**Minutes Bluemont Executive Committee**

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 7 PM

Via Zoom

The President determined at 7:00 pm that there was a quorum present. By unanimous consent those present approved the minutes of the August 25, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

To save time, the President said she would provide her report during the General Membership meeting, and that it would cover BCA activities since the June General Membership meeting.

The First Vice President reported that Metro had completed its capacity and reliability study pertaining to the Silver, Orange, and Blue Lines. The study did not recommend any changes to the Silver or Orange Lines. The study’s preferred alternative is a new Blue Line Loop beginning at Huntington; proceeding north on its current route to Rosslyn; crossing the Potomac heading north via a new tunnel; curving east to a new station in Georgetown; continuing east through Farragut North to Mt. Vernon Square; proceeding southeast to Union Station; then south through Capitol South, the Navy Yard, and southwest to Buzzard’s Point; then crossing the Anacostia before trending south near I-295 all the way to National Harbor; and finally returning to Virginia vis the Woodrow Wilson Bridge back to Huntington. The construction cost estimate is $20-$25 Billion, with estimated annual operating and maintenance costs of $175-$200 Million. The next step is to brief elected officials.

The First Vice President also reported that County Staff had completed the first phase of the Missing Middle Housing Study. The recommendations included a rejection of “cottage clusters” and “auxiliary buildings” as planned subjects for further study. Instead, the report recommended that Phase 2 study the utility of promoting small lot single detached dwellings; duplexes (side-by-side and stacked); triplexes, fourplexes, and other small multiplexes (buildings with 3-8 housing units); and townhouses (side-by-side and stacked).

The Second Vice President observed that the staff’s Phase 1 report showed throughout an unmistakable bias in favor of accommodating (through up-zoning and other methods) one or more of the high density alternatives.

There followed discussion on the Wilson Boulevard modifications, to be discussed in more detail at the General Membership meeting. The Board agreed to discuss the October newsletter more during the General Membership meeting.

The Treasurer reported that BCA’s account has $1,966.70. The Treasurer reported that he had explored automatic payment options with a number of local banks. After a thorough explanation of the available options, the Treasurer recommended that BCA switch its account to a non-profit account available at BB&T. BB&T supports Zelle, thus allowing that members can employ that application to make dues payments. Also, at the Treasurer’s recommendation, the Executive Committee adopted the date December 1 as the demarcation for dues payments for a given year. Those payments made before December 1 will be credited to the current year. Payments made on or after December 1 will be credited to that month and the following calendar year.

Civic Federation Delegates reported that the Civ Fed’s candidate night was the primary subject of the September meeting. All candidates for all of the contested elections were given the opportunity to make short opening and closing statements. The four candidates for one position on the County Board answered prepared questions posed by the Civ Fed President. Likewise, the Civ Fed President posed prepared questions to the two candidates for one position of the School Board. The same procedure applied to the appearances of candidates for the House of Delegate representing the 45th, 47th, 48th, and 49th Districts. Finally, Alistair Watson led a presentation in favor of the School Bond that is on this year’s ballot. School Board Member Barbara Kanninen assisted Watson in answering several questions. Finally, the Civ Fed passed a resolution affirming its commitment to make diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging evident in its organizational structure, policies, board of directors, staff, strategic goals, and program delivery.

Alternative Civic Federation Delegate Bruce Leighton gave an update on the issue of “white dots” that appeared on trees along the Bluemont Junction trail near N. Edison Street, which raised concerns that the trees had been marked for removal. After several neighbors expressed concern about these markings, County Parks and DES staff promptly communicated back that the markings did not indicate that these trees (with the exception of one small dogwood tree) were to be removed, and in fact the planners for the nearby Bluemont Junction Trail/N. Emerson Street intersection project had slightly realigned the paved trail to protect tree roots.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:30 to be followed immediately by the General Membership meeting.