

FINAL MINUTES: BCA General Meeting

September 30, 2014

Call to Order: Called to order by BCA President J. Lau at 7:32 p.m.

Presentations

BCA member heard presentations by:

- Michelle Cowan, Arlington County Director of Management and Finance, about the upcoming bond referenda to appear on this November's ballot.
 - Ms. Cowan said she would send a link of her excellent presentation to S. Sundburg to post on the BCA website, as well as information on the CIP process
- Alison Sheehan, Arlington Master Naturalist, Sarah Archer Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation Landscape Specialist, and Ann Ulmschneider on the removal of invasive plants in Bluemont Park
 - Speakers addressed 13 acres by the caboose; trees being strangled by invasive plants, and provided information. As reported in the newsletter, volunteers are invited and welcomed to help every other month on the 2nd Saturday, 9-11AM
 - For information, members can contact Ms. Archer (sarcher@arlingtonva.us)
- Officers Cesar Ruiz and Alan Lowrey who cover District 1 (this area) on crime statistics
 - Including "fraud" where false story (such as telephone callers to residents saying their child is in jail and needs money for release; individuals falsely representing themselves as County contractors)
 - Officers urged residents to be cautious, not to let so-called contractors in homes without a valid ID; and to police for help to validate identification
 - Officers also urged residents to always lock their cars and homes, even when at home, and to keep windows closed when out
 - Officers urged residents to pay attention to what's happening in neighborhood and call police immediately if see something suspicious

Officer Reports

- Discussion on Halloween Parade -- Jonn has talked with the Arlington County manager in charge of meetings and special events regarding the need for a permit and consequent insurance based on new County rules.
 - BCA is now exploring how best to obtain insurance
 - BCA member Bob Mathews will sponsor the parade as an individual and cover insurance.
- Discussion of membership drive.
 - Kate proposed formation of membership outreach and engagement working group; seconded by Dave.
 - Members voted to form.

- Jonn appointed himself and Kate to work on this committee and will extend an invitation to D. Van Wagner
- Officers presented reports
 - Jonn: reported that the County is considering the naming of the Mary Carlin park, but there is county staff concern about whether that move might “balkanize” the overall name of the Bluemont park
 - Kate; Bluemont Village Center Task Force; the final report will be given in November
 - Larry: McKinley School building
 - Suzanne: Civic Federation
 - Jonn led discussion of Lubber Run upgrade and tree canopy and heat; noted that Public Land for Public Good deadline changed to October 31; in newsletter link for those who wish to comment
 - Ed: reported he had heard from Arlington Co Staff regarding restriping; County plans to move forward and at this time aiming this April; proposing reconfiguration consistent with BCA proposal; the County is planning a fall open house to share details; possibly November 20 at ATS
 - Suzanne: reminded all that newsletter has to go in on Monday
- Appointments: Jonn appointed Larry to represent BCA at the upcoming Ballston BID meeting.

Adjourn: Membership voted to adjourn at 9:04 PM.