**Minutes: Bluemont Executive Committee**

On Zoom and at the Key Escuela Elementary School 855 North Edison Street

October 25, 2023; 7:00 PM

1. Quorum established.
2. The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August and September Executive Board meetings without changes.
3. **Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs.**
4. The **President** reported on upcoming meetings. At the November 29th General Membership meeting, Mount Olivet United Methodist Church will present on redevelopment plans for its parking lot on N. Glebe Road. The December General Membership and Executive Committee meetings will be zoom only. The Master Gardeners and volunteers responsible for the gardens in Bon Air Park will make a presentation. At the January meeting, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will discuss its plans for N. Glebe Road. The President will invite a member of the County Board to a General Membership meeting, offering dates in January through June. Other possible meeting topics were the Animal Welfare League of Arlington and the Master Naturalists coming to discuss the population of deer in Arlington; inviting the County Manager; and a meeting on the County’s composting and recycling program.

The Committee discussed the offer from BCA member realtor and design firm owner Matt Cochrane to sponsor the newsletter. The Board agreed with sticking with the two-page newsletter.

The President reported on his response to County Parks Department official Lyndell Core’s query about putting metal jimmy rail near neighborhood homes in a park in Bluemont. The President provided Mr. Core information on past neighborhood opposition to replacing wooden fencing with metal split rail, noting that people remain opposed.

The President announced that BCA member Caroline Haynes has been named Park Steward for Mary Carlin Woods, and will schedule quarterly events for the community to help improve and protect the natural environment in the park. This will include a volunteer event on Martin Luther King Day. This could possibly be done right after the bell-ringing.

The President reached out to a number of civic associations about noise concerns following the changes to the sound wall along I-66. None responded. The President will continue to press the concerns of Bluemont residents living near a section of wall that was not improved, who experiencing substantially increased noise after all the surrounding walls were raised and improved.

The President reported on the County Manager’s Round Table with Arlington County Civic Federation, civic and condo association leaders. The President raised concerns of BCA members, including rising taxes pushing people out of their homes, storm water, the need for more police, the need for a study of lot coverage, and the joint concern of the Bluemont and Arlington Forest civic associations for a safety study of N. Carlin Springs Road. Another theme of the Round Table was that the County staff do not listen to residents. If you knew which staffer to call, you could get a good response, but it was hard to find the right staffer, and you do not get much of a response if you just send in the query without knowing the right staffer. Another theme was that communities have a good relationship with the police.

The President discussed the possibility of accepting sponsorship for the bell-ringings.

The **Treasurer** reported that BCA’s bank account balance was $1943.72, it was $2130.92 last month, $376.09 was paid to print the newsletter, $180 was received in dues, $10 spent on cupcakes for the bell-ringing, $65 paid for BCA’s membership in he Civic Federation, and $151 was paid for IT equipment to improve the sound of BCA hybrid meetings.

The Treasurer, in his role as head of the **Lubber Run Stormwater Working Group** of neighboring civic associations and the Civic Federation reported on the ribbon-cutting for the stormwater detention vault at Cardinal Elementary School. You cannot tell that the vault is under the field at the school. It will hold 4 million gallons of water and cost $18 million. BCA would like to see a vault at Woodlawn Park at some point, which would have to be smaller and not gravity fed given conditions there. The November Civic Federation meeting will discuss stormwater. He recommended watching the video done by the Committee of 100 on flooding and storm water.

BCA’s **Arlington County Civic Federation** delegate David Hughes reported on their October meeting, which featured panels on their visions of Arlington in 2040. Despite his raising the question, none of the presenters provided any idea of what size population Arlington would have in 17 years. The report on the Civic Federation meeting is at [www.civfed.org](about:blank).

BCA’s **Expanded Housing Options Committee** reported that the County has received 32 EHO permits, one permit was withdrawn, 18 permits were approved, 14 are under review. Three permits were approved in Bluemont: 5630 8th Street, N; 4611 N. Carlin Springs Road; 735 N. George Mason Drive. Once a permit is approved, a person can use the permit number to get additional information, but it is very hard to do so. There is no update on County efforts to establish a dashboard to make accessing information easier. The EHO Committee has updated its information on the BCA website. Executive Committee members asked how traffic would be handled during construction of the project on George Mason Drive. The BCA EHO Committee will look into that. The President noted that neighbors have been told that sewage and roads being used to stage construction equipment are not EHO issues, they are building permit issues after an EHO project has been approved.

The President reported on his informal walk-around with County Board member Matt De Ferranti, who asked to be informally shown EHO sites in Bluemont.

The Board approved $15 for refreshments at bell-ringings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm