Bluemont Civic Association

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Arlington Traditional School

855 N. Edison Street, Arlington VA 22205

September 25, 2019; 7:30 pm

1. Meeting was chaired by Laura Kirkconnell, President of the Association. A quorum was established.
2. Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 26, 2019 were approved. Motion was made by David Hughes and seconded by Alan Norton.
3. A presentation on Safety Improvements at N. Carlin Springs and N. Edison; and N. Carlin Springs and N. Wakefield was given by Alan McDonald, Project Coordinator for Arlington County. He believes that the project will be finished by Spring of 2020. That assumes that Verizon and Dominion do not delay moving their poles.
4. The President, First Vice President, Treasurer, NCAC and Civic Federation representative gave summary reports. There is $3503.88 on the treasury.
5. The planned upper Bluemont Park renovation project was discussed. The County will have a Conceptual Design Meeting, October 9, 2019, Ashlawn Elementary multipurpose room, 7 to 8:30 PM.
6. Guidelines for NC projects were discussed and a request was made for project suggestions.
7. The President discussed the Neighborhood Complete Streets review. No project in Bluemont is in the top 10. How many projects will be funded is unclear.
8. The changes to Vermont Street were discussed. A motion was made to have the general membership vote on the position below at the next general membership meeting. The motion was made by Laura Kirkconnell, seconded by Allen Norton, and passed unanimously.

**PROPOSED BCA Statement Regarding Road Widths and Other Changes to N. Vermont Street adjacent to 750 N. Glebe Road (Mazda Site)**

BCA welcomes the County’s restriping Vermont Street to maintain the prior lane configuration with two lanes exiting to Wilson and one lane entering to Vermont, which will preserve the two-lane exit and the ability of drivers to make a left-turn from Vermont Street onto Wilson Blvd.

BCA is concerned that an open, transparent, public process that included community stakeholders was temporarily overridden by the lack of notification to neighborhood stakeholders about possible changes to Vermont Street’s lane configuration, and about the discrepancy between the approved civil engineering plans and the exact wording of the County Board Report approving the Site Plan ([Pg. 73 Condition 19B #10 iv](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farlington.granicus.com%2FMetaViewer.php%3Fview_id%3D2%26clip_id%3D3151%26meta_id%3D145378%23page%3D73&data=02%7C01%7Cbaiken%40arlingtonva.us%7C3131fc1b9f4143aecb1608d73178fee4%7C803548041fdf428e9f5f5091e994cf54%7C0%7C0%7C637032268049481696&sdata=mT7duwvchxXXBpN9Sn7mOl4Yt%2FRWOjIdc%2Fi6grucGTc%3D&reserved=0)).

BCA appreciates the statement by the County Manager’s Office that the changes to Vermont Street should have been an inclusive decision with the neighborhood.

BCA believes that decision-making on such matters should be wholly transparent in the future.

BCA continues to hope that County officials can eliminate such problems in the future.

1. The suspension of the use permit request for 1132 N. Ivanhoe St was discussed.
2. The County Board plans its final consideration of lifting caps on bonus density and height for November 16, 2019. A motion was made to have the general membership vote on the motion below at the next general membership meeting. The motion was made by Henry McFarland, seconded by David Hughes, and passed unanimously.

The Bluemont Civic Association believes the County Board should not lift caps on bonus density and height at its November 16, 2019 meeting.

Our Association is concerned that eliminating these caps will lead to enormous increases in the density involved in many new projects, which in turn will lead to serious problems, such as traffic and parking problems, for surrounding neighborhoods.

Also our Association feels that the proposed timing of the Board’s final consideration of lifting the caps does not give Arlington residents sufficient time to adequately consider the effects of this change.

1. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Henry McFarland

Acting in place of Secretary