be used only by softball teams, but the coaches failed to lock the door after games ended. Byington agreed to monitor the situation and dal Cais agreed to let County staff know of the problems.

Walking Town Meeting

Terry Serie, the Coordinator for the 2007 Walking Town Meeting (WTM), reported on the results of the Walking Town Meeting with the County Board held on June 18, 2007. A summary of the WTM is on the BCA website at www.bluemontcivic.org. Serie reported that the County would be responding to the list of issues raised at the WTM in August. Serie also noted that resident turn-out for the WTM was phenomenal, and BCA needs to tap that enthusiasm to spur involvement in BCA. Of the 2,000 households resident in BCA, only around 250 are current members.

Peck-Staples Site Plan

Terry Serie, Information Coordinator for the Peck-Staples Site, reported that the developer JBG was continuing to work on its amended redevelopment application to address benefits to the community.

Serie reported that the request by Arlington Housing Corp. (AHC) to redevelop the Jordan Manor apartment building located at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and N. Woodrow St. remains unanswered. The County is working on its response, which will discourage any increase in density in the site.

Adjournment

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.