

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 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, Mary Thorne, Sam Ferro, Suzanne Sundburg, Terry Serie, Robert Atkins, Carl Drummond and David Van Wagner.

Approval of Minutes for 4/13/2010

The Executive Board voted unanimously to approve the April 13, 2010, Executive Board meeting minutes. Thorne will forward the approved minutes for posting to the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) Website.

Upcoming Newsletters and Meetings

Sam Ferro will ask Judy Collins which ads to place in the May newsletter based on who has paid. June 8 will be the text deadline for the next newsletter. The slate of officers and representatives for 2010–2011 needs to be finalized for that newsletter. Suzanne Sundburg will get confirmation from Lisa Blanton that BCA will have access to the inside of the school for the June meeting. The June meeting was held at a picnic table outside the school in 2009 because the building was closed even though the meeting had been previously scheduled with Arlington Traditional School.

Reports from Officers and Representatives

Judy Collins was unable to attend the meeting but sent an e-mail reporting approximately 270 current members. That number includes 50 members from 2009 who did not renew and 18 new members. Mary Thorne may miss the June 8 meeting. Ferro reported that Dave Leichtman is still working on the new improved BCA Website.

David Van Wagner reported that there has been a good level of response to the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) survey. As of this meeting, 195 surveys had been completed online, and 85 paper copies had been submitted. Neighbors at the eastern end of Bluemont (east of N. George Mason Drive) are under-represented in the submissions to date. Terry Serie and Mary Thorne will remind their neighbors to participate. Van Wagner is still working on a date for the NC plan working group to meet. The tentative date is May 29.

Dal Cais and Ferro met with Stu Jessup regarding landscaping adjacent to his property near the bike trail at N. Emerson Street. They would like to remove a diseased evergreen tree and forsythia bushes on county property that Jessup had planted because they provide unwanted hiding places and present a security risk. Judah will

continue to work on this in coordination with county Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng and Jessup.

Carl Drummond stated that the BCA's NC project list needs to be updated every six months. Ideally, there are always two projects in the queue. BCA's current project is in the 1000 block of N. Edison Street. The membership will vote on the proposed second project, N. Kensington Street between 8th Road North and Wilson Boulevard, at the October meeting (in time for the next NC project funding round) provided that Kensington Street's block captain attends the September meeting and requests that the membership advertise the vote in the October newsletter, prior to holding the vote.

Bob Atkins reported that the Civic Federation is looking for situations in the county where residential properties are adjacent to commercial properties. They are searching for similarities of neighbor concerns so that a standard County policy could be created rather than treating each rezoning issue separately. Atkins will draft a thank-you note to code enforcement for forcing an owner to clean up a home that was a breeding ground for rats.

Old Business

Those volunteering to help set up for the barbecue on May 15 should arrive at 10:45 am. Dal Cais will give Thorne a shopping list. Ferro will provide membership forms. Drummond will bring newsletters and surveys. Atkins still needs to find two volunteers to assist him on the Nominating Committee.

New Business

Site Plan Amendment for 950 N. Glebe Road

There is an application for a site plan amendment for 950 N. Glebe Road. The management group has been unable to find tenants for the ground-floor retail and other space so they would like to convert it to classrooms for George Washington University. Classes would be held on weekdays, Saturdays, and weekday evenings. Neighbors fear that residential side streets would be filled with students' cars (Northern Virginia Community College and Marymount students already park on nearby neighborhood streets), making it difficult for residents to park near their homes. Suggestions were made to request that low parking rates or even free parking be offered to the students to encourage them to park in the building instead of on side streets. Another suggestion was to increase the zoned hours on nearby streets from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Terry Serie reported that this was done in his neighborhood near the Ballston Common Mall and has been highly effective. Serie stated that the best way to attack the potential parking problem was to request a review one year after the classes begin to assess the impact on the neighborhood. In an effort to encourage neighborhood support the building manager is offering a meeting room for neighborhood groups. It is unclear whether the room availability would be adequate enough to be useful and practical. The site plan amendment does not contain a projected number of students. BCA would like to have this information.

Site Plan Amendment for 5130 Wilson Boulevard

The building management company requests a site plan amendment to convert office space to accommodate a multi-specialty rehabilitation clinic at 5130 Wilson Boulevard. They project 1 to 2 patients per hour will visit the clinic, although there will be 3 examination rooms in addition to a therapy room. So there is some question as to the actual number of patients that will use the facility. Suggestions were to consider adding a handicapped parking space and ask for a review of the parking situation after a year.

National Science Foundation (NSF) move

Serie informed the group that the NSF lease expires in a couple of years, and they must relocate because they need more space and want more updated building/electronic amenities. Under government mandate, NSF is obligated to consider available government space first. It could move to empty government space in DC, Maryland, Crystal City or, perhaps, into the new Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) complex that is being built on the old Metro bus lot located across from Ballston Common Mall. NSF is projected to have approximately 1800 employees in the future.

Bar Noise from Union Jack's and Rock Bottom Brewery

Serie asks that at its May meeting BCA redesignate him to represent the association in continuing the dialogue with Union Jack's and Rock Bottom regarding the noise from their establishments. The volume emanating from the two businesses has increased with the temperature. One neighbor who lives nearby and has a small child has gone to great expense to deal with the noise situation by installing special windows on top of the exterior building windows in order to block the noise. Serie will forward a motion to be considered at the May 26 General Membership meeting.

Judah dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm.