**Minutes: Bluemont Executive Committee**

Via Zoom and in Key School Library

December 14, 2022; 7:00 PM

1. The President established that a **quorum** was present
2. Following a motion by Laura Kirkconnell that was seconded by David Hughes, the Board unanimously approved the **minutes** of the November 2022 Executive Board meeting, without changes.
3. **Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs**

**President** Henry McFarland reported that the County Planning Commission approved the Site Plan proposal for the **Ballston Macy’s site redevelopment**, and said work would continue with the Transportation Commission to resolve concerns raised by the planned left turn lane at 7th Street, N from N. Glebe Road into the road being established between the Ballston Macy’s Building and the existing building at the corner of N. Glebe Road and Wilson Blvd.

The **President** reported that the County expects to share the plan for redevelopment of **Upper Bluemont Park** during the first quarter of 2023. County officials expected that they would mostly use Concept 2, which had received a lot of public support over Concept 1. The County expected to develop the construction document for the project in the third quarter of 2023, and hoped to have funding for the construction at that time. The President said County officials said a BCA resolution supporting Concept 2 would be helpful at this time.

The **President** reported on his meeting with Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) Parks Liaison Hugh Robinson, and the private citizen gardener who has long been maintaining the garden in the **public land at the corner of 9th Road, N and N. Harrison Street**. The President noted that the community supports keeping the garden, and said he asked the County about the gardening being allowed to continue if the County were to make this parcel of land a County park. The President will follow up.

The **President** noted that the federal holidays for Christmas and New Year’s do not occur on the actual holidays. The Board discussed this, including that BCA bylaws and announcements call for ringing the bell on federal holidays, and agreed that the bell-ringings should held on the federal holiday of December 26, and on the federal holiday of January 2.

The **President** and Board discussed possible speakers for upcoming meetings. The January meeting will feature discussion of the County’s revamped Neighborhood Conservation Plan program. Possible topics for future meetings are: the Arlington Neighborhood Village Program: ECO Action Arlington, which provides free trees to landowners; and emergency preparedness; and the President will invite a Member of the County Board to speak at an upcoming General Membership meeting.

The **Treasurer** David Smith reported that the starting **budget balance** for the last month was $1798.28, $180 in dues had been received, so the current balance was $1978.28.

As the BCA representative to the Site Plan Review for redevelopment of the **4600 N. Fairfax Drive site**, David Smith reported that on December 2, 2022, he had emailed the developer (Hoffman) seeking answers to the questions raised by BCA members and neighbors, had not yet received answers, and will re-send the questions in a couple of days, and keep pressing for answers.

The **Alternative Representative to the Neighborhood Advisory Committee** Chris George reported on the meeting the prior week of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NCAC). The NCAC approved two projects: a park project and an invasive removal project to be carried out over the next five years to ensure the invasive removal is permanent.

**Civic Federation Delegate** David Hughes discussed the December 2022 Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) meeting with the County Manager. Discussion included concerns of people that they are not being heard when they give input to County staff. The County Manager said he would follow up. David Hughes and Civic Federation Delegates Allen Norton and David Smith explained that the **February 21, 2023 meeting of the ACCF will include debate and a vote on the proposed resolution “To Restore Public Confidence in Arlington County’s Governance.”** After discussing the resolution, the Board recommended that **BCA check with its four Civic Federation Delegates to see how many of its four Alternate Delegates would be needed at the meeting to ensure Bluemont is able to use all of its four votes on the resolution.**

**N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements**

The **President** reported that he again emailed County Board Member Takis Karantonis to follow up on the **Resolution Approved by members of the Bluemont and Arlington Forest civic associations requesting safety improvements to N. Carlin Springs Road between N. Edison St and N. Kensington St**, and would continue to follow up. N. Carlin Springs Road Committee Chair Chris George recommended **reaching out to neighboring civic associations along N. Carlin Springs Road to seek a joint letter seeking to expedite the County’s planned study of N. Carlin Springs Road**, which currently is planned for 2025. We would like the study in 2024 given current risks along that corridor. The **President and Board agreed**. The Secretary noted that in General Membership meetings, Chris George had already discussed the goal of getting the study moved to 2024.

 **Zoom Account**

The President provided answers to the Board’s previous questions about establishing a BCA zoom account: The cost of a BCA Zoom account with the same features as the personal account currently being used is $150 a year; BCA could establish an email address for BCA to be the master account for Zoom. The Secretary position on the Board could be given responsibility to manage the Zoom Account. David Smith reported on his queries with the ACCF, which determined that BCA could not obtain access to Zoom or a similar program through ACCF. The President said the Board will vote at its January meeting on obtaining a BCA Zoom account. The Secretary said she would continue to loan the equipment BCA has been using for hybrid meetings, but that the projector may no longer be able to run from her MacBook after an upcoming Apple upgrade.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Minutes prepared by Secretary Laura Kirkconnell