**Minutes: Bluemont Executive Committee**

On Zoom and at the Key School 855 North Edison Street

February 28, 2024; 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

1. The President established that a quorum was present.

2. Members unanimously approved the minutes of the January meeting, without changes.

3**. Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs**

The President, Henry McFarland, reported the following:

* The budget letter, approved by the membership, was sent to the County Board and was acknowledged as received.
* Henry reviewed the meeting schedule plan:
  + March - Dave Pearson, Arlington Historical Society
  + April - Caroline Haynes, will speak about the Forestry and Nature Plan for Mary Carlin Springs
  + May – Takis Karantonis, Vice chair of the Arlington County Board
  + June – Delegate Patrick Hope, will talk about Arlington County Governance
* Henry met with other Civic Association leaders and Arlington County Board members Suzanne Cunningham and Maureen Coffee and asked them to put priority on the lot coverage study. The board members expressed support for the study but did not commit on a resolution.
* Henry noted that he will be putting together a nominating committee.
* Kate Mattos raised a question about the parking fines at the Ballston garage. There is a parking office, but most don’t know where it is.

The First Vice President, Matt Harrison reported:

* Family Fun Day – reservation for Lacey Woods Park, Saturday May 18th, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., $170
  + Nora will do a ‘tree walk’
  + Shakti is doing prelim research on food trucks
  + Laura is looking into the ‘freebees’
  + There is an open question on liability insurance. Last year it was required, but this year it is not.
  + A motion was made to approve liability insurance (approx. $100) for the family fun day. The motion passed unanimously.

The Second Vice President, Carla Conover reported:

* Carla addressed the results of research on an online payment option. That research is as follows:
  + We have not been able to find a way for the BCA to have an online payment option without use of an Employer Identification Number (EIN but not requiring employees) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). There are 2 options (I call them the formal and the informal) for the BCA. We also have an interim possibility thanks to Shakti. If approved by the Exec Board (or membership), the interim method would be to include a statement on the expired dues notice and maybe the newsletter dues notices that if online payment is preferred, dues payments can be sent to Shakti’s Venmo or PayPal account and be passed on to the BCA. We do note this is an interim method. We do expect this would not be sustainable in the long term. At some time in the future we expect the prevalence of online payment use would mean that the monitoring, tracking, transferring and coordination needed between Shakti and the BCA Treasurer would become too demanding and the BCA would need to shift to its own online payment account. But this interim method could give us some insight into the timing for a switch to a BCA account, perhaps by tracking how much the use of Shakti’s kindness increases over time.
  + The “formal” option is to get an EIN and apply for 501(c)(4) status as an unincorporated civic association. This is the path Arlington Forest CA took. Note it does NOT require incorporation and its many issues. The drawbacks:
    - Cost of filing fee $600
    - Burden of completing and amending application as necessary
    - Burden of remembering to file annual tax form (the form itself is very simple if we keep annual income under $50,000. Arlington Forest failed to file for a few years and remedying the situation was a great deal of trouble.
  + Setting up an online payment account using the personal TIN of a member if someone is willing. We understand several CAs have done this and so far have not had problems. The risks would seem to be the sudden death or disability of the member could result in the BCA account being swept into the estate. Even if the executor/administrator/guardian is sympathetic, there would be delay and paperwork — and the need to set up a new account with a new member TIN. This would suggest wise moves would be to have the online account separate from the BCA’s main bank account and to sweep the online payment account regularly.
* The President requested that we discuss the topic further via email and then discuss in depth at the March meeting.

The President raised the question of newsletter articles we should submit, the following ideas were brought forward:

* Online Payment System (Carla)
* Stormwater (David)

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by David Smith