

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting
August 9, 2011, 7:00pm
Firehouse #2, Wilson Blvd.

Call to Order and Attendance

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, Judah dal Cais, Chitra Kumar, George Rovidner, Sandy Munno, Dean Foster, Bob Atkins, Judy Collins, Bill Brothers, Carla dal Cais, Allen Sundburg, David Van Wagner, and Dave Leichtman.

Motion to Have Monthly Meetings

According to the BCA by-laws we are to have monthly General Membership and Executive Board meetings from September through June. The group discussed and decided to convene Executive Board meetings 30 minutes before the General membership meetings which will be held monthly starting in September 2011. The Executive meetings can be canceled if there are no issues to discuss. Suzanne Sundburg proposed a calendar for the year. In general the meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Approval of Minutes for 6/22/11 and 7/12/11

Draft minutes for 6/22/11 General Membership meeting and 7/12/11 Executive Board meeting were distributed. A motion was made and seconded to defer approval of the 6/22/11 meeting minutes until the next meeting to allow time for the speakers, Tom Hutchins and Beth Lennon, to review more technical information. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 7/12/11 minutes provided that edits suggested by Judy Collins and George Rovidner are incorporated. The 7/12/11 meeting minutes were approved pending changes.

Articles for Newsletter

Officers had previously committed to writing articles for the newsletter. Many ideas for article topics were discussed. The deadline to submit to Carla was 8/26/11 so that it could be reviewed and ready for distribution in advance of the next General Membership meeting, planned for 9/27/11. The group noted that if there were more articles than space in the newsletter, or if the topic was time-sensitive, it could be posted on the website in between print newsletter publications.

September Meeting

The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for 9/27, 7:30pm and the Executive Board meeting will be held 30 minutes prior. Because the meeting is on a Tuesday, Sam Ferro confirmed that the official meeting signs could not be used to advertise, as they have "Wednesday" prominently featured. Suzanne Sundburg is working to secure the venue at the Arlington Traditional School.

Possible Guest Speakers

Judah asked for the group to offer ideas for speakers and presenters to invite to future meetings. Ideas included:

- A representative from the local McDonald's
- Civic Federation President
- Candidates in the upcoming election (must invite all parties if we chose to do this)
- Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (Bluemont residents involved)
- New Police Liaison (as recommended by Ann Beason)
- Someone to speak about Landlord-Tenant issues
- Aging-in-place speaker – Terry Lynch
- Health Department official to talk about flu shots, vaccinations, etc.

Ballston Business Improvement District (BID)

Bob Atkins discussed the fact that the Ballston Partnership, a 501(c)3, will be turning into a BID. A BID collects extra money from area businesses to spend on special projects beyond what the County would spend. There are BIDs in D.C. and Rosslyn. Bob raised a concern that we need to figure out how to engage with the new BID and make sure our representative attends the right meetings. The BID will cover at least the Peck-Staples development in Bluemont, but it is unclear how far west it will cover. BCA had a representative involved with the Ballston Partnership. Judah proposed we nominate a new person to engage with the BID moving into the future.

Web Site Updates

Zoning/Variance Documents: Judah explained that we can be doing a better job of updating the membership about local development activities by making documents available from the BCA website. Examples of documents include variance applications, and use permits. Although BCA does not take a position on residential activities, we can help to share information so that neighborhood residents can make their own decisions about pursuing action with the County. BCA can take a vote on commercial activities that affect the community, however.

Neighborhood News: Judah also expressed an interest in posting news/updates on what's happening in Bluemont. Dave L. stated that it is very easy to add authors to the web site to facilitate this type of news sharing.

Paypal Subscription: Dave L. explained that we have the ability to start using Paypal to have members pay dues at any time (decision to pay for Paypal use was made at July meeting). The advantage of Paypal is that it allows people to subscribe to receive automated annual or biannual renewal reminders as a part of the electronic payment system, making it easier for the Board to manage, and possibly expanding BCA membership by providing another payment option. One possible disadvantage is that the reminders would occur relative to the date of subscription, which may be out of synch with the non-Paypal members who pay by calendar year. We could wait to promote Paypal use until December/January, if synchronization with the calendar year is important. The group also discussed that the Paypal list would need to be cross-checked with Judy's membership list. It was agreed that Dave should go ahead and send out the Paypal information in the September newsletter rather than wait for the new year.

Officers and Representatives Reports

As this was her first BCA meeting as Secretary, Chitra Kumar gave a quick introduction of herself.

Judy reported that about 60 households signed up for BCA at the last General meeting in June, some of which were renewals.

Judah reported on the Washington Boulevard and Glebe Road corner site plan. The Avalon at Ballston Apartment Building has applied for a sign permit [Site Plan Amendment Review # 193 - Union Jack's renewal of the site plan amendment for live entertainment and dancing at 671 N Glebe Road]. Judah noted that County staff does not object to the renewal for live entertainment and dancing. Judah disclosed that since Union Jack's is sponsoring his softball team, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, Terry Serie will work with Union Jack's and area residents to resolve any pending noise ordinance issues.

Representatives and Delegates began their reports. Dave L mentioned that the County should be contacted to trim bushes that are obscuring the BCA signage (URL hanger) at Wilson Blvd. and George Mason. Judah volunteered to contact Patrick Wiggins at Arlington Parks Department.

Unfinished Business

Sam reported that the updated timeline of discussions between BCA Officers and JBG would be posted this week.

New Business

Dean Foster requested to know who had created a document that looked like a sample voting ballot that was found at the June General Membership because the document did not state who was responsible. Sam stated that he had distributed the document to his friends over email before the elections. Judah also stated that he may have shared the document after nominations were complete. The group discussed and resolved that there was not a problem per BCA bylaws to distribute such materials, but in the future a responsible party should be identified on documents distributed at BCA meetings.

Adjournment

Judah dal Cais adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.