

# **BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

## **General Membership Meeting Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 7:30 p.m. Arlington Traditional School**

### **Call to Order and Attendance**

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Mary Thorne, Judy Collins, Suzanne Sundburg, Sam Ferro, David Van Wagner, Judah dal Cais, Larry Smith, 7 Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) members and 1 nonmember.

### **Draft Neighborhood Conservation Survey**

David Van Wagner presented the latest draft of the neighborhood conservation survey. This survey is designed to elicit neighborhood input regarding future development in Bluemont. Van Wagner welcomes comments on this draft document. The survey will be distributed with the newsletter in April to all Bluemont residents. The survey will be used to update Bluemont's *Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan*. The County would like to see a 10% response rate on the survey.

### **Village Center Design Forum**

Jane Kim announced the Village Center Design Forum to be held on February 6. Kim is a Design Engineer for Arlington County and a Virginia Tech grad student working with Bluemont to develop the community's vision guiding the revitalization of the Wilson Boulevard commercial corridor (from N. Greenbrier Street to N. George Mason Drive). This vision also will be included in Bluemont's *NC Plan*. Neighbors who can't attend the meeting are welcome to e-mail Kim with their ideas. It would be very helpful to have photos of examples of development that are considered attractive.

### **Arlington County Budget FY 2011**

Acting Deputy County Manager Mark Schwartz explained the County budget process for FY 2011. The County Manager's proposed budget for FY 2011 (July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011) will be presented to the County Board on February 20. Consideration of the FY 2011 budget began in October 2009. In December 2009, there was a community forum to allow public input. Original estimates showed an \$80 to 100 million gap. More recent estimates still show a budget gap of approximately \$40 million. (Additional cuts in state funding are expected.) A combination of increased property taxes and cuts in County spending will be used to balance the budget. After the County Manager submits a proposed budget to the County Board, the board can accept, reject, or revise this budget. There will be additional work sessions open to the public on March 24 and 25. The final budget will be adopted by the board the last week of April. In positive news the County's bonds are AAA rated. Some projects are being delayed as a result of the budget shortfall while others are going forward. Construction of the North Tract project's

activity fields will begin this year (the aquatics center will require additional bond funds). Work has already begun at the site of the former Metrobus depot the new DARPA building. The county is working on a master plan for Crystal City to manage the impact of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) on that area. There was a question as to whether Kettler Ice Arena had been beneficial to the County from a financial perspective. Schwartz answered that it had benefited the County. There was a request for an explanation of giving bonuses to County employees in a year when cuts were necessary. The employees did not get raises so the bonuses were a small reward for performance taken out of leftover funds. Schwartz commented that County employee compensation lags behind other government employees. Any suggestions for balancing the FY 2011 budget can be e-mailed to [mschwartz@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mschwartz@arlingtonva.us).

### **Updates from Officers and Representatives**

Sam Ferro reported that he and Dave Leichtman will be working on redesigning the BCA Website. The look will be expanded, content will be updated, and a new content management system for posting new information will be instituted. The goal is to make these changes by April. Judah will send names of volunteers who have offered to help with the Bluemont Village Center Working Group/*NC Plan* update to David Van Wagner. Van Wagner will use the text of the 1999 *NC Plan* as a starting point for the new version. There is money in the budget to pay for an online survey tool in addition to the printing and distribution of a paper copy. Treasurer Judy Collins announced that 100 members still have not renewed for 2010. Suzanne Sundburg announced that the deadline for February newsletter articles will be February 2, when she will deliver the copy to Ferro. Ferro will lay out the newsletter the following weekend, and the newsletter will be printed by February 10 and mailed on Friday, February 12 (Monday, February 15 is a mail holiday). Everyone at the meeting was asked to let their neighbors know about the design forum on February 6, through word of mouth, by distributing flyers or by affixing flyers to telephone poles. Judah announced that the neighborhood barbecue is scheduled for May 8. If possible it will be held at the Fire Station #2. There will be a request made for a small parks grant to fund a bocce court at the intersection of N. Emerson Street and the Bluemont Trail. Dal Cais will organize a Bluemont fundraiser for September or October.

### **Old Business**

The letter from BCA to the Board of Zoning Appeals regarding D&V was distributed.

### **Adjournment**

Judah dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.