

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Arlington Traditional School
BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Call to Order and Attendance

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Judy Collins, Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, Judah dal Cais, Mary Thorne, Larry Smith, and 10 Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) members.

Master Transportation Plan-Richard Viola-Project Manager

There will be an update on the plan for the bridge on Carlin Springs Road (over George Mason Drive) coming in the spring. The public feedback on the Master Transportation Plan will end before the end of 2010. The County Board is expected to take it up at their February 2011 meeting. The Streets Element is the final aspect of transportation to be examined. This element groups issues under five objectives which address; the street network, street environment, street safety, usability of streets and street maintenance. Included in the document are the following suggestions:

- 1) In response to development, add a few additional streets, alleys and delivery areas to improve traffic flow.
- 2) Upgrade sidewalks to make it easier and safer for pedestrians including making them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A four foot sidewalk width is the minimum to meet this requirement but five feet is preferable.
- 3) Introduce policies to reduce injuries, including adding crosswalks, lowering speed limits and improving speed enforcement.
- 4) Return to a regular schedule for paving on a 15 year cycle. This would coordinate with utility work to avoid scheduling utility work immediately after paving.
- 5) Synchronize streets with land use
- 6) Add additional street classifications. These distinctions are used to determine snow plowing schedules.

In response to the question of opening a connection between Fairfax Drive and Wilson off of I-66 using Wakefield, Viola explained that this would require a site plan hearing given the changes around the Holiday Inn and neighboring office building that would be necessary. The mid-block pedestrian crossing on Glebe from the new Virginia Tech building to the Westin Hotel is moving forward. Several neighbors commented that the stop lights are not synchronized on Wilson and that there has been a problem getting the county to repair street lights when they go out. Both of these issues should be brought to the attention of the Transportation division by phone 703-228-3681(not sure about this phone number) or on-line

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/EnvironmentalServicesTransportation.aspx>

Utilities will only be undergrounded if a developer is willing to pay so this is not a likely solution. The utility poles in the middle of the sidewalks make it very challenging for individuals with mobility problems or strollers. Judah asked about having left turn signals in both directions at the intersection of George Mason and Wilson. He was referred to the Transportation division to speak to Wayne Wentz, the head of traffic engineering.

Arlington County Police Liaison - Corporal Beth Lennon

Corporal Lennon grew up in Bluemont, off Bluemont Drive. Her 20 years of police work have mostly been spent in the southern part of Arlington County. She was assigned to be the liaison officer for the area that includes Bluemont at the end of June 2010. All liaison officers work at night so they can more easily interact with the public. There have been no serious crimes in Bluemont in the past six months. There has been larceny from autos and some vandalism. There is a noise ordinance now. Members who live in the Abingdon townhouses reported that someone has been dumping beer cans and bottles on townhouse properties. In response to this and as a general rule, Lennon suggested calling the non-emergency phone number 703-558-2222 to report someone in the neighborhood who is thought to be suspicious. She also reminded the group that the parks are closed at night so anyone found there at that time is trespassing. Repeated trespassing in the parks can lead to being banned from the parks. There is a police effort to improve pedestrian/driver safety. Special operations will monitor speeding in areas as requested. The best way to reach Corporal Lennon is by e-mail at elennon@arlingtonva.us.

Approval of Minutes for 9/29/2010

Suzanne Sundburg distributed draft minutes for the 9/29/10 General Membership meeting. A motion to approve the 9/29/10 minutes was made and seconded. The membership voted to approve the 9/29/10 minutes as drafted.

Reports from Officers and Representatives,

Neighborhood Conservation(NC) representative, Larry Smith confirmed that BCA's current priority project is the 1000 block of north Edison street for curb, gutter and sidewalks. Sam Ferro still needs to install new signs with www.bluemontciv.org beneath the current signs which advertise BCA meetings. Treasurer, Judy Collins reports that there are currently 288 members and expects that the latest newsletter will generate renewals. Judah is collecting signatures from Bluemont residents to construct a bocce court. He will bring a petition to the next General Membership meeting on January 19. He will give an update on BCA advertisers at the next meeting after submitting bills.

Other Old Business

In response to the call for new NC projects, a woman at the meeting said that the neighbors on Kensington between Wilson Boulevard and 8th Road have been asking for improvements for 20 years. There are only three homes and she has signatures from two of the three home owners. She said she had already handed in the petition. The

onus is on the affected residents to push forward their project. However, Ritch Viola may have emergency money available for her specific issue. Bob Atkins may also have suggestions.

Other New Business

There will be a Community Forum on the 2012 Budget at 7 pm on December 2 in the Arlington Central Library auditorium. This will be an opportunity for residents to give their input. A member requested that a letter be sent by BCA showing support for refurbishing and reopening the amphitheater at Lubber Run. After some discussion, Judah said he would talk to the civic association where the amphitheater is located and investigate the potential cost of this project. If he can obtain this information by January 1 (newsletter deadline) then this issue will be included in the January newsletter and a vote will be taken at the January 19 General Membership meeting. The Arlington Public Schools are developing a new strategic plan and invite input on their website. Newsletter articles are due to Suzanne Sundburg on January 1. A zoning variance has been requested for 807 North Harrison Street. Larry Smith will be tearing down the house at 1022 North Edison Street next week. The house has some 1925 components and mature azalea bushes which will be available.

Adjournment

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