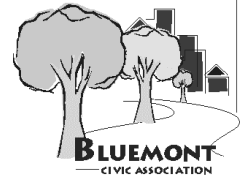


# BCA News

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At the September 24 Bluemont Civic Association General Membership meeting (7:00 p.m. at Arlington Traditional School), members will be asked to vote on a series of proposed amendments to the Association's Bylaws. To facilitate this process, the BCA Executive Board has categorized the proposed changes and made recommendations. The amendments fall into three categories: 1) editorial changes (e.g., grammar, consistency); 2) changes that improve clarity but are not substantive; 3) substantive changes. Changes of the first type are too numerous to list here, but copies of those proposed changes will be available for review at the meeting. Proposed changes of the second and third types are listed below.

**The BCA Executive Board recommends adoption of the following proposed Bylaws amendments in order to clarify provisions of the bylaws that are in conflict with other sections, or to enhance the bylaws with additional provisions on topics that have not been covered. They do not substantively alter the meaning of the Bylaws.**

## **Article IV – Members**

In Section 5 - Admission to Membership, substitute the word "current" for the phrase "the annual Association", so that persons become members "upon payment of current dues to the Treasurer". This allows payment of partial year dues, as provided in Article V, for new members.

## **Article VI – Officers**

In Section 7, towards the end of the third sentence, substitute the phrase "the General Membership" for the phrase "the Executive Board", so that the sentence reads "...the Executive Board ... shall perform such other duties as may be assigned ... by the General Membership ...". Otherwise, the Executive Board is given the power to do whatever it wants.

## **Article VI – Officers**

In Section 8 – Duties of the President, Add the following items to the bulleted list of the President's duties, in order to clarify the President's role in communications with the county and other entities:

"Serve as the Association's point of contact for the receipt of notices, inquiries and requests for assistance.

"Meet with outside entities or individuals for the purpose of exchanging information that will assist the Association in its decision-making. The President shall promptly inform the Executive Board of all such meetings, in advance if possible.

"Represent the Association, and make or authorize statements on behalf of the Association on any matter in which the Association has arrived at a position or policy, provided such statements are consistent with said policy."

"Monitor the progress of committees and members in the performance of their designated duties, and manage the dissemination of information to the general membership, for the purpose of facilitating the Association's ability to make timely and informed decisions.

## **Article VI – Officers**

In Section 10 – Duties of the Secretary, in the fifth and sixth sentences, delete the following language "except such correspondence that is the proper duty of the President. The Secretary shall send out proper notices as prescribed elsewhere in these bylaws." Delete the first portion, because with respect to correspondence, there is nothing in Section 8 – Duties of the President that defines what correspondence is the proper duty of the President. Delete the second portion because "proper notices as prescribed" should more properly be issued in the newsletter.

## **Article VII – The Executive Board**

In Section 4, in the fifth sentence, delete the phrase "In cases of urgency where deferral of vote on an issue until a scheduled meeting will result in a missed opportunity," and let the sentence simply state that "Members of the Executive Board may make motions and vote on said motions by telephone or electronic mail, ..." This change limits the sentence to defining HOW the Executive Board can vote. There are other provisions in the by-laws to define WHAT the Executive Board can vote on. This 'urgent / missed opportunity' clause could override those other provisions and provide a vague justification to do just about anything.

**The BCA Executive Board recommends adoption of the following proposed Bylaws amendments in order to address procedural issues that have arisen in recent years, and to preserve the notion that the authority of the Association is reserved to the general membership, unless it has been explicitly delegated to officers, committees or individuals.**

**Article III – Objective**

Add the following sentence: “The policies and endorsements of the Association shall generally be expressed in the form of motions or resolutions that have been approved by vote of the general membership as described below.”

**Article IV- Members**

Section 1 – Remove “Adults who reside in a neighborhood adjacent to the Association boundaries, but not within the boundaries of another neighborhood citizens or civic association, are eligible for membership in the Association.” With the recent creation of Buckingham Community Civic Association, there are no longer any such areas.

**Article V – Dues**

In Section 2, the first sentence, substitute the phrase “General Membership” for the phrase “Executive Board”, so that the amount of dues can only be changed by vote of the general membership.



**Bluemont Civic Association**

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**Article VIII– Meetings**

Add Section 5: “Voting privileges for Association business are extended to members in good standing who are present at the vote. Motions may be made at any advertised meeting, with votes other than elections taken by a “show of hands” or voice vote, and recorded by the Secretary. Election of officers shall be conducted by ballot. A simple majority vote is sufficient for the adoption of any motion that is in order, and not addressed elsewhere in these Bylaws, with the exception that any motion that would suspend or reverse a current Association position must be approved by a two-thirds majority without advance notice to the membership, or by a simple majority when all members in good standing have been notified in writing of the proposed change at least 30 days prior to such meeting.” This is meant to remove the opportunity to pack a meeting and approve some unannounced new policy.

**This substantive amendment was proposed from the floor during the June 2003 General Membership meeting. The BCA Executive Board is not making any recommendation regarding this proposal.**

**Article VI – Officers**

Section 6 – Remove “A vote of the majority of the voting members of the Executive Board shall be required to remove a member of the Executive Board from office prior to the expiration of the term of office for which that member has been elected or appointed.”