

**BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**December 14, 2011, 7:00pm**  
**Arlington Traditional School**

**Call to Order - 7:30 p.m.**

About 12-15 members were present in addition to the following Executive Board members: President Judah dal Cais; 1st VP George Rovder; Treasurer Judy Collins, Secretary Chitra Kumar; Newsletter Editor Carla dal Cais; and Civic Federation delegates and alternates Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, Sandy Munnell, and Dean Foster.

**Terron Sims, II, County Board Primary Candidate (Dem.)**

The General Membership meeting began with a presentation by Candidate for Arlington County Board Primary Terron Sims, II (Dem.). Sims shared a bit about his background, including that he is a West Point graduate and he served for 18 months in Bhagdad, Iraq. While in Bhagdad Sims oversaw the formation of district councils that helped to provide, among other things, municipal services (e.g., sewer, water, roads, telephone). Through this experience he gained an appreciation of what it takes to make government function, such as the need for a positive relationship with local community members. Sims went on to explain that he retired from the Army to pursue his passion for local government. In Arlington, he has been engaged with mentoring and tutoring youth and has served as chair of Arlington's Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. He explained that his vision for the County Board was to make things easier for community members to engage in decision-making.

Q: What's your general view on redevelopment west of Glebe Road?

A: I would want to use the original plans from the 1960s or 1980s for the densely developed areas. I understand that there's a desire to have some commercial along Wilson Blvd, but not as dense as along Glebe. In any case, the community should have a strong voice in redevelopment plans.

Q: Where do you live in Arlington and what's your opinion on the current County Board?

A: I live in a condo in Courthouse. The County Board as been doing a good job, generally, but some have been in their jobs for a very long time, making them comfortable. I have a new perspective, including because of my age, that I could bring to the Board.

Q: What is your view of the street car/trolley on Columbia Pike?

A: I would like to see a cost-benefit analysis of the project, and I'd like to see that we get buy-in from Alexandria to have turn-around points before investing. One concern is that affordable housing in that area might be driven out. Also, why Columbia Pike? I understand that the original like was there, but why not assess if there are other better pathways to serve the community now, like Ballston to Shirlington. I'd like to see more conversation around the issue.

## **Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety on Wilson Boulevard in Bluemont**

BCA members Ed Fendley and Chris Healy gave a presentation about work previously done to improve sidewalks and pedestrian safety on Wilson Boulevard in Bluemont through the county's arterial transportation management (ATM) program. Copies of the presentation were handed out. They highlighted several areas where sidewalks are not up to standards based on width guidance from the county and Americans with Disabilities Act. A participant commented that at a recent Civic Federation meeting when BCA members' raised the issue of sidewalk improvements, he/she was told that the County wanted redevelopment to fund those improvements. The speakers mentioned that a task force could explore programs such as Complete Streets or asking private land owners if sidewalks could be widened by moving into their property.

BCA members unanimously agreed that sidewalks were a concern to the community and voted to authorize the formation of a task force that would continue working on the problem and exploring options to address the issue. Anyone interested in joining the BCA Task Force on Arterial Road Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety should email Task Force Co-Chairs, Ed Fedley, [edfendley@gmail.com](mailto:edfendley@gmail.com), and Chris Healey, [cphealey@me.com](mailto:cphealey@me.com).

## **Officer and Representatives Reports**

*Treasurer Judy Collins* reminded everyone that the BCA is accepting membership renewals for 2012.

*Secretary Chitra Kumar* asked for approval of November General Membership Meeting notes. The notes were unanimously approved with changes discussed.

*First NC Advisory Committee Representative Larry Smith* recapped the report from a recent NC Advisory Committee meeting, saying that six projects were funded from other neighborhoods.

*Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan Update Committee Chairman David Van Wagner* repeated his report from the Executive Board Meeting, saying that eight chapters are expected to be completed over the next year. Two will be ready in the next couple months, including on urban forestry, and the lead writers could be asked to present to the BCA membership as they become available.

*Civic Federation Delegate Suzanne Sundburg* referred the membership to her hand-out of notes on the December 6, 2011, Civic Federation Meeting. [Her notes were also submitted via email as below.]

### ***Recap of the December 6, 2011, Civic Federation Meeting:***

The Arlington Civic Federation met from 7:30 pm to approximately 9:15 pm on December 6 in Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel Auditorium. BCA delegates Suzanne Sundburg and Bob Atkins were present.

The invited speakers were Richard Doud, president of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, and Terry Holzheimer, who is in charge of the county's Office Of Economic Development. Both men spoke about Arlington's unusually strong

economic position during the downturn. According to Holzheimer, there is no reason to expect that Arlington won't continue to grow and develop at a much greater rate than almost any other jurisdiction in the nation. Doud echoed much of what Holzheimer said and added a few words about the chamber's position on local taxes (in favor of the hotel tax, not in favor of the special sewer/infrastructure-related tax on commercial properties).

Delegates Susan Sharp and Allen Munchnick brought up the Virginia Department of Transportation's effort to conduct a multimodal long-range planning effort to "identify a range of multimodal and corridor management solutions (operational, transit, bike, pedestrian, and highway) that can be implemented to reduce highway and transit congestion and improve overall mobility in the I-66 corridor, between I-495 and the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge." Sharp had just left VDOT's public forum on this matter, at which the public was not allowed to ask any questions.

Sharp was concerned because the tenor of the meeting suggested that VDOT was leaning heavily in favor of road widening and perhaps converting lanes on I-66 to high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. In short, the options being pushed seemed to favor those living outside of Arlington and at the expense of Arlingtonians. Sharp urged all citizens who are concerned about this issue to attend the December 14, 2011, public forum in the Arlington County Board room. She also noted that public comments are due no later than January 2, 2012, which gives citizens very little time to respond. Those who may be unable to attend the December 14 meeting but want to submit comments were invited to send them to Susan Sharp [atsusan@sharpcandco.com](mailto:atsusan@sharpcandco.com).

Additional I-66 documents can be found here:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/i-66\\_multimodal\\_study.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/i-66_multimodal_study.asp)

[http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/Northern\\_Virginia/asset\\_upload\\_file511\\_54324.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/Northern_Virginia/asset_upload_file511_54324.pdf)

*President Judah dal Cais* discussed the design that was selected by the County for the Carlin Springs Road overpass, which was presented at the November BCA meeting. The county is proceeding with "option 2"—10.5-foot and 11.5-foot lanes for cars, a 5-foot lane for bicycles, and 8 feet available for pedestrians. More information is available on the county's Website. Dal Cais also reported that the county would be holding a long-range planning meeting regarding the site plan for the Harris Teeter–American Service Center sites on January 4, 2012, at the Navy League Building, 2300 Wilson Blvd. in the large conference room. No motions were made during the Executive Board meeting.

### **Tool Loaner Program**

Dal Cais explained a bit about the existing neighborhood Tool Loaner Program and said that the tiller needs new tines. Tools are made available to BCA members during the spring and fall, as announced in the BCA newsletter. A motion was made to spend up to \$100 to fix the tiller in the, which was approved. Discussion of adding tools to the Program will continue at a future meeting and be selected based on popular demand.

**Unfinished Business**

Newsletter editor Carla dal Cais raised the need for articles for the January newsletter.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:45 p.m.