

# Bluemont Civic Association

## Minutes of General Membership Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
May 26, 2021; 7:30 PM

### I. Call to Order & Quorum

The President opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and established through Zoom that a quorum was present.

### II. Approval of Minutes

By unanimous consent the Members approved the minutes of the April 2021 General Membership Meeting.

### III. Order of Business

#### A. Presentation and Q&A

**Milling and Repaving of the Bluemont Junction Trail, including improvements to trail connectors; JUAN DU, Landscape Architect Project Manager. The County Project Page is:**

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/bluemont-junction-trail-milling-and-repaving/>

**Slides presented by Ms. Du during the meeting are at this link:**

[http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/Bluemont\\_Junction.pdf](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/Bluemont_Junction.pdf)

Ms. Du presented the Bluemont Junction Trail Milling & Paving project. The Trail was originally built in 1980s, and the County recently conducted a trail assessment and has funding for entire Trail, including improving trail “connectors” (paths from neighborhood streets to the trail.) The repaving will maintain the existing 11-foot width. There are 15 trail connectors, which the County will make ADA-compliant possible whenever possible. Work aims to minimize impact to trees, and a new trail edge will prevent further erosion of trail. The trail will include standard signage regarding biking speed. Staff aims to have this completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. The County will install new ADA compliant bus stops at Kensington. At Emerson, the design will address misaligned curb cuts.

Following the presentation, Ms. Du responded to questions. These included questions on the funding source, concerns about the intersections; how to provide access to maintenance trucks and whether the boulders at Jefferson need to be removed; concerns about the many street signs on the trail, some of which are at eye level; parking that is occurring at Frederick near the trail.

The BCA president thanked Ms. Du for the presentation, and noted that it would be helpful for BCA to receive the slides from the presentation.

**“Replacement of Bluemont Park Tennis Complex” as listed in the FY 2022 – FY 2024 proposed Capital Improvement Plan**

**MS. BERNADETTE GRULLON, Landscape Architect Manager**

**Upper Bluemont Park Conceptual Design Project: The County project page is:**

**<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/upper-bluemont-project/> for Upper Bluemont Park Conceptual Design**

**Slides presented by Ms. Grullon at this meeting are at this link:**

**[http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/Bluemont\\_Update.pdf](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/Bluemont_Update.pdf)**

Ms. Grullon noted that at this time, the project is only at the conceptual stage. Staff is seeking Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding for renovation of Upper Bluemont Park ,and hopes to present concepts by the Fall for community feedback. Details were reviewed in a slide presentation. The County aim to minimize environmental impacts.

Following the presentation, Ms. Grullon responded to questions. These includes questions whether survey respondents were all from Arlington and queries about factors that prompted this review and environmental impacts. Ms. Grullon concluded with a commitment to keep BCA updated.

The BCA president thanked Ms. Du for the presentation, and noted that it would be helpful for BCA to receive the slides from the presentation.

## **B. Reports of Officers, Committee Chair, Parks Liaison**

Upon conclusion of the presentations and question and answer period, the meeting continued to the Reports of Officers, Liaisons, and Committee Chairs.

- **President**

**Bon Air Park Position**—Laura Kirkconnell reported that, based on BCA members’ earlier direction, she sent a letter informing the County Board of the Bluemont Civic Association position taken by members regarding including Bon Air Park in the CIP, and BCA CIP priorities of flood mitigation/prevention and pedestrian safety. She also sent the proposed BCA resolution on Bon Air to both the Boulevard Manor and Dominion Hills Civic Associations for their review. The outgoing President of Boulevard Manor suggested a meeting with the BCA President to introduce the new Boulevard Manor President. A meeting will be scheduled.

**Property Tax Resolution**—Laura reported that in response to the BCA Resolution on property taxes that she had send the County Board, Board Chair Mat de Ferranti had responded noting the Board “considered” our thoughts but opted for to hold the tax rate flat for the County.

Laura reported that, as agreed by the Executive Board and approved by members, BCA delivered a letter to Safeway thanking their staff for their efforts during the pandemic. The Safeway manager was appreciative and noted that walk-in covid-19 inoculations continue to be available there.

**Public Meetings**—Laura described her exchange with the County regarding developing County policies on resumption of public meetings, saying that once we know the County guidelines civic association members could discuss what the civic association should do.

**Bell Ringing**—Laura reported Bell ringings are scheduled for Memorial Day, June 19, and July 4. The bell is at the corner of George Mason Drive and Wilson Blvd (by Fire Station 2).

- **First Vice President**

**Missing Middle Work Group**—Henry McFarland reported that the County’s engagement questionnaire is available through June 8 at:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAARLINGTON/bulletins/2cca5ed>

Before you come to the questionnaire, there is a 33-minute video. You can answer the questions without watching the video. (For many of you, much of the information in the video is familiar.)

The questionnaire has four parts. The first asks what types of housing should be studied. The second asks what issues should be considered when studying those housing types. The third asks about how easy you found it to comment on the missing middle study. The fourth asks for demographic data.

You do not have to live in Arlington to respond to the questionnaire.

The working group is developing a list questions for county officials, but we expect a report on Phase 1 of the study in the next few months, and we do not plan to go forward with questions before that.

**West Entrance Metro**—Henry McFarland reported that future action on the West Entrance of the Metro is unclear. There are no new developments on the Blue-Orange-Silver line capacity study. The new Ballston West Entrance is in the proposed Capital Improvement plan. The entrance is to be located at the intersection of N. Fairfax Drive and N. Vermont Street. Projected expenditures are about \$2 million in 2022, \$9 million in 2023, and \$57 million in 2024. That’s consistent with the timing we’ve heard before. The start of construction is uncertain and not for several years. Henry proposed that BCA contact the County regarding development. The Executive Committee agreed.

- **Second Vice President**—Kate Mattos reported on the notices going out regarding food scraps collection <https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/food-scrap-collection/> Residents need more information about this.

- **NCAC**—Nick Pastore reported that the NCAC program gives each community a chance to address local neighborhood needs. Through this program, BCA is focused on its first priority project, on 6<sup>th</sup> Street North, currently moving into 2<sup>nd</sup> design phase. The second priority project is on 8<sup>th</sup> Road at N. Lexington for improved street crossing. Full details not yet worked out. He explained why he has proposed a resolution to endorse continued funding for Neighborhood Conservation Plan projects.

- **Civic Federation**—Allen Norton reviewed the Arlington County Civic Federation meeting with the School Board, which was primarily a discussion about bricks and mortar. He observed there were many questions about why there was not more time discussing student needs. He also said there was a presentation from diversity committee and action on a Bylaws amendment.

- **N. Carlin Springs Task Force**—Laura reported on behalf of Chris George. The task force is working to solicit input about possible changes, as well as coordinating with Arlington Forest. A survey is being conducted.

### **C. Unfinished Business**

- **Nominating Committee Update**—As per the Bylaws, Laura noted the Nominating Committee had completed its work and presented a slate. This slate will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting of June 30, 2021.

The following volunteers were nominated before the May 26 deadline for nominations:

**President** (current incumbent Laura Kirkconnell)

**1st Vice President** (current incumbent Henry McFarland);

**2nd Vice President** (current incumbent Kate Mattos);

**Treasurer** (David Smith);

**Secretary** (current incumbent David Hughes\*);

**Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative** (current incumbent Nick Pastore);

**Alternate Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative** (current incumbent Christopher George);

**Delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation** (four positions available: two current incumbents were nominated Allen Norton and David Hughes);

**Alternate Delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation** (four available: one current incumbent was nominated Mark Haynes).

\* The nomination of David Hughes for Secretary was received by the Nominating Committee prior to the May 26 deadline. During the May 26 General Membership meeting, the President misread the nominations presented for approval by members, leaving off Dave Hughes name. She informed members via the BCA e-mail list

following the meeting, and reported that before the June 30 elections, members will be asked to ratify Dave Hughes as the nominee for Secretary.

**MOTION TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Moved by Kate Mattos, seconded by Henry McFarland.

Members approved by unanimous vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR THE CIVIC FEDERATION**

Moved by Henry McFarland, seconded by Kate Mattos.

Members approved by unanimous vote.

- **Heavy truck traffic on N. Tazewell Street**—Due to the continuing problem with the number of delivery and construction trucks using Tazewell Street, the President said she would send communications to on behalf of the civic association in accordance with the position approved by BCA members in April 2021 that “The Bluemont Civic Association should encourage the County to address neighborhood concerns about truck traffic in streets neighboring the Mazda/Target site, and the Harris Teeter site.”
- **Flooding-related concerns along N. Abingdon Street**—Residents David Smith, Michelle Vanni, and Sara Niemczura reported that the County thus far answered 1 of 6 questions posed by neighbors, and had not answered questions about the Ballston Beaver Pond project or property rights. There are concerns about attendant tree problems. Neighbors want to know what the flood mitigation strategy is.  
Laura reported on an email from Arlington County staff describing actions regarding FEMA. She asked residents to send her points she could use in another follow-up letter from the civic association to the County, in accordance with positions taken by BCA members on this ongoing issue.

**D. New Business: MOTION**

Apparently due to a thunderstorm, the May General Membership meeting cut off after initial discussion of the proposed resolution supporting the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. By the time the President could restore the meeting, a quorum of the General Membership had been lost, but a quorum of the Executive Committee remained. The Executive Committee therefore reconvened and voted to advertise the motion prepared by the NCAC rep Nick Pastore in support of the Neighborhood Conversation Program for a vote at the June General Membership meeting. Kate Mattos moved the motion, and Henry McFarland seconded. The President explained that per Roberts Rules of Order, the General Membership will be asked at the June General Membership meeting to ratify the Board’s action to advertise the motion below for a vote by the General Membership at the June meeting. If the members ratify this Board action, the General Membership would then discuss and vote on the motion below:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Arlington residents have limited options to improve and enhance Arlington neighborhoods based on community driven priorities for the installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art and beautification;

RESOLVED, that the Bluemont Civic Association supports the Neighborhood Conservation Program and provides thanks to the Arlington County Board for funding Bluemont's project for improvements to the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> St N and N Edison St.

RESOLVED, that the Arlington County Board should continue funding and resourcing the Neighborhood Conservation Program at equal or greater levels into the future to ensure community driven neighborhood conservation priorities are exercised.

**The President adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.**