

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 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, Judy Collins, Sam Ferro, Larry Smith, Joan Horwitt, Sandy Horwitt and Suzanne Sundburg.

Approval of Minutes for 12/15/2010

The Executive Board voted unanimously to approve the December 15, 2010, Executive Board meeting minutes. Thorne will forward the approved minutes for posting to the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) Website.

Reevesland Learning Garden Project—Joan Horwitt

The Reeves property sits on portions of both Bluemont and Boulevard Manor. Mr. Reeves was a dairy farmer who liked to educate neighbors about eating healthy foods off the land. After his death the county bought the property and boarded it up. A neighborhood group has already obtained permission to build eight raised beds to grow vegetables and educate the public. In addition, they want to turn the house into a learning center. This will not interfere with use of the adjacent sledding hill.

Joan and Sandy Horwitt, three children of Mr. Reeves, and other neighbors are looking for signatures on a petition to study the possibility of converting the house to a learning center. They are not requesting funding at this time. As of this meeting 500 signatures have been obtained from residents of Bluemont, Dominion Hills and Boulevard Manor. The group is seeking buy-in from the School Board and County Board as well as the adjacent neighborhoods. The learning center could be used by students at Kenmore, McKinley, and Ashlawn.

A study done in 2004 outlined the structural work needed on the house at that time. The roof was repaired after water leaked into the house and caused damage, but otherwise, no significant repairs have been made. The original structure was built in 1866 with a couple of additions in the intervening years. Larry Smith offered to look at the interior to see if he has materials from his construction project that could prove useful. The Horwitzs will send Judah an electronic version of their concept paper, and a letter that accompanies the petition for posting on the BCA Website. The Executive Board will vote electronically regarding support of the letter.

Update on the Long-Range Planning Commission's Special GLUP Study and the Harris Teeter-Goodyear Site Plan

In keeping with the county-wide plan to increase density, there are proposed changes to the Goodyear, American Service Center and Harris Teeter sites. Various scenarios are being discussed.

Spring Barbecue/Fundraiser— No date has been announced yet for a county-wide Neighborhood Day, but BCA will host its annual barbecue on Saturday, May 14. A call for volunteers will go into the newsletter and there will be a vote at the April meeting to budget \$150 for this event. A neighborhood fundraiser will be held on September 17 or 24. Given the timing, perhaps Caps players could be asked to sign autographs at the fundraiser.

Reports from Officers and Representatives

Judy Collins, Treasurer

Following an e-mail discussion about BCA donating money to help save the planetarium, a vote to donate \$100 will be advertised in the next newsletter and taken up at the April meeting. There is \$7,000 in the BCA checking account. Currently, 160 members are paid through 2011, with 100 lapsed memberships.

Suzanne Sundburg, Civic Federation Delegate

A public forum on the beaver pond will be held tomorrow night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will also be a public hearing on the budget tomorrow night. The budget is tight again this year with previously cut items unlikely to be reinstated. The Revenues and Expenditures (R&E) Committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation (CivFed) will review the county's fiscal year (FY) 2012 general fund budget and will make recommendations to the CivFed's governing body and membership. Unallocated money for one-time projects is usually available in the county's general fund budget, and it can be used to fund one or more items that are unfunded or underfunded in the county's budget. The R&E Committee reviews projects and depending upon the amount of available funds *may* recommend using unallocated funds for items of greatest concern/importance. Because she is currently serving on the R&E Committee, Suzanne asked the BCA Executive Board which, if any, projects might be important to BCA.

Judah dal Cais, President

Judah reports that he finally has established contact with the Arlington Forest Civic Association regarding the issue of the Lubber Run Amphitheater. A foundation has been created to save the amphitheater. Stimulus funds that might have been used were cut at the state level. However, disposition of any "extra" money in the 2012 budget that was designated for "one-time" projects remains on the table. BCA was contacted about a proposal for the new Virginia Tech building to have signage on the Glebe Road side. This is not expected to cause a problem for nearby residents.

Larry Smith, Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Representative

Greg Emanuel, from the Department of Environmental Services attended a Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) meeting. His remarks included the fact that the county has a \$1 million fund for projects like widening sidewalks. While he was in the area he saw a woman who uses a motorized wheelchair

traveling up Wilson Boulevard in a traffic lane because the sidewalk is not wide enough to accommodate her. He was alarmed by this reality but said the cost for relocating the utility poles now obstructing Wilson Boulevard's sidewalks would cost significantly more than \$1 million. He would like to help solve the problem and suggested neighbors contact a few of the owners with properties fronting Wilson Boulevard and ask them if they would be willing to cede enough of their property to accomplish sidewalk widening. It would only be necessary to widen the sidewalk on one side of Wilson to provide safe access to pedestrians and those using wheelchairs or strollers who are trying to reach Ballston and the Metro. The north side between N. Woodrow and Buchanan Streets appears to be the more practical due to the short amount of distance for which sidewalk widening would be needed. If BCA could identify a few property owners willing to give right-of-way, then this information would be given to the county who would in turn contact the rest of the relevant owners. Judah will work on contacting a few of the owners. There was no NC Advisory Committee (NCAC) meeting in February.

BCA Website

Judah met with Sam Ferro, Dave Leichtman and Matt Fehling about next steps for the Website. Dave is tweaking the Website. The discussion listserve was removed due to unauthorized pornographic content being introduced. Judy needs to give Judah BCA's employer identification number (EIN) number so the project to make PayPal renewal option can keep moving forward. Matt could set up a system of e-mail renewal reminders for lapsed members.

April Meeting and Newsletter

The March meeting is cancelled. Suzanne will notify Arlington Traditional School. All article submissions for the April newsletter are due to Suzanne by March 25. Larry will write an article with an NCAC update and submit for the newsletter. Judah will ask a County Board member to speak at the April meeting.

Judah dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:05 pm.