**Minutes: Bluemont Executive Committee**

On Zoom and at the Key School 855 North Edison Street

November 29, 2023; 7:00 PM

1. The President established that a quorum was present.
2. Members voted to approve the minutes of the October meeting.
3. **Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs.**

**President Henry McFarland** reported on the informal walk-through he participated in with County Board Member Matt De Ferranti, who had asked to see the three approved Expanded Housing Option sites in Bluemont. The President reported on the informal walk-through he participated in organized by President of the Donald Run Civic Association Bill Richardson with County Board members De Ferranti and Takis Karantonis. They looked at sites outside Bluemont as civic association leaders discussed the need for the County to increase the priority it is giving its planned study of lot coverage. Glencarlyn Civic Association President Julia Lee also joined this walk-through. President McFarland said he also raised the need to prioritize the lot coverage study with the County Manager. The County Board wrote BCA to thank us for the letter expressing the views of BCA members on the need to prioritize the County study of lot coverage. The President reported that no meeting has yet been scheduled on the request by the Clarendon Presbyterian Church to substantially increase the density and height at its property through a special zoning land-use request.

BCA’S Arlington Neighborhood Advisory Committee (ArNAC) representative Chris George discussed the ArNAC meeting for its fall funding round. At the meeting, he confirmed that BCA’s first priority project remains the intersection of Wilson Blvd and N. Lexington Street. BCA’s first priority project was ranked 19th on the list. Projects ranked 1 through 6 got funded during this round.

BCA **Civic Federation representatives** David Smith reported on the November 14th meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation meeting, which focused on stormwater. Full meeting minutes and presentations are at

https://www.civfed.org. Mr. Smith recommended reviewing the stormwater presentation, “Flood Resistant Arlington: Adapting to Climate Change” at this link

Presentation [PDF, 13,4 MiB]

The presentation includes an explanation RAMP, the County’s Risk Assessment and Management Plan, a comprehensive framework for modeling, measuring and reducing risk in the face in increasing frequency and intensity of storms. It has climate projections, inundation maps, risk assessments and cost benefit analysis, including for the Lubber Run watershed that includes Bluemont, and for Four Mile Run. The presentation also discusses how the County’s **LDA 2.0 - Increased Stormwater Management Requirements** increased stormwater management requirements for single-family home projects to reduce impacts to neighboring properties. The new rules took effect in September 2021, and increased the water detention requirement to 3 inches of rainfall, and instituted a new requirement to restore soil permeability after construction. The presentation also provided a

* + - [Stormwater Utility Fee Overview](about:blank).
    - [Stormwater Utility Infographic](about:blank) [PDF, 1,7 MiB].
    - [Stormwater Utility Fee Estimator](about:blank), and
    - [Stormwater Management Newsletter](about:blank) [PDF, 1,5 MiB, Apr 2023].
* **Video footage of the 14 Nov 2023 meeting is available**[here](about:blank).
* **An audio-only file of the 14 Nov 2023 meeting is available**[here](about:blank).

Allen Norton, **a BCA Civic Federation Representative, and representative to Arlington’s committee for participation in Virginia’s American Revolution 250 Commission,** reported on the first meeting of the Arlington committee. The Virginia state legislature created the 250 Commission to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States. Virginia is providing funding for this project, which covers all Counties in Virginia. The Facebook site for the Commission is [https://www.facebook.com/VARevolution250/](about:blank) Its website is [https://va250.org](about:blank). About 30 people met in Arlington, including a number of civic associations, the League of Women Voters, Arlington Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and other groups. They plan to meet again in a couple of months, and have until 2026 to do their work. They are asking for ideas of what Arlington could do to mark what people in Arlington contributed to American Revolution and independence of the United States. The state has a semi-truck loaded with interesting facts for any County that requests this mobile exhibition. Mr. Norton plans to contact the DAR representative about using their data base to identify people who signed from Fairfax who signed up to fight in the American Revolution, so that their descendants could be contacted. Henry McFarland noted that John Redding, buried in Bluemont in the cemetery at St Ann’s Catholic Church, fought in the 6th Virginia Line during the Revolution. BCA member Kate Mattos noted that John Redding went on to make the tomato an international success, which was a vegetable from the Aztecs. She noted that highlighting this point could be an opportunity to discuss contributions of native Americans.

EHO Committee member Kate Mattos reported on the BCA Committee **on** **Expanded Housing Options** (EHO). She said the EHO project on N. George Mason Drive was listed as being approved to become a five-plex, but the County also issued a permit for the same address for a 3-townhome development. We do not know why. Noting that the Committee is not following the lawsuits by neighbors, Ms. Mattos said it is unclear whether EHO projects that are the subject of such lawsuits can continue, but the Committee thinks they can. Noting that it is not an EHO project, Ms. Mattos said the Special General Land Use Plan (GLUP) request by the Presbyterian Church to redevelop its site in the Lyon Village neighborhood, which may include a smaller church, apartments, and child care, is another way to spur higher density development in specific areas.

As **Treasurer,** David Smith reported that BCA’s October previous balance was $1934.73. Following BCA payments of $157.91 to Vice President Matt Harrison for an improved speaker system for BCA hybrid meetings, $65 for Arlington County Civic Federation dues, $10 for cupcakes, and receipt of $230 in dues, the current bank balance is $1931.82.

**New Business:**

(a) The President reported that per BCA’ inclement weather policy for bell-ringings, the Veteran’s Day bellringing for the federal holiday on November 10th was cancelled, and the cupcakes were used for the Thanksgiving bellringing. About 30 people attended the Thanksgiving bellringing. President McFarland moved that the Executive Committee approve $15 for cupcakes at the next three bellringings. **The motion passed unanimously.**

(b) Kate Mattos noted that the Civic Federation is looking at the impact of **Arlington’s rising effective tax rate** on people. President McFarland recommended raising this as new business during the November General Membership meeting to make members aware, and said he will use information from Ms. Mattos to report on it in BCA’s e-news, including how people can write the County on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.