

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Final Minutes
General Membership Meeting
April 23, 2014
Arlington Traditional School

The regular monthly General Membership meeting of the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer being in attendance. Sign-in sheets are available, though some people did not sign in. A quorum was present.

President George Rovder called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Guest Speaker

The President introduced the guest speaker Pete Olivere, from the Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV). Olivere presented the attached slides on the ANV. Information that he presented and more are at <http://www.arlnvil.org/>. Work to organize ANV started in October 2011, and it began operating in April 2014. ANV is a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers, dedicated to enabling older residents of Arlington County, Virginia, to continue living in their own homes and communities as they age. It plans to hire a part-time executive director soon. It is a "sister" organization to villages across the country but is not formally associated with any other organizations (see <http://www.vtvnetwork.org/>). ANV is working to add to the 2 existing local villages, West End 50 and Ballston/Virginia Square Village. Fairlington is investigating its options. It provides services that complement existing County programs, including the 55+ Pass. It also provides a subscription to Washington Consumers' CHECKBOOK (<http://www.checkbook.org/>), which provides non-profit ratings of service companies and health care providers. To join ANV, fill out the form on its Web site or call 703-509-8057. Financial donations can be made to the general fund or to the financial aid fund. At least one BCA member is a member of ANV.

Minutes

The minutes for the March 26, 2014 General Membership meeting were approved.

Reports of Officers, Task Force and Committee Chairs and Liaisons

The President thanked David Van Wagner for distributing the April 2014 newsletter to all Bluemont households and Suzanne Sundburg for editing the larger than normal newsletter.

The Second Vice President informed the membership that the expansion plans for McKinley Elementary School will be on display for neighbors, and that he would have a message sent to the BCA listserv when he received more information about the display. (Schematics and a presentation on them are at

[https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPA3639715/\\$file/G-1%20Mckinley%20Schematic%20Design.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPA3639715/$file/G-1%20Mckinley%20Schematic%20Design.pdf) and

[https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPAP63A378/\\$file/G-1%20%20McKinley%20Schematic%20Design%20Pres.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPAP63A378/$file/G-1%20%20McKinley%20Schematic%20Design%20Pres.pdf), respectively.)

The Treasurer reported that BCA had almost \$8,100 cash on hand and 135(?) members (compared to 350(?) members last year when Safeway Site Redevelopment was being discussed more actively). Revenue from advertisements was higher than at the same time last year. The cost of printing the April 2014 newsletter was about \$1,200(?), which was expectedly much higher than printing for normal newsletters (about \$300(?)) because copies are made for all residences.

David Hughes reported as an Arlington County Civic Federation (CivFed) representative that attendance at the April 1, 2014 CivFed meeting was very low (approximately 36 people). Several committees presented reports, including a report from the Revenue and Expenditures committee which concluded with a motion to pass a resolution asking the Arlington County Board to reduce the real estate tax rate for 2015 by \$0.03 (which would result in a budget decrease of approximately \$20,000,000). After a spirited debate, the motion passed. Michael Beer (michaelbeer@civfed.org), chairman of the Schools Committee commented on the lack of participation by CivFed members on the committee. The Housing Committee discussed the proposed changes to the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance. Arlington Forest referenced a slightly different version of its objections to the Lubber Run Community Center redevelopment than its representative had presented at BCA's meeting in March 2014.

David Van Wagner reported for the Nominating Committee that the committee has reached out to existing officers, some of whom will run for office again, and to volunteers. The announcement that Kate Mattos will run for a vice president position received an enthusiastic response. The ballot for officers will be set at the May 2014 meeting, after which time nominations only can be made for positions without candidates.

Nora Palmatier reported as the Parks and Recreation Liaison that the rebuilding at Lacy Woods Park was underway and that the construction and design are very nice. Also, the Tree Canopy Fund (<http://arlingtonenvironment.ipage.com/community-action/trees/>) is accepting grant applications until June 20, 2014 for trees with mature heights ranging from 40 to 100 feet. "Applying in coordination with a civic association, homeowner's association, church/synagogue or other group is highly encouraged."

Carla Aly and Kate Mattos reported for the Bluemont Village Center Task Force that work on 2 products was underway. The first are slides to be presented at the May 2014 BCA general membership meeting on the various design elements. The second will be ready in the summer and be a reference on the background and on the planning processes, zoning analysis, economic realities, and development aspects. The task force has not received word from Safeway after having been told, most recently in January, to expect news in 60 days. Earlier, Safeway did say that decisions had been slowed due to the proposed acquisition by Cerberus Capital Management, L.P., which might not be approved by government regulators until the end of 2014. The task force will reach out to Safeway again by Memorial Day. It has been in communication with the County Board to keep channels open and to reinforce BCA's position. County staff says that they have no new information. The President has not received a

response to his letter to the Safeway Regional Vice President. County Board Member Walter Tejada praised BCA for having submitted and received acceptance of an updated Neighborhood Conservation Plan, since that is the most powerful way to let the Board know BCA's position.

Dave Van Wagner reported for the Sidewalk Safety Task Force that the task force meets every other month at Two Chef's Restaurant for Saturday breakfast. The next meeting is May 17, 2014. The task force has scheduled a bus ride around noon until 2:00pm on May 1, 2014 with Mary Hynes so she can see that bus traffic flows smoothly on a single lane thoroughfare like Washington Blvd. Ms. Hynes is a Principal Director representing Arlington, VA on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and an Arlington representative on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The Second Vice President asked if the latest traffic studies on Wilson Blvd and Washington Blvd were available and if they were comparable even though they were performed at different times. David will provide the reports that he has.

Terry Serie reported for the 25 Glebe Task Force that a draft site plan for the 600 block of N Glebe Road between N. Carlin Springs Rd, and 7th St. N. has been submitted to County staff. The draft includes an option for development of all the parcels (Macy's employee parking lot, car dealership lot, and the Exxon service station and an option for leaving the Exxon station as is. A six-story residential building with ground floor retail fronting on Glebe Road is proposed for the partial or entire block options. The remaining issue between the developer and the Exxon station owner is liability for hazardous waste under the service station site. There was a spill from underground gasoline tanks over twenty years ago. The developer original goal was to present the site plan to the County Board in July 2014. The draft site plan is not public and County staff does not discuss it with the public. There is a concern that nearly all of the critical decisions about the site plan will have been finalized before the plan goes through the public review process. County staff continues to support placing the loading, recycling, and trash dock in the alley between the new residential building and the existing townhome community, and that is opposed by the community HOA and the loading dock will be just 35 feet from the single family townhomes.

Jon Lau reported for the Web site that restoring online payment for membership dues is being investigated to determine how to address inquiries about credit card fraud on the site.

David Van Wagner reported that 1 route for the April newsletter distribution was not completed. He is looking for volunteers for the next hand-distribution, in September. Each route covers between 60 and 100 addresses. 2 of the routes that need volunteers are east of Bon Air Park and north of Wilson Blvd, but he has options in matching routes with volunteers.

Unfinished Business

At the March 2014 meeting, the membership voted to advertise a motion in support of the Arlington Forrest Citizens Association's resolution on redevelopment of the Lubber Run Community Center. The resolution was printed in the April 2014 newsletter. During the April meeting, a motion to amend the motion was approved. The amended motion was:

The Bluemont Civic Association supports the preservation of increasingly scarce low-density recreation opportunities and open space and green space in Arlington County. In this same spirit, the BCA also supports the highly used and versatile Lubber Run Community Center and the preservation of the low-density open and green space that surrounds it. Therefore, the BCA supports both the March 19, 2014 and April 9, 2014 Resolutions and the January 30, 2014 Vision Statement of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association as they pertain to the Lubber Run Community Center and the surrounding green and outdoor recreation space.

Discussion included that the Arlington Public Schools (APS) Feasibility Study for the 2015-2025 Capital Improvement Plan estimated that a new middle school on the Lubber Run Community Center site would be the lowest cost per student seat option by about 25%; that there is already very high density housing on the south side of Barrett Elementary; and that it would be much worse if a new elementary school was built on the site because Bluemont children then might be split amongst 3 schools, Ashlawn, McKinley, and this new school. It was mentioned that even though staff continues to promote it, the School Board is no longer considering this option. Also, APS released a press release at 6:41pm tonight that it would retain the Wilson School site as a possible middle school site. The amended motion was approved by voice vote without dissenting votes but with some members abstaining.

At the March 2014 meeting, the membership voted to advertise a motion to name an unnamed woodland bounded by N Carlin Springs Road, N Kensington Street, 4th Street North, and the Arlington Forest Club. The motion was advertised in the April 2014 newsletter. It was approved by voice vote without dissenting votes.

Kate Mattos reported that a member is working on arrangements to have the Tiny Tim Treats food truck parked on N Bluemont Drive adjacent to the Bluemont Junction Trail on Arlington County Neighborhood Day. Details are forthcoming. A committee was formed to organize activities for the day. Mattos will serve on the committee. A plan to advertise the event is being developed. A motion to budget \$200 for advertising and the activities was approved.

New Business

Jonn Lau informed the membership that the Arlington Parks and Recreation 2014 Turtle Trot 5K would be held in lower Bluemont Park, 329 North Manchester St., on May 17, 2014. See <http://parks.arlingtonva.us/2014/04/2014-turtle-trot-5k/>. Registration starts at 9:00am and the trot starts at 10:00am. Proceeds from the race go towards the care of injured turtles and wildlife and for educational programs.

Jonn Lau reminded members that Arlington Public Schools liaison to BCA, School Board Member Sally Baird, would be speaking at the May 2014 general membership meeting and that questions for Ms. Baird could be sent to webmaster@bluemontcivic.org or by completing the survey at http://www.bluemontcivic.org/index.php/content/APS_Liason_Survey/.

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.