

**Bluemont Civic Association**  
Executive Board Meeting  
March 10, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Arlington Traditional School

**Call to Order and Attendance**

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Judah dal Cais, Carl Drummond, Suzanne Sundburg, Judy Collins, and Mary Thorne.

**Approval of Minutes for 2/10/09**

Secretary Mary Thorne distributed draft minutes for the 2/10/09 Executive Board meeting. A motion to approve the 2/10/09 minutes was made and seconded. The Executive Board voted unanimously to approve the 2/10/09 minutes with edits. Thorne will forward the approved minutes for posting on the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) Website.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Environmental Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng will speak at the March meeting, which will be held at ATS. He will address how budget cuts could impact the Bicentennial Flower Garden and Bon Air Rose Garden. There has been no response from County Manager Ron Carlee regarding his availability to speak at the April 29 meeting so the suggestion was to ask Barbara Favola instead. There was a suggestion to invite Robbie Guenther to the April meeting to update the membership on his plan to park the Budget rental trucks in the Safeway parking lot. Judah will find out if ATS is available on April 29. The suggestion was made to invite Ron Carlee or someone in his office to speak at the May meeting. Suzanne suggested asking Sam Young who works at the Amicus Green Building Center to speak at a future meeting. Judah will call Officer O'Daniel to suggest that Judah be the point of contact when Officer O'Daniel has information to share at the general membership meetings.

**March/April Newsletters**

The March newsletter will be mailed on or around March 20<sup>th</sup>. The following items will be included in the April newsletter (text due 4/1/09):

- 1) Ad for the May 9 barbecue — The barbecue will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on May 9. Judah needs to contact the fire station to ask if BCA can hold the event there and use the barbecue grill.
- 2) Update on Peck/Staples

- 3) Request for one additional member of the nominating committee
- 4) Request for volunteers to serve as BCA officers
- 5) List of questions regarding the village center concept and parameters of possible redevelopment of the commercial properties along Wilson Boulevard between N. George Mason Drive and N. Greenbrier Street
- 6) Request for volunteers to update the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan
- 7) Recap of March meeting
- 8) List of recent BCA accomplishments, to include NC projects on 9<sup>th</sup> Street North, 5<sup>th</sup> Street North, and N. Buchanan Street as well as the new N. Harrison Street trail connector project and replacement fence for Bluemont Park
- 9) Update on Arlington Forest Club renovations
- 10) Update on NC projects
- 11) Membership appeal and call for new officers and a newsletter distributor
- 12) Welcome Jim Thorne as BCA's new Emergency Preparedness Liaison

Judy requested that Sam Ferro add a banner to the mailing panel or elsewhere asking, "Is this your last issue?" Judy also said that she would check her records to confirm which advertisers had paid, and which ones whose accounts had an outstanding balance. She asked Judah and Sam to provide her with the advertising rates they charged for individual advertisers.

### **Neighborhood Conservation (NC)**

Carl Drummond reported that the N. Frederick Street project might be funded in 2009. He will find out in June. Both the N Buchanan Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street North projects went over budget because the costs had risen in the years since they were originally funded. Only three Parks projects can be completed in a year due to the lack of Parks Department Planners. The NC program completed 24 projects in 2008.

### **Other Business**

Treasurer Judy Collins reported 212 current members, with 69 who hadn't renewed from 2008 and an additional 40 who had not renewed from 2007. There have been 50 home foreclosures in Arlington. At the February 25 meeting, Jim Thorne volunteered to fill the position of Emergency Preparedness Liaison, which had been vacant for several years. Judah will give him the necessary American Red Cross and county contacts. There is an online petition to save the Gulf Branch Nature Center, which is slated to be closed and demolished due to county budget cuts. There are a number of candidates running to fill the Virginia House of Delegates seat currently filled by Al Eisenberg. They would like to debate but no group has stepped forward to host this event. Judah e-mailed Kevin Stalica about the second vote at the February 25 general membership meeting at which the membership voted to approve a combination of post-and-

rail fence with plantings. He has yet to hear back from Stalica. The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) voted on February 19 to strike the I-66 spot-widening projects from the region's transportation plans. (Congressman Frank Wolf has funded one of three spot-widening projects on westbound I-66 in Arlington via a federal budget earmark.) However, the TPB will reconsider this matter again on March 18.

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.