

Bluemont Civic Association
Executive Board Meeting
August 14, 2007, 7:30 p.m.
Suzanne Sundburg's home

Attendance and Call to Order

Attendance:

Judah dal Cais, Judy Collins, Bob Atkins, Suzanne Sundburg, Mary Thorne, Wendy Dean, Hilary Silvert-Newell, Kathy Kocsan, and Carl Drummond
President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Determine Newsletter Articles for September and Set Deadline
Deadline

The text deadline for newsletter articles is September 4. Suggested articles are as follows:

Article 1—List all fall meeting dates and speakers (Judah to confirm locations with Arlington Traditional School [ATS])

See section below on speakers for the fall.

Article 2—Update on Walking Town Meeting from Terry Serie (if possible)

Article 3—Advertise BCA Website and Google e-list sign-up

Article 4—Outstanding issues in Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) (Judah to check with Richard Best)

Article 5—Understanding ATS admission policy as well as the upcoming redrawing of school boundaries and what it means to your kids – Hilary and Kate will work on it and submit a draft to Suzanne*

Article 6—Missing Links program update—N. Frederick Street does not meet the criteria due to a utility pole that must be moved

Article 7—Candidates' Night for BCA/joint meeting with other associations (Judah to confirm date/time/place)**

Article 8—Call for volunteers: Ask for a volunteer to incorporate BCA and apply for 501(c) 3 nonprofit status (Wendy to explore options/ramifications, Hilary mentioned Chris Judson as a possibility), a Neighborhood Day coordinator, and a coordinator for a possible fall event.

Article 9—Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC)/Jordan Manor and Peck-Staples Update from Terry (if possible)

*Note: Hilary Silvert-Newell volunteered to be a coordinator/point person for the ATS/school boundary issue in conjunction with Kate Mesches.

**Note: The Civic Federation's candidates' night is September 4, too early for the newsletter so the Executive Board authorized Suzanne to advertise it via the Google e-list.

Skip the December newsletter unless there is something time critical to report.

Determine Speakers and Locations for the Fall

Judah will contact Jay Fiset to speak in September with Barbara Favola being the second choice.

Other possible speakers:

Texaco owner (Frank) probably invite to an Executive Board meeting

General Manager of Safeway

Code Enforcement (Mr. Flor and his supervisor) hopefully for the October general membership meeting

General membership meetings will be held on 9/26, 10/24, and 11/28 at 7:30 p.m., as per normal schedule. Judah will contact ATS to see if the school is available for the fall meetings.

Dave Hundelt (and his supervisor) of the water and sewer department

Note: The December meeting will be a combined Exec. Board/general membership meeting on Tuesday, 12/11. Usually there is no speaker for the December meeting.

Finalize Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP) List

The NIP List is almost ready. The Executive Board authorized Suzanne to make the following additional changes: 1) Revise the listing for traffic-calming on N. 9th Street to between N. George Mason Drive and N. Buchanan Street and include traffic-calming/speed limit signs. 2) Check to be sure that N. Burlington Street is on the curb, gutter and sidewalk portion of the list. (The group determined that traffic-calming for Wilson Blvd. is already on the list.) Wendy will present the NIP list at the September Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) meeting.

Discuss/Suggest Interim Traffic-Calming Measures for N. 9th St.

Hilary has taken the lead regarding traffic calming on 9th Street between George Mason and Buchanan. Wendy will contact Chris Nixon to ask about "Drive 25" signs. Hilary asked about the feasibility of adding permanent speed limit signs on 9th Street.

Update on Safeway Drain/Discuss Storm Water Management

Workers from the County unblocked the drain was opened but said that they would not do it again (the drain is on Safeway property and is Safeway's responsibility). Earlier in the summer, a County contractor (Shaw) blocked half of the storm drain (in the Safeway parking lot next to the fence) with construction-related debris. There was no concrete, only dirt and rocks. There was some discussion as to the value of cutting down trees on the private property along the fence in an effort to keep the drain unblocked and cut down on certain shade-driven activities.

Update on Walking Town Meeting/Peck-Staples Redevelopment/ Jordan Manor

The County plans to release its notes from the Walking Town Meeting (held in June) by the end of August. There are no further developments on Peck-Staples

redevelopment. Reportedly, Ken **Kenneth Aughenbaugh**, the head of the housing office for Arlington County, said that there is a letter to AHC saying that the County doesn't support the requested change in zoning for Jordan Manor (to upzone the property for an 18-story building). Wendy will follow up with Ken and will ask for a copy of the letter.

Discuss Possible Fall Fundraiser/Finding a School Boundary Representative

The subject of a fundraiser was raised and the discussion quickly shifted focus to the issue of the school boundary representative. The school boundary meetings are open to everyone. To push change, one needs to lobby delegates. ATS used to be our neighborhood school but that is no longer the case. A massive letter writing campaign would have to be organized to work toward making this situation change. The question always arises of why local kids don't get preference at ATS. ATS is the only elementary school in the county (except the science focus school) without local kids. People new to the area aren't necessarily aware of this situation. Claremont, Ashlawn and Barrett are the current choices for local kids. Some people would like to add Campbell to this list. The Executive Board will propose a motion at the September general membership to have the membership voice formal support for adding a neighborhood component to ATS (neighborhood children within a safe walking distance would be given the option of attending ATS).

Other Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs

- 1) We need a volunteer to do incorporation paperwork for BCA. Wendy will find out what requirements are. We want to have 501c3 status. First we have to incorporate then go after the 501(c)3 nonprofit status (to avoid having to file a tax return).
- 2) Neighborhood Conservation (NC) update: The County has \$50 million for North Tract development but no additional funds for NC.
- 3) Missing Links program: 859 and 863 N. Frederick Street have a missing sidewalk segment; however, due to a utility pole that would have to be moved, it does not qualify for the program. There have only been two applications so far since the County loosened the requirements for Missing Links.
- 4) Google list: The Topica announcement list has been suspended. The only operating announcement list is the Google list.
- 5) The County public health department will hold a Pandemic (avian) Flu Forum on Sept 13. No need to advertise it on the e-list per Judah.
- 6) We have approximately 245 members. Our bank balance is over \$4,000.
- 7) A motion was made and unanimously approved to allocate up to \$300 for three signs (up to \$100 each) to advertise general membership meetings. These signs would be attached temporarily to the three existing Bluemont signs.
- 8) The next Exec. Board meeting will be on September 11 at 7:30. Location to be determined.

New business

What are we going to charge for ads in newsletter?

We deliver the newsletter to 2,200 households neighborhood-wide in September and again in March/April as a community outreach measure.

It costs \$450 per page to produce.

Rates for Fairlington and Cherrydale association newsletters were checked and the Executive Board made and unanimously approved a motion to establish the following advertising rates for the neighborhood-wide issues:

1/8 page (business card size)—\$50

1/4 page—\$90

1/2 page—\$175

whole page—\$350

The suggested charge for a yearly, multi-issue, business-card-size ad is \$350.

Judah will check the amounts paid by previous advertisers to confirm what BCA should charge. We may also list these advertisers as BCA supporters on the Web site.

The group discussed whether to include classified ads in newsletters. Perhaps there would be two categories: one for kids walking dogs/mowing lawns/shoveling snow and one for businesses. The outstanding question was who (if anyone) to charge and how much. Wendy will find out what other neighborhoods charge.

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.