**Minutes: Bluemont Executive Committee**

Via Zoom and at Key School

May 24, 2023; 7:00 PM

1. The President established that a **quorum** was present.
2. Members approved the April meeting **minutes** without changes.
3. **Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs.**

**President** Henry McFarland discussed problems with the lack of public participation in the County’s food waste recycling problem, noting that BCA may want to have a speaker on the topic at a future General Membership meeting.

The President reported that he had written the County Manager about application of the stormwater utility fee to homes in Resource Protection areas.

The President reported on follow up regarding concerns from neighbors around Jacksonville Street regarding noise from I-66, including that at least 30 people had already signed a petition, and the back and forth communications between the BCA President and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

**Treasurer** David Smith reported on the bank balance.

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| **May-23** |
| Previous Total: | $2,324.75  |   |
| Out: | $0.00  |   |
| Out: |   |   |
| In: | $225  | Dues |
| New Total: | $2,549.75  |   |

Secretary Laura Kirkconnell noted that she would be providing receipts to be reimbursed for her payment of $170 to rent the picnic pavilion, and $100 for event liability insurance for BCA’s Neighborhood Day community event.

**Civic Federation Delegate David Hughes** recommended people watch the informative video of the two candidate forums held at the May meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation. One was with the three Democrat candidates for Sheriff, the other was for the two Democrat candidates for Commonwealth Attorney. The Secretary said she would put the links to the forums on the Facebook page, and the President said he would share them via the BCA email list. https://vimeo.com/825863440 (the forums begin about minute 50 in the video.)

**4. Neighborhood Day Family Fun Picnic**

**The President and Chair of the committee organizing the community event for Neighborhood Day**, **Second Vice President** Matt Harrison, reported that it had been a big success. About 30 to 50 people interacted with BCA at the civic association table set up at one entrance to the event, and more neighbors had arrived through other entrances to the picnic. He and other Committee members reported on positive feedback received from participants about the enjoyability of the event, the games and give-away items for children. Many people welcomed the opportunity to interact with, and meet other neighbors, and asked when BCA would host another event. The signs placed in various parts of Bluemont had been huge in notifying people about the event. Activity on the BCA Facebook increased in response to the event, people asked to be added to BCA’s email list, BCA got one new member and had the largest crowd yet for the neighborhood bell-ringing that occurred a few days after the event. The President thanked the committee chair, and he and the Chair thanked committee members and other volunteers for their contributions, noting especially the contributions of members Shakti Shukla and Laura Kirkconnell.

Secretary Laura Kirkconnell noted that Shakti Shukla has asked what BCA planned for July 4th, given community interest in more opportunities to meet neighbors. The President asked the Secretary to ask if Ms. Shukla thought BCA could add something to the planned July 4th community bell-ringing to attract more neighbors.

5. **Parcel of Land at 9th Street, N and N. Harrison Stree**t.

**Parks Liaison** Hugh Robinson discussed the latest information about the parcel of land at 9th Street, N and N. Harrison Street. He had learned from County official Eric Beach than an official map indicated there were two distinct parcels of land, and the County would want to consider any requests regarding designating the area a park as part of its Public Spaces Master Plan https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/Comprehensive-Plan/Public-Spaces-Master-Plan, which the County plans to update in 2024. The Parks Liaison thought BCA would have to take a position in the next year or so about whether to request this land be designated as a park. He said he plans to look into the Public Spaces Master Plan. He reported that the Parks Department designated John Marlin as a point of contact for the garden located at this location.

6. **Report of Nominating Committee:**

The Nominating Commmittee described how it has been working since March using a neighbohood list serve, email lists, the BCA newsletter and contacts with neighbors to develop the list of candidates for the Junes 023 annual elections. The volunteers willing to be nominated are:

For PRESIDENT – Henry McFarland
For FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – Matt Harrison
For SECOND VICE PRESIDENT – Carla Conover
For TREASURER – David Smith
For SECRETARY – Laura Kirkconnell
For CIVIC FEDERATION DELEGATES (4) Allen Norton, David Smith, David Hughes, Shakti Shukla
For ALTERNATIVE CIVIC FEDERATION DELEGATES Kathleen Reilly, with three positions still lacking any nominees
For ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOODS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ArNAC) REPRESENTATIVE – Christopher George
For ALTERNATE ArNAC REPRESENTATIVE – Nick Pastore

The Committee will present this list of proposed nominees for approval at the May General Membership meeting, and seek additional nominations from the floor for any of the offices and positions.

**7. Other Business:** **Need to publicize BCA meetings and events to the neighborhood, and the disappearance of some signs announcing the Neighborhood Day Family Fun Picnic.**

The Board discussed the disappearance of some of the signs posted to make Bluemont residents aware of the community Picnic. The Secretary discussed the lack of clear information about County rules for posting such signs, and the need to determine the rules for signs advertising civic association events, such as meetings and community events.

Given that Bluemont is the largest civic association by area (going roughly from Bon Air and Bluemont Park to N. Glebe Road, and from Washington Blvd to N. Carlin Springs Road), the Secretary showed one of ten signs she proposed to post to advertise BCA meetings to Bluemont’s large neighborhood, if we can get County guidance on where such signs can be posted. The President agreed to contact the County office of public engagement to inquire about the rules for such signs. He also noted that BCA could ask businesses to post fliers advertising BCA events, especially in areas where there is no clear right of way space available to post signs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Secretary Laura Kirkconnell