**Minutes: Bluemont Executive Committee**

**December 20, 2023; 7:00 PM**

Via Zoom

1. The President established that a quorum was present.
2. Members unanimously approved the minutes of the November 29 meeting, without changes.
3. **Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs**

The **President** Henry McFarland reported receiving traffic data from the County showing an increase in crashes along the portions of **Wilson Blvd from N. Glebe Road to N. Frederick Street** since lanes were removed, bike lanes added, and other changes made. The County said this increase reflects the increase in crashes County-wide over the same time period. The President said he subsequently requested and received data from the County on traffic accidents County-wide, which he would analyze and discuss.

The President noted that the **County’s deer task force** wants to come to the February General Membership meeting, so he was rescheduling the Arlington Historical Society for March and the Virginia Department of Transportation for January.

The President reported that on January 20 the County will consider the **Use Permit request by Habitat for Humanity to convert the Reeves Farmhouse to a shelter for the unhoused**. BCA had informed its members, and none voiced concerns.

The President reported on his response to a **query by the media** on the evening of the explosion of a duplex in Bluemont. The Board discussed standardizing BCA’s approach to press inquiries. BCA member Kate Mattos volunteered to do a draft to be circulated to Board Members.

The **Treasurer** and **Chair of the Lubber Run Working Group** of neighboring civic associations, David Smith reported there were no changes to the balance in BCA’s bank account, which is $1937.82, but that will change soon because he had a handful of checks to process.

On **stormwater,** he reported that the County’s Department of Environment Services submitted the Letter of Map Revision (LOMAR) to FEMA’s proposed flood map affecting Bluemont residents along N. Abingdon Street and part of Wilson Blvd. If FEMA accepts the revision, most of the homes will be moved out of FEMA’s recently declared 100-year flood plain.

BCA’s **Civic Federation** delegates David Hughes, Allen Norton and David Smith reported on the December meeting, which included a lengthy Q&A with the County Manager, the addition of Arlington Chorale as a new member of the Arlington County Civic Federation, and introduction of a draft resolution for a vote at the January meeting on the Civic Federation’s priorities for the next session of the Virginia General Assembly, which are governance, and resilience regarding flooding and tree canopy. BCA Civic Federation delegates recommended people view [https://www.civfed.org](about:blank) for video, audio and other information about the meeting, and provided the link to the draft motion on legislative priorities. [https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2024-01/2024-01%20ACCF%20LegisComm%202024%20Legislative%20Priorities%20APPROVED%202024-01-02.pdf](about:blank)

BCA’s **Expanded Housing Options (EHO) Committee**, Chair Kate Mattos said the status in Bluemont remained as last reported, including the two requests for the 735 N. George Mason site, an approved request for a six-plex and a pending request for three townhouses. Committee member Allen Norton reported that the County said that if the second request is approved, the developer can decide which to build.

BCA’s representative to **BluemontVA250** (Virginia's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence) Allen Norton said there had been no change in its status and no further meetings were currently scheduled.

The President reported BCA had received several responses to its query at our last meeting about **problems with the new parking system at the Ballston Quarter public garage.** Kate Mattos summarized the problems. The President said he would ask local civic associations about the garage. Executive Committee members agreed the President should follow up BCA’s communications with the County about the garage and report concerns among Bluemont residents. Kate Mattos said she would email the President about the problems.

The President reported on the Thanksgiving Day bellringing, noting that providing cupcakes attracts people and encourages them to stay longer, improving neighborhood connections. He made a **MOTION that the Executive Committee authorize the spending of $15 per bell-ringing through the end of the fiscal year (July 31, 2024).** The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm

Minutes prepared by Secretary Laura Kirkconnell