

**BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**January 23, 2013**

In attendance: George Rovder, President; Nancy O'Doherty, Treasurer; Mark Haynes, First Vice President (and acting Secretary) and Safeway Task Force Co-Chair; Larry Smith, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative; Dean Foster, Civic Federation Alternate Delegate; David Hughes, Civic Federation Alternate Delegate; Laura Brothers, Webmaster; Nora Palmatier, Parks & Recreation Liaison; Alan Sundburg, Bylaws Review Committee Chair; Ed Fendley, Sidewalk Safety Task Force Co-Chair; David Van Wagner, NC Plan Update Committee Co-Chair and Safeway Task Force Co-Chair; and approximately 12 others.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

**Presentation on proposed Montessori School at the Jordan:** Tatjana Vichevsky, Director of Full Circle Montessori School, reported on the school's interest in establishing a new school in the Jordan Apartments (located at N. Wakefield Street and Wilson Blvd.). She was accompanied by Christy Yang, the Administrator of the School. Their concept is to offer a Montessori program not just to more-well-to-do families, but to extend a broader reach. In talks with the Arlington Housing Corporation, one-third of students will come from the Jordan and/or Bluemont by attending on "scholarship." No school buses will be used; instead, parents would be bringing children by car. There will be a designated drop-off spot, with a very narrow time window during which the children would arrive, and school personnel would be waiting on sidewalk to take charge of the kids. No stopping would be allowed. Preference will be given to families whose children can walk to the school. Most kids will be going home at 12:30 / 2:25 pm. This schedule shouldn't impact evening traffic. All children will be home by noon on Fridays.

Q: any concerns by residents of the Jordan? A. Not aware of any concerns.

Vichevsky noted that Full Circle would like the support of the BCA in writing, stating that Full Circle would be a good neighbor and wants to be part of the neighborhood.

**Approval of the minutes:** Palmatier moved to approve the December 12, 2012, BCA minutes. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's report:** O'Doherty reported that there were 133 active members, and a couple renewals a day are coming in. About a tenth of the memberships are paid by PayPal via the BCA Website.

**New officers:** Rovder announced the election of new officers to fill vacancies. Mark Haynes was elected as First Vice President, Dan Laredo was elected as Second Vice President, and David Hughes was elected as a Civic Federation Alternate Delegate.

**NCAC report:** Smith reported again that the BCA first priority project (sidewalk improvement at 1000 block of N. Edison Street) is on hold. He noted that once the BCA does not have a first priority project in place, the BCA can't accumulate points needed to acquire funding. The average project price tag is between \$300K and \$400K. To "keep our place in line," the membership needs to suggest and vote to approve another project by this spring. He noted that he needs suggestions such as curb and gutter; sidewalks; park enhancements such a playground, sprayground, or dog park; etc.

A question was raised as to why these funds could not be combined with the Peck's site plan traffic-calming funds. Fendley noted that there are discrete elements of Wilson Blvd.'s realignment: an engineering phase, a striping phase, and the moving of concrete and wooden utility poles that could be accomplished soon and for a relatively small dollar amount.

Larry will check to see if such a use would be allowed.

Van Wagner noted that the revised NC Plan includes some "Plan B" project alternatives — such as raised crosswalks. Larry will get together with Van Wagner to discuss ideas included in the NC Plan.

**Neighborhood Conservation Plan:** Van Wagner reported that the substantive text is all drafted and posted on NC Plan Website. It has been handed over for editing and then it goes to County. The County will look at it to ensure it's structured appropriately. If the County agrees that it is, the plan will be brought back to broader community of Bluemont residents for consideration and a vote: This vote will not be restricted to BCA members alone.

**Safeway Task Force (SWTF):** Van Wagner gave a report on the Dec. 10, 2012, town hall meeting (approximately 115 people in attendance) and on the process that the SWTF uses and its thinking, including the drafting of a proposed BCA position and a BCA-wide discussion and vote. Fendley asked whether the SWTF will be focused on height. Van Wagner answered that height would be one consideration. Palmatier suggested that contact information and the website be listed on the Dec. 10 recap. Brothers asked whether there was any budget for outreach. Van Wagner answered that there was not.

**Sidewalk Safety Task Force (SSTF):** Fendley recounted that with approval of the Peck site plan came a site plan condition for \$125K (earning interest, it has now grown to \$130K) for traffic calming. A County staff member asked for project recommendations. The SSTF considered possibilities over two meetings, and there was a clear consensus. The process for recommendations was as follows: A request

for suggestions was advertised on the listserv; the request was also mentioned twice in the newsletter. More than 20 proposals were received. The SSTF consensus was to recommend to the County that the funds be used at N. Wakefield, N. Tazewell, and N. Vermont Vermont Streets (near the Peck site) — the Task Force will provide ideas for County to consider, and it will determine in consultation with the County which are the most appropriate to recommend. Also discussed were other areas for which the Task Force received proposals; the Task Force thought that it would make comments on those proposals too, including a pending request to make improvements to Wilson Blvd. and a raised crosswalk at N. Emerson Street. Van Wagner noted that just about all of these proposals are included in the revised NC Plan. Member Maura Quinn moved that the Task Force's recommendation be advertised for a vote at the February 27 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Fendley also noted that the County Board had not yet responded to Rovder's request for a meeting with the Sidewalk Safety Task Force. The Board wanted to be briefed by staff first.

**Bocce/Petanque Task Force:** Rovder reported that Task Force does not have a final report yet. Palmatier suggested that the report list the names of the committee members on it and whether they approve it or not. This suggestion was received favorably by the membership.

**Tree Planting:** Palmatier reported that 25 new trees were now in the ground and doing fine along the Bluemont Junction Trail.

**Bylaws Review Committee:** Alan Sundburg reported that the Committee's initial organizational meeting was held on January 20, 2013. The proposed Committee charter was distributed around the room. Sundburg noted that the Committee wants to have its recommendations completed in time for the April general membership meeting. The Committee has focused attention on Article XI, which describes the duties of the officers and how those rules could be tightened up.

Foster moved that the bylaws charter be adopted. The motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote.

**New Business:** Member Caroline Haynes moved to defer any BCA action on the proposed Montessori School at the Jordan until the County actually requests the BCA's opinion. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Smith noted that there have been recent crimes in Bluemont: an armed robbery on the bike trail and a house robbery. Tom Dickenson who lives on 10<sup>th</sup> Street across from St. Ann's Church, reported some vandalism and tools in his driveway. Fendley reported that the wheels from Honda Fit cars in the neighborhood have been stolen twice. Some robbers have been scoping out potential houses under the pretense of soliciting. Police noted that soliciting is illegal unless the solicitor is licensed. Smith

suggested that if residents see suspicious activity — for example, trucks with no company name and solicitors without personal ID or brochures, etc. — they should be on alert. He advised residents to call police if they see unlicensed solicitors.

Haynes moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.