# **MINUTES of Bluemont Civic AssociationGENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

# **1-26-2022**

1. **A Quorum** was established at 7:30 PM.
2. **Minutes** of the December 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
3. **Summary Reports of Executive Board Officers, Civic Federation Delegates, Committee Chairs, Liaisons, and Follow-up Discussion** (President, First VP, Second VP, Secretary, Treasurer, NCAC Rep, Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates, Parks Liaison, Missing Middle Housing Study Working Group) Summary reports of Executive Board Officers, Civic Federation
   1. President
4. **Ballston Macy’s Site Plan**: The President reported that the County expects to start the site plan review process in February. BCA must identify who should will Bluemont. BCA also seeks to identify who in Bluemont will be most interested/concerned about re-development. The County has asked for a list of affected HOAs, and the President provided what BCA has. She invited members to identify/let her know what apartment buildings could be interested.
5. **Lubber Run:** The President has notified members that the County sent an email about the possibility of increased pollution during the Ballston Pond Project. She said the County asked citizens to immediately notify the 24-7 County non-emergency number if pollution is spotted (703-558-2222). The Ballston Pond project will send unscheduled “pulses” of water through system, which does not pose a hazard to homes or users. Citizens should take normal precautions if they must cross Lubber run. Send questions to [exec@bluemontcivic.org](about:blank).
6. **4600 N. Fairfax Redevelopment**: The President sent members’ questions from the December General Membership meeting chat to the developer, Hoffman Development. The developer responded that they had to refile the site plan with the County, which could affect answers to BCA questions, but Hoffman Development will follow up on BCA questions and could meet again with BCA once the process is further along.
7. **Membership Committee**—The President has invited members to let us know if they would like to be on the new Membership Committee. Any member who is interested should contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](about:blank) and she is encouraging a meeting in February.
8. **Re repaving at Wilson & Wakefield**—The President will ask if the County plans to enhance safety or simply re-paint in this area.
9. **Request re Washington Blvd.—**The President reported that another civic association has asked BCA and other civic associations to join a discussion on getting a portion of Washington Blvd now under state control transferred to County jurisdiction in order to better address safety issues. A BCA representative will attend the meeting(s) and report back to members, and will not state a BCA position until members have been consulted and agreed on a position.
10. **Review of Calendar of Events**—The President reviewed upcoming events on the BCA calendar, including the requirement to decide which articles should be in the Spring newsletter and have those articles completed by the end of March, so the newsletter is distributed in April; the requirement at our March General Membership meeting to name a Nominating Committee for BCA’s annual elections; the Committee’s announcement of nominees at the May General Membership meeting with additional nominations taken from the floor at which time the slate of candidates is locked for every office having at least one nominee; and annual elections at the June General Membership meeting with nominations taken from the floor for any BCA office without a nominee.
11. **Virtual vs. Hybrid vs. In-person Meetings**: A discussion among members indicated a desire to try to hold a hybrid (in-person and virtual meeting) in May. The President will inquire about the availability of the Key Escuela, and if we have a meeting location, will work with other Board Members to see if BCA has the technical ability to do a hybrid meeting.
12. **Follow Up Questions from the December General Membership Meeting Discussion on Deer:** The President reported that December meeting speaker, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist Bill Browning, had answered several follow-up questions from members about over-population of deer in Arlington, and was willing to any further questions. His contact information [browningwh@gmail.com](about:blank) His presentation is at [www.bluemontcivic.org](about:blank), and was sent to everyone on the BCA email list. (To join that list contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](about:blank))
13. **Grace Community Church Site Plan Amendment**: The president asked if anyone had questions or comments regarding the request for a Site Plan amendment to allow Grace Community Church to lease space in Ballston Quarter. The President had shared the request via the BCA email list, social media and the BCA website. Nobody had any questions, so the BCA will inform the County planner who had asked whether BCA had any questions or comments.
14. **Member appreciation**: the President thanked all members for joining and/or staying current on their dues, and those who had sent donations.
15. **Greenbrier Street:** The President reported the County’s answer to a BCA members question about an unpaved section of Greenbrier Street. The County Department of Environment Services (DES) confirmed that this section of street is on its must-pave list.
16. **Path Forward**—The President reported that she has sent information to members regarding the virtual breakfast being hosted by Path Forward.
    1. First Vice President
       1. **Ballston Second Metro Entrance**—The First VP reported discussions about the proposed West entrance continue, as do the County’s efforts to get funding for the project. The Chair of the county Transportation Commission recently expressed support for the project, but concern with its cost. The First VP will follow up with Commission.
       2. **Missing Middle Housing Study**—The First VP reported that BCA’s Missing Middle Study Working Group is awaiting the consultants’ report to the County.
       3. **Upper Bluemont Park Renovations**—The public meeting that is supposed to be held on the Upper Bluemont Park project apparently has not yet been scheduled.
    2. Second Vice President
       1. Later in the meeting, the second.VP reported on Encore Learning.
    3. **Treasurer**
       1. The Treasurer reported no costs and a current balance of $2,300.02.
    4. **Parks Liaison**—Hugh Robinson reported that recent snowfall caused a great deal of damage to trees in the local parks. County has been responsive in picking up.
    5. **Civic Federation**—Allen Norton reported that the Arlington County Civic Federation’s first meeting of 2022 was with the County Board and was reported in the newspapers.
17. **Presentation and Q&A on Efforts to Preserve Arlington’s Tree Canopy** by the Arlington Tree Action Group [https://arlingtontreeactiongroup.org](about:blank)

Kit Norland and Susan Land presented for ATAG, Arlington Tree Action Group. This group was founded in 2016, when citizens noticed Arlington’s tree line diminishing. It is now an all-volunteer, grassroots organization with more than 500 on its mailing list. Its mission is to grow Arlington’s urban forest to keep Arlington green and fulfill the Vision in the County Urban Forestry Master Plan. It regularly participates in civic actions and County discussions. Speakers reviewed background, information, and data, noting the County has resisted updating data on the tree canopy since 2016.

Information about the growth of impervious surfaces is here: [https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2018/01/Arlington-County-Tree-Canopy-Report-2016-.pdf](about:blank)

The group is concerned about protecting rivulets and streams/Resource Protection Areas (RPA’s) that flow into Chesapeake Bay, and see flooding as an impending, cataclysmic threat. They focus on single family in-fill development since that’s where mature trees are. There are close to 200 tear downs a year, so they are asking County for more and better trained Urban Foresters on staff to review development. They also are exploring how trees could be counted as a “stormwater credit.”

* Tool for valuing benefits from trees, [www.iTreeTools.org](about:blank)
* Yard signs available for free; go to website. [www.arlingtontreeactiongroup.org](about:blank)
* [https://propertysearch.arlingtonva.us/Home/Search](about:blank) -- when you can learn the sales history of a house
* See [www.bluemontcivic.org](about:blank) for the full January 26 presentation.

**V. Unfinished Business**:

**Update on BCA Follow Up on BCA Recommendations for N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Between N. Edison Street and N. Kensington Street – Consideration of Joint Resolution Approved by the Arlington Forest Civic Association:**

Working Group Chair Chris George presented modifications to N**. Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements Resolution** passed by the General Membership at the December 2021 meeting. The changes reflect minor modifications made when the Arlington Forest Civic Association unanimously passed the resolution, and worked with BCA leadership to make it a joint BCA-Arlington Forest resolution. Chris recommended members accept those changes. Henry McFarland moved, David Smith seconded the motion to accept the modified language of the resolution and to accept it as BCA’s position. Passed by 91% with 9% abstaining and no opposition.

**(b) Update on the BCA Efforts with the Lubber Run Watershed Group, including January meeting with County Staff.** David Smith discussed the Watershed’s Group meeting with County staff, which helped Watershed Group members to determine which priorities should be in the draft letter to the County Board and County Staff from the Bluemont, Arlington Forest, Ballston, Glebewood, JM Langston and Waycroft Woodlawn civic associations, the Arlington County Civic Federation Public Services and Stormwater Chair, and the Chair of the Lubber Run Watershed Group. The draft letter endorses the positions that BCA has previously taken, and adds issues presented by the other civic associations, resulting in 5 key issues to raise with the County Board and County Manager. BCA members had already passed resolutions that tie into the concepts of the draft letter, which was circulated to the BCA mailing list in advance of the January General Membership meeting. David also reported on his engagement as a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) subcommittee dealing with stormwater issues, and his work on a related resolution for the meeting for the February 8 ACCF subcommittee meeting. The President asked for members views. There was no opposition to the BCA President signing the letter.

**New Business:**

(a) **Community Questions and Concerns for the February 23 BCA General Membership Meeting with the Arlington County Police Department Community Engagement Team** [https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Community-Engagement/Community-Outreach-Unit](about:blank)

The President invited questions for the police presentation at the next meeting. These questions will include asking about accidents witnessed on N. George Mason and Wilson and the recent assault at the McDonalds. At Henry McFarland’s request, she will also ask about the impact of the withdrawal of school resource officers from the Arlington public schools, and how that affected the police force’s relationship with the schools and the students.

(b) **Request that BCA Send a Letter Expressing Appreciation for the Quarry Shade and Sun Demonstration Garden in Bon Air Park, in Support of an Award Nomination for Six Volunteers.**

Julie Hanson Swanson, member, requested a letter from BCA recognizing the value of the Quarry Shade and Sun Demonstration to the community. The President explained that letter would express appreciation for the garden and the work of its volunteers. There were no objections to her doing this letter.

(c) **Encore Learning:** Kate Mattos described the upcoming offering of, and registration for, education courses by Encore Learning for people over 50.

(d) **Boy Scout Blood Drive**: The President remined people about the upcoming Boy Scout blood drive.

6. **Any Other Business: The President explained how to** raise any other issues with your civic association. None were raised.

**7. Adjourn** 8:25 PM