

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 7:30 p.m. (Held at the home of Judah dal Cais)

Call to Order

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:33 p.m.

In attendance (in addition to dal Cais) were 1st VP Carl Drummond, Treasurer Judy Collins, and members John Herickhoff and Robert Atkins. Member Suzanne Sundburg took notes in the absence of Secretary Mary Thorne.

Previous Minutes

Because Thorne would be unable to attend this meeting, she prepared the minutes for the February 12, 2008, Executive Board meeting in advance and submitted them for approval at the February 27, 2008, general membership meeting instead.

Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

The group discussed several possible speakers for the April and May meetings. (As elections are held at the June Annual Meeting and there usually are no invited speakers, the group tabled discussion about a speaker for June.) Bob Atkins offered to invite County staff member Fran Lunney to speak about accessory dwellings (ADs) at the April meeting. Judah dal Cais said that he would contact Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) member John Van Doren and ask him to invite Holly Hawthorne (the principal at Arlington Traditional School, ATS) to speak. Other suggested speakers for future meetings were Reid Goldstein, the head of the County's residential code enforcement office, and the new manager at Safeway.

April Newsletter

Text for the April newsletter will be due on April 8, 2008, and the newsletter should be printed and mailed no later than April 18. Collins, who coordinates the mailing of the newsletter, advised that she would be out from town from April 14 to 18. She asked for a volunteer to pick up the newsletter from The Printed Page on April 16 or 17, apply the mailing labels and stamps (both items to be provided), and deliver the newsletters to the Post Office by April 18. The cost for printing (\$50 to \$100) would have to be paid at the time of pick up, but Collins said that she would provide reimbursement with BCA funds. Sundburg offered to pick up and prepare the newsletters for mailing.

Suggested topics for the April newsletter included announcement of the April speaker/meeting and the Neighborhood Day barbecue, a call for new BCA volunteers/June election announcement, a notice of the May 12 deadline to register for the June 12 primary, a call for volunteers to study the possible need for a formal update to the BCA Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan, and a request for an attorney to volunteer to incorporate BCA. (At a minimum, the plan's list of proposed NC projects

must be updated.) Dal Cais asked that announcement of fundraisers (in this instance, a fundraiser for Capital Hospice) be included in the newsletter on a space-available basis only; otherwise, those announcement could be included in a regular e-list message if the dates were compatible. Dal Cais also asked that newsletter articles be kept brief and should route readers to additional details/information on the Web site.

Neighborhood Day, May 10

Although the membership passed a motion to permit a budget of up to \$200 at the February 27 meeting, it was noted that spending for the Neighborhood Day usually is limited to \$100. No one has expressed interest in organizing a parade contingent, so BCA will not participate in the County's parade. Dal Cais will ask the chief of Fire Station #2 if BCA would be able to borrow the station's grill. He will also ask if the station would be willing to display one of its fire trucks in the parking lot during the barbecue.

There should be adequate membership flyers for distribution at the barbecue. A neighbor two doors down from Dal Cais has offered to serve as the drop-off/pick-up point for the tree giveaway. Collins was asked to provide a printed membership list so that barbecue attendees could simply check their names (rather than having a sign-in sheet).

Budget Rental Trucks/Texaco Station/Safeway

It was noted that member John Van Doren had given Texaco owner Robbie Guenther contact information for ATS Principal Holly Hawthorne. [At a previous meeting, the parking lot next to McDonalds (which is owned by ATS) was suggested as a possible parking site for the Budget trucks (which are now being parked on neighborhood streets). It was thought that ATS might benefit from renting spaces to Guenther.]

The group also discussed a draft letter submitted by member Lisa Byington on behalf of the BCA. (The draft letter is attached as an appendix to these minutes.) The letter asks Safeway to consider allowing the Texaco Station to park its rental trucks in the parking lot (as it had in the past). The group agreed to support sending the letter to Safeway, but there were several changes. Substantive changes included the reference to Guenther (he is a "local business owner and resident" and not a BCA member, although he does regularly support the BCA newsletter by advertising) and adding a limit to the number of Budget trucks that could be parked in the lot (10). In exchange for BCA's support of the letter to Safeway, Sundburg asked that Guenther be required to inspect the truck parking area daily, to remove all trash/debris, and to give his contact number to nearby neighbors who have had problems in the past.

Analysis of Peck-Staples-Jordan Manor Strategy

The group discussed the successes and failures of BCA's strategy in its approach to this development project. The overall consensus was that having a coordinator was helpful. However, in the future, it was suggested that responsibility for various issues be split up among several members since it was not realistic to expect one person to cover all the issues with the County and the applicant. It was suggested that substantive concerns on issues such as parking, traffic, density, phasing and the site plan condition

language be presented earlier in the process and be given as much emphasis as aesthetic concerns such as building materials and architecture. Another suggestion was to encourage a greater expression of opinions by individual members in order to encourage attendance at meetings, particularly meetings held early in the process and the County Board meeting(s), where a healthy turnout might provide additional influence on the decision making. Soliciting news coverage early in the process also was suggested.

Dal Cais noted that there would be a major site plan amendment for the new AHC building and asked the group to begin thinking about a point person who could monitor developments and coordinate BCA's response.

Treasurer's Report

Collins reported that BCA has 215 current members; approximately 80 members from 2007 have not yet renewed. BCA has approximately \$5,000 in cash, with approximately \$3,000 in expenses. (Collins submitted a written report, which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.)

BCA Signs

Dal Cais noted that County staff member Jill Yutan had identified a possible vendor that could produce hook-and-eye add-on signs for the three existing Bluemont signs. These add-ons would be used to announce meetings. It was noted that the membership had previously approved a \$300 budget for these add-ons.

Miscellaneous

Member Bob Atkins agreed to lead the nominations committee for the June elections. Sundburg agreed to forward names and contact information for potential candidates to Atkins.

Atkins also noted that Marymount University continues to use approximately 40 rooms at the Holiday Inn on N. Fairfax Dr. as overflow dorm space, which may affect street parking in the neighborhood.

Dal Cais will contact Lisa Blanton at ATS to confirm meeting space for the April, May and June meetings. (There was a question as to whether the school would be open for the June Annual Meeting.)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

Bluemont Civic Association

[Click [here](#) and type return address]

April 25, 2008

[Click [here](#) and type recipient's address]

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing on behalf of the Bluemont Civic Association (a community of more than 5,000 people in west central Arlington VA) [and Carlisle Park Homeowners Association (a townhouse community)] regarding the Safeway store located on Wilson Boulevard in Arlington VA [*store # or a better way to refer to it?*]. The Safeway is located within the boundaries of the Bluemont Civic Association [and next to the Carlisle Park HOA], most of our respective members shop at the Safeway, and Safeway is considered an important part of our community. You'll be proud to know that we consider the Safeway to be our local grocery store, and some neighbors even refer to it as their "pantry" because of its close proximity to our kitchens. The Safeway has always worked hard to respond to local needs and has had a number of long-time employees whom we all know well.

Another local business is the D&V Service Station next door to the Safeway, which is managed by Robbie Guenther, our neighbor and Bluemont Civic Association member. D&V Service Station also rents Budget trucks to members of the community, and sometimes those trucks exceed the capacity of the service station. In the past, Safeway had agreed to allow D&V to park the rental trucks in Safeway's parking lot. The trucks were parked away from the store, so as not to interfere with Safeway customers and away from the road so as not to impair the view of the store from the street. In addition, D&V made charitable contributions to the favored charities of the Safeway in return for Safeway's assistance with the trucks.

We understand that Arlington County requires Safeway to obtain a use permit (free of charge) in order for the Safeway to continue to allow the rental trucks to be parked in its lot. Until the use permit is obtained, the rental trucks cannot be parked in the Safeway lot. Instead, D&V Service Station has been forced to park the trucks on residential streets, upsetting a number of residents. Mr. Guenther has noted that he may be forced to terminate his truck rental business because of lack of parking, and thus deprive Bluemont area residents of an important service. Bluemont Civic Association, [the Carlisle Park Homeowners Association,] and D&V Service Center would like to work together with Safeway to find a solution to this situation that is amenable to Safeway.

Mr. Guenther is happy to work with Safeway management and Budget truck management to work through the details for obtaining the use permit and protecting Safeway from any and all corporate liability.

We hope that Safeway will accede to the wishes of many of its customers and neighbors to return the Budget trucks to the empty spaces in the Safeway parking lot.

Sincerely,

[Judah dal Cais]
[President]