

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, May 26, 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 Judy Collins, Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, Carl Drummond, Judah dal Cais, David Van Wagner, Mary Thorne, Larry Smith, and 9 Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) members.

Pedestrian Safety–Traffic-Calming Plan for N. Carlin Springs Road
Planning Section Supervisor Richard Viola, DES Transportation Planning Division

County staff member Richard Viola unveiled plans for a Neighborhood Conservation (NC) project that has been initiated by The Buckingham Civic Association. The not-yet-funded project gives the county and the community an opportunity to discuss long-term strategies for managing speed and pedestrian safety along N. Carlin Springs Road. Buckingham's NC project will attempt to slow traffic and enhance pedestrian safety on Carlin Springs between N. Glebe Road and N. Park Drive/N. Vermont Street. The proposed project includes curb nubs on Carlin Springs and streetlights along Park.

At the meeting, members expressed concern about speeding and the difficulty of crossing Carlin Springs. Should the Buckingham project come to pass, the county would look next at the segment from Park/Vermont down to N. Abingdon Street. Street parking on both sides of the road along this stretch is rarely used, and Viola listed potential options for members. If parking were to be eliminated from just one side, then there would be room to add a bike lane. The group also discussed the redevelopment of "the Bishop's property" on the south side of Carlin Springs; plans have been filed with the county to build 10 homes and to add a road with a cul de sac to access those homes.

Within the next several years, the Carlin Springs bridge (crossing N. George Mason Drive) must be replaced. At that time, there will be an opportunity to make some changes to the existing configuration. Viola would like for Bluemont residents as well as those of Buckingham and Arlington Forest to start thinking about the community's long-term goals for Carlin Springs.

Approval of Minutes for 4/21/2010

Secretary Mary Thorne distributed draft minutes for the 4/21/10 General Membership meeting. A motion to approve the 4/21/10 minutes was made and seconded. The membership voted to approve the 4/21/10 minutes as drafted. Thorne will forward the 4/21/10 minutes for posting to the BCA Website.

Reports from Officers and Representatives

Sam Ferro reported that Dave Leichtman continues to work on updating the BCA Website. David Van Wagner announced that with five days remaining before the June 1 deadline; 309 Neighborhood Conservation (NC) surveys have been completed. The group that has volunteered to write the report will meet on May 30 at 11:00 am. Carl Drummond reported that the Neighborhood Conservation bond for upcoming projects was reduced from \$12 million to \$9 million for the upcoming year. Carl will accompany the new NC Representative-elect Larry Smith to the June meeting to help him transition into the position. The deadline for newsletter text is June 8. The Neighborhood Day barbecue committee reported that the May 15 event was well attended.

Other Old Business

The membership briefly discussed plans for GWU to use the ground floor retail space and an upper floor for classrooms. In May, the County Board reviewed BCA's requested modifications to the site plan amendment. Member Bob Atkins took the podium near midnight to defend BCA's request, and the County Board ultimately approved all changes. With the influx of students, it was noted that the hours for zoned parking along N. Woodrow and N. Wakefield Streets would need to be extended in the future.

The following motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) designates Terry Serie as its representative for the neighborhood issues created by facilities operating in the Ballston Mall area. This designation is for the period of May 26 to November 30, 2010. The BCA assigns Terry with the tasks of:

- 1. Informing the townhouse associations west of the Mall area (172 residences) on N. Tazewell Street, 7th Street N., N. Carlin Springs and N. Vermont Street of site plan amendments, administrative approvals and reviews, and other actions pertaining to live entertainment, dancing permits, and outdoor seating areas.*
- 2. Organizing meetings with the County staff, the applicant, and other parties to identify current and potential neighborhood issues created by live entertainment, dancing permits, and outdoor seating areas and to identify solution options.*
- 3. Facilitating the neighborhood and the BCA actions to mitigate current and potential negative impacts on the surrounding residential neighborhood in the area between N. Carlin Springs Rd. and Wilson Blvd.*

Starting in the "BCA year" September 2010–June 2011, the number of BCA meetings will be reduced to four General Membership meetings with additional Executive Board meetings as needed. Space will be reserved at ATS for ten meetings, which may be Executive Board meetings, General Membership meetings, or special meetings. The space can be released if it is not needed. The number of newsletters will be reduced from ten to four, two will be neighborhood-wide distributions in the spring and fall, and two will be mailed to current association members.

Members asked whether there would be a loss of revenue and/or problems with membership renewal with the drop in the number of newsletters. At present, ad revenue does help cover the costs for printing and mailing the newsletter. It was also suggested

that the membership form include an opt-in option so that members could choose to receive the newsletter only by electronic distribution. One member suggested that BCA ask Safeway whether BCA could distribute newsletters at its store whenever the newsletter is distributed only by mail.

Judah dal Cais will organize a fundraiser to benefit an organization in Bluemont. This block-party-style event will be held in front of Judah's house on N. 5th Street with a tentative date of September 18. The date of the fundraiser will be confirmed once ATS confirms BCA's September general membership meeting date.

Other New Business

Mary Mohiyuddin reported that she had requested a use permit for the redevelopment of her home at 1008 North Frederick Street, which will increase the lot coverage. BCA does not take a position on use permits but appreciates being informed.

Suzanne Sundburg announced that there would be a Natural Resources Management Plan Forum on May 27 at 7:00 pm at Washington-Lee High School Auditorium. Neither Bluemont Park nor Lacey Wood Park is included in the plan, which means it will not have the same level of protection as county parks that are included. Sundburg encouraged Bluemont residents to attend and voice their opinions.

Sundburg also reported that reports of the David M. Brown Planetarium impending demise are premature. Arlington's School Board has voted to keep the David M. Brown Planetarium open part-time thru 6/30/11, two days a week and limited to grades K-2. Weekend shows will continue thru 6/30/11. Superintendent Patrick Murphy set a timetable for the Friends of the Planetarium to raise money to keep the facility open. A total of \$402,800 must be raised by 6/30/11, or the planetarium will close.

On June 12, the County Board will discuss a snow removal ordinance, which will require citizens and businesses to clear snow in front of businesses and residences within a few hours after a snowstorm or face possible criminal penalties. It was confirmed at the meeting that residents who are physically incapable of shoveling will be exempt from this requirement. Neighbors wishing to weigh in on this issue should attend the June 12 meeting.

Adjournment

Judah dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m.