

**Bluemont Civic Association
Executive Board Meeting
February 18, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
(Postponed from February 13, 2006, 7:00 p.m.)
Home of President Judah dal Cais**

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 5:10 p.m.

In attendance were Judah dal Cais, Carl Drummond, Wendy Dean, Suzanne Sundburg, Judy Collins, Kate Mesches, Ed Fendley, Bob Atkins, Sam Ferro, and Lisa Byington.

Approval of Previous Exec. Board Minutes

Secretary Lisa Byington provided minutes from the December Executive Board meeting held on December 12, 2006. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. The final minutes are to be distributed to the Executive Board and posted on the BCA Website.

Secretary Byington also provided minutes from the January Executive Board meeting held on January 9, 2007. Judy Collins noted a couple of corrections to the minutes, which Secretary Byington agreed to make. A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was made and seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. The final minutes are to be distributed to the Executive Board and posted on the BCA Website.

February Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Suzanne Sundburg summarized the draft layout for the February newsletter. The Board discussed the changes to be made to the newsletter to make space for the additional advertising.

The Board also discussed possible speakers for the February 28, 2007 general membership meeting. President dal Cais agreed to re-invite Arlington County Board Member Walter Tejada.

New BCA Website

Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro distributed screen prints of the new BCA website, as designed by Ferro with the assistance of Dave Leichtman. The Board approved the new design and thanked Ferro and Leichtman for their hard work and assistance with the website.

The Board discussed the possibility of including on the website links to advertisers who regularly support BCA by placing ads in the monthly newsletters.

March General Membership Meeting

The Board discussed the possibility that the general membership meeting on March 28, 2007 may need to be moved from Arlington Traditional School because of a school

conflict. President dal Cais agreed to call Lubber Run Community Center to see if a room was available.

The Board discussed possible speakers for the March general membership meeting. Treasurer Judy Collins agreed to invite Lisa Maher of the County Board's planning staff. President dal Cais also agreed to invite BCA's liaison with the Arlington County Police Department to discuss the recent increase in crimes and graffiti in Bluemont neighborhoods. Ed Fendley volunteered to speak on School Board issues at any future meeting.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes

The Board discussed a proposed article on Arlington County's proposed zoning ordinance that responds to the Virginia Supreme Court's recent decision overturning the County's approval of First Baptist Church Corporation's redevelopment of a site in Clarendon. Some have expressed concern that the new ordinance could give the County Board additional authority to "up-GLUP" the Peck-Staples site. In addition to providing for additional density, there is a concern that the new zoning ordinance would not require the type of tapering transition from a tall commercial building to nearby single-family homes.

The proposed ordinance will be considered at the County Board's meeting on Saturday February 24, 2007 and may also be discussed at the meeting scheduled for February 26. Because the Site Plan Review Committee is also scheduled to consider JBG's proposed redevelopment of the Peck-Staples site on February 26, BCA members and officers may need to split up to ensure adequate attendance at both meetings.

Officer Reports

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Judy Collins reported that BCA currently has 185 dues-paying members. 100 people who were members in 2006 have yet to renew for 2007. (For comparison's sake, Collins noted that 40 people who were members in 2005 failed to renew for 2006.) Collins agreed to send make a list of the 100 former members so that Board members can contact them to request renewal.

President's Report

President dal Cais reported that County staff have agreed to move the large electrical box that is currently in front of the Constitution Bell to the northwestern corner of the intersection in front of McDonald's. It is still unclear who will pay for the move.

The Board also discussed the new flashing light that was placed in front of the Constitution Bell. Although BCA members requested the warning lights in an attempt to slow traffic on George Mason Drive, the placement of the light in the intersection and in front of the Bell is not ideal.

President dal Cais also reported on Arlington County's proposal to increase the registration fees for sports teams that do not have a requisite number of Arlington County residents on their teams. Although the money is needed to upgrade several heavily used fields to artificial turf, the proposal appears difficult and costly to monitor to determine the residency of all team members.

Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Report

NC Representative Wendy Dean reported that Arlington County is continuing with its plan to complete 18 NC projects in 2007 and 6 NC projects in 2008. Although the money need to complete the projects is there, the County lacks the engineering staff to supervise and implement the projects. The County has hired a search firm to recruit more engineers to County staff. In the meantime, the County is predicting that there will continue to be 12-month delays for any new street lights. On a positive note, proposed new sidewalks for N. 7th Street between George Mason Drive and N. Buchanan Street will be going to design in February.

Kate Mesches also reported that her application for a small parks grant to connect the east side of N. Harrison Street to the Custis Trail was denied.

Civic Federation Report

Civic Federation Representative Bob Atkins reported that the Civic Federation has thanked BCA for its approval of the proposed new emergency radio tower at Fire Station #2 at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and George Mason Drive.

Update on I-66 Widening

Newsletter Editor Suzanne Sundburg summarized the activities of the Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation (ACST). VDOT has failed to release two key documents: 1) a map showing the right of way where the third lane would be added, which is necessary for neighbors to understand how their property may be affected; and 2) a traffic analysis that supposedly shows that traffic would not be improved by the proposed widening. Bob Atkins reported that it is unclear how the Custis Trail will be affected, because it is unclear who owns the property that holds the Trail. The Board agreed that a representative from ACST should be invited to speak at the April general membership meeting.

March Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Sundburg summarized the articles that would be included in the March newsletter: I-66 widening, school boundaries, Neighborhood Day volunteers needed, police crime reports, speakers for the March general membership meeting, and small parks grants deadline. Because there are so many issues to cover, the March newsletter, which is hand-delivered to all BCA residents, will likely be 6 pages.

Other New Business

The Board discussed possible locations for the Neighborhood Day to be held on May 12, 2007. The Board agreed that the best location would be Fire House #2, and President dal Cais agreed to contact the Fire Department to see if the Fire House was

available. The school yard for Arlington Traditional School was the Board's second choice. The Board discussed the items (magnets, brochure, handouts, etc.) that would be distributed at the Neighborhood Day. It was also recommended that County zoning staff be invited to the event, so BCA members could meet the staff.

Adjournment

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.