

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
DRAFT Minutes
Annual Meeting of the General Membership
June 25, 2014
Arlington Traditional School

The Annual Meeting of the general membership of the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 the President and Secretary being in attendance. Sign-in sheets are available from the BCA Secretary. A quorum was present.

President George Rovder called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 28, 2014 General Membership meeting were approved without changes.

Annual Elections

The President explained the voting procedures for the annual elections under the BCA bylaws, and announced that the tellers for the annual election were Caroline Haines and Laura Brothers.

The President called for nominations from the floor for positions of Alternate Civic Federation delegate, which had not received nominees for all of the available slots. Craig Deering and Mark Haynes were nominated, seconded, approved and placed on the ballot.

No further nominations having been made, the President declared the polls open for the annual elections.

Having confirmed that all those wishing to vote had done so, the President declared the voting closed.

The tellers reported that the following officers and representatives were elected:

President Jonn Lau
First Vice President Kate Mattos
Second Vice President Larry Smith
Treasurer David Van Wagner
Secretary George Rovder
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative Ed Fendley
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative Dayna Davitz
Civic Federation Delegates Dean Foster, David Hughes, Suzanne Sundburg
Civic Federation Alternates Carla Aly, Craig Deering, Mark Haynes

Reports of Officers

President: The President updated the membership on the final disposition of a \$100 donation from a BCA member. After having verified with the member and her adult daughter that the member did indeed intend to make the donation, the Executive Board had agreed to accept it, award the member a lifetime BCA membership, and to send her a thank you card. Members were offered the opportunity to sign the card.

The President offered special thanks to members of the past BCA Board for their outstanding service:

David Van Wagner in updating the Neighborhood Conservation Plan
Suzanne Sundburg as newsletter editor, Civic Federation Delegate, and outstanding work for BCA every day
Bob Atkins, who had been the conscience of Arlington County

First Vice President: Reported on the June 23 meeting of the Ballston Business Improvement District (BID) where they unveiled their plans, which involve a slight modification to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and include replacing the Macy's furniture store with high rise apartments and keeping the movie theater, Macy's and sports complex/ice arena. The plan included 393 studio and one-bedroom apartments. In response to a question from a Bluemont resident at the BID's presentation, a County official confirmed that the proposed construction was only for the area east of Glebe road.

Secretary: Informed members about the June 9 letter from Washington Gas about work being done in Bluemont, and the notification from the County of a requested Site Plan Amendment to allow the replacement of retail space with office space at 4401 Wilson Blvd, the Ellipse of Ballston. The Secretary made copies of this correspondence available for members to review. The Secretary noted that the letter said Washington Gas had sent similar letters to the residents affected by the construction.

Neighborhood Conservation Representative: Reported that the next funding round is in December. BCA's project is for safety improvements to Wilson Blvd, with re-striping as a first step. A member asked about the failure of the County to replace paving when it destroys it for utility projects. The NCAC representative asked the member to send the information in an e-mail to the Executive Board, so that the issue could be raised at the next Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee meeting.

Civic Federation Representative: Reported on the June 3 meeting of the Civic Federation, and presented a written report, which is attached to these minutes. A major topic had been the delay in the collection of yard waste pick up, which had been scheduled to start July 1, 2014.

Task Force Reports

Bluemont Village Center Task Force: The Task Force had heard from Safeway, but there was nothing new to report. The Safeway representative said Safeway's internal discussions continued on the Wilson Blvd property, with no news expected before the end of the summer. The Task Force held its final meeting with a County Board member and has now had contact with all County Board members. The last meeting was with Jon Vihstadt. As with other Board Members, the Task Force informed Vihstadt of BCA's position on redevelopment of the Safeway site at 5101 Wilson Blvd, and got advice on whom in the County staff they should consult with to keep the lines of communication open.

Sidewalk Safety Task Force: Announced its next meeting, in July, explaining that the Task Force meets on the third Saturday of every other month at 8AM at Two Chefs restaurant on Wilson Blvd. After July, the Task Force's next meeting will be in September.

Glebe 25 Site Plan Task Force: The Task Force is following the BCA position adopted at the February 2014 General Membership meeting. Following the presentation at this June 25 Annual Meeting of the general membership, the Task Force and affected home owners and residents will decide if further action is needed.

Parks and Recreation Liaison: Updated members on the Lacey Woods project; the construction fencing has been removed, and the pavilion is done. Announced the start of an invasive plant removal project for neighborhood

residents to help “take back the park.” Information will be provided via the list serve. The BCA’s previously approved recommendation to rename a plot of land the “Mary Carlin Woods” needs to be sent for historic landmark review at the NCAC; after that processing, it would go as a recommendation to the County Board.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

County staff contacted Blvd Manor, but not BCA representatives working on safe routes to schools, about improvements to the Ashlawn School that affect Manchester Street. There are rumors about plans for a connector trail between Bluemont Park and Powhatan Springs Park. Members were asked to e-mail the BCA Secretary with information on this issue, which he will send to BCA’s Parks and Recreation Liaison and the Ashlawn School representative.

Featured Speaker

The President introduced the featured speaker, Mark Greg, Managing Partner and President of The Penrose Group, who, along with other Penrose Group representatives used a slide presentation to discuss the latest developments in the Site Plan for redevelopment of the Glebe 25 site (the slides will be sent to the BCA Secretary for attachment to these minutes), and answered resident’s questions. Topics discussed included the response of The Penrose Group to concerns raised by the Glebe 25 Task Force or area residents. The Penrose Group said the greatest concern they had heard from residents regarded use of the alley. As a result, The Penrose Group now planned to restrict use of the alley to one location for trash pick-up. Some County Staff members had other ideas for use of the alley, but The Penrose Group wanted to use it only for trash pick-up, not for a loading dock. The Fire Marshal also did not want a loading dock in the alley. The Penrose Group has had five or six meetings with County Staff and expected to submit its application the week of June 25 or the following week. The Chair of the Glebe 25 Task Force said The Penrose Group had been responsive to residents’ concerns, especially regarding the alleyway and loading dock.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.