

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting
April 25, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Arlington Traditional School

Call to Order and Attendance

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m. Present in addition to Judah were Vice-President George Rovder; Treasurer Judy Collins; Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Representative Larry Smith; and Civic Federation delegates and alternates Bob Atkins, Sandy Munnell, Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, and Dean Foster. Others in attendance included BCA member Alan Sundburg and Renée and Rob Henninger. Secretary Chitra Kumar and Carla dal Cais arrived at approximately 7:15 pm.

Neighborhood Day Committee & Call for Volunteers—May 12, 2012

Judah dal Cais stated that he had one volunteer. He said that he would ask BCA member Mary Thorne if she would do the grocery shopping for the neighborhood barbecue, as she has access to the military PX at Fort Myer. If not, then more than \$100 may be needed to purchase supplies for the barbecue. Judah confirmed that all the food had been eaten at the 2011 barbecue (no leftovers) and said that he would amend the motion at the general membership meeting to increase the amount for the barbecue to \$125. David Van Wagner, who had already volunteered to help with the barbecue, offered to call and find out whether Arlington's Capital Bikeshare location behind Fire Station #2 would be in place by May 12. Sam Ferro said he would bring membership forms to the event. Bob Atkins suggested that BCA send notice of the barbecue to the County so that it would be advertised on the County website as an official Neighborhood Day event in case County Board members were interested in attending, as they had in past years.

Annual Meeting and Election on June 27, 2012

Bob Atkins, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that his committee had sent out e-mails and/or made phone calls to all current elected officers and representatives. Thus far, no candidates for Treasurer or President had come forward. He called for potential candidates to contact the committee so that the election slate could be finalized.

Benefits for Bluemont Civic Association Members

The board discussed and agreed to present to the general membership the idea of having a discount program for BCA members at local commercial establishments as an incentive for increasing membership. Judah said that BCA member Kate Mesches had done research on producing 500 keychain tags (similar to the point-of-purchase discount tags distributed by local grocery stores) to identify members' eligibility for discounts at Bluemont businesses. Thus far, Fettoosh, a local restaurant, has expressed an interest in participating. It was hoped that other merchants would be willing to participate.

Tool Loaner Program Waiver

It was noted that the concerns expressed at the March meeting were primarily focused on power tools, because they presented the biggest liability risk. Judah asked whether hand tools also presented too much liability or whether the civic association could lend them out. Larry Smith explained his concerns, stating that it would be costly to defend against a lawsuit and he didn't feel that the risk outweighed the limited benefit of the civic association sponsoring a tool loaner program in any capacity. Larry felt that the waiver form made the problem even worse. The general consensus indicated that informal lending of tools among neighbors was fine, but that the civic association should not host or sponsor it. Judah confirmed the decision to table the program.

Civic Federation Schools Committee

Sandy Munnell shared information from the Civic Federation Schools Committee. The County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) proposed bond issues for fiscal years (FY) 2013–2022 will include funds to help Arlington Public Schools (APS) expand elementary school capacity to relieve the overcrowding situation that is especially acute in North Arlington schools. The Civic Federation's Schools Committee will focus next on evaluating the County Manager's proposal for the upcoming CIP.

APS has been reviewing a number of options to address the overcrowding problem. Of the options considered, "Option D" is favored and entails adding 16 new classrooms at Arlington Traditional School, 12 new classrooms at Ashlawn Elementary School, and 12 new classrooms at McKinley Elementary School. Two new elementary schools are to be built. One will be built on the same property as Kenmore Middle School, and it will be a choice school; the other will be built on the same property as Williamsburg Middle School, and it will be neighborhood school.

There is public concern about traffic congestion at Kenmore, which is already a problem. Adding an elementary school at that location will likely add to the existing traffic problem, which may then spill over onto Bluemont streets. A public hearing is scheduled for May 24; time and location are to be determined. The Kenmore PTA in conjunction with the Carlin Springs Civic Association will host a meeting on May 8, which is open to the public.

Park Enhancement Grants (PEGs)

Larry Smith reported that letters of intent for PEGs are being accepted and must be submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation by June 15, 2012. PEG project limitations include the requirement that a project should not be difficult from a design or engineering perspective, and each project should cost no more than \$15,000. The selection process is expected to be very competitive. BCA would need to make a motion at the April meeting so that the general membership could vote for a specific project at the May meeting in order to meet the June filing deadline.

Newsletter

Newsletter designer Sam Ferro mentioned that advertising invoicing is still getting up to date. Treasurer Judy Collins stated that she had received a payment from Robbie Geunther (of D&V Service Center) for 2011.

Carla dal Cais, newsletter editor, stated that she would send a note to the Executive Board with deadlines and ideas for articles. Some ideas include presenting ideas for activities during summer daylight hours. Also, Sandy Munnell offered to write an article about the Constitutional Garden and Bicentennial Bell at corner of N. George Mason Drive and Wilson Boulevard.

Approval of Executive Board Minutes for March 28, 2012

The Executive Board minutes from March were approved as drafted.

Unfinished Business

None stated.

New Business

None stated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.