

**Bluemont Civic Association  
Executive Board Meeting  
March 13, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Arlington Traditional School**

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

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

**Approval of Previous Executive Board Minutes**

Secretary Lisa Byington provided minutes from the February Executive Board meeting held on February 18, 2007. Vice President Carl Drummond and Treasurer Judy Collins noted a couple of corrections, which Byington committed 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.

**March General Membership Meeting**

The Board discussed possible topics to be addressed by Lisa Maher of the County Planning Commission when she speaks at the March general membership meeting to be held on March 28, 2007. BCA members are most interested in the planning and zoning process and how the Planning Commission's decisions affect the neighborhood.

**March Newsletter**

Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro distributed a layout of the March newsletter, which several Board members edited. The March newsletter is neighborhood-wide, to be distributed by BCA volunteers.

**April Newsletter**

The copy deadline for the April newsletter will be Tuesday, April 10th, with final articles to be given to Ferro by Wednesday, April 11th. The April newsletter will be mailed to BCA members by Friday, April 20th.

Articles will cover BCA's Neighborhood Day picnic, school boundary changes and the School Board candidate forum to be held on April 27, 2007.

**April, May and June General Membership Meetings**

In light of the high level of BCA member interest in school boundary changes, BCA will try to secure a School Board member as a speaker for the April general membership meeting to be held on April 25, 2007; Ed Fendley and Sally Baird were suggested as possible speakers. The Executive Board asked that Webmaster Dave Leichtman announce the April meeting on the Website.

For May's general membership meeting, the Executive Board will try to schedule a County Board member who has not yet spoken to the BCA membership (e.g., Barbara Favola or Jay Fiset). Kate Mesches agreed to contact Barbara Favola's office about scheduling.

The Executive Board agreed to forego a guest speaker for June's Annual Meeting.

### **BCA Neighborhood Day**

BCA's Neighborhood Day is scheduled for May 12, 2007 and will be held behind the Fire Station #2 in Field's Park. Set-up will begin at 11:00 a.m., with food service beginning at 11:30 a.m. The picnic will end by 1:00 p.m. Safeway will be asked to donate \$50 worth of food and beverages, and BCA will also contribute \$50 to the event. Arlington County will distribute free starter trees to residents. Judah reported that Larry Smith would help with the pick-up of trees for the event.

### **Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan**

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative Wendy Dean presented the County's new Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP). The goal is to solicit from residents and civic associations a list of projects (e.g., street lights, sidewalks, curb and gutter, parks and other amenities) to improve neighborhoods. County staff will narrow that list to a total of \$100 million, to be presented to the County Board and be factored into the County's budgeting (and bond) process. The Infrastructure Plan is to be completed in 3 months.

According to the County engineers, 1 mile of new sidewalks on 1 side of the street generally cost \$1 million, and there are 48 miles of street within the County that do not have continuous sidewalks on at least one side of the street.

The County is also considering relaxing its requirements for missing link sidewalks so that more streets could qualify under the program.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Civic Federation Representation**

Civic Federation Representative Kate Mesches reported that McKinley School won a parks enhancement grant to construct a rain garden on school grounds. All others were rejected, including a proposal supported by BCA to connect the Custis Trail to the northeastern side of Harrison St. (Currently, there is an unused trail segment there that is not connected to the Custis Trail.)

#### **Newsletter Designer**

Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro again stated his need to get ads for the monthly newsletters established in advance, to assist with his short design and layout schedules.

### **Treasurer**

Treasurer Judy Collins reported that 211 people are active members for 2007. Collins also provided a list of the 90 people who have not renewed from 2006. Each Executive Board member took a list of 10 people and agreed to contact them to encourage renewal. Collins reported that she is having trouble scheduling enough newsletter carriers for the March neighborhood-wide distribution. She asked that the listserve send out an appeal for carriers.

### **President**

President Judah dal Cais reported that a home at 5204 N. Carlin Springs Road has requested a permit to operate a day care in the home.

Dal Cais also reported that the County is conducting a survey to determine which historic sites need historic preservation.

Finally, dal Cais reported that the County has agreed to move the electrical box situated in front of the Constitution Bell on the corner of George Mason Dr. and Wilson Blvd. However, the source of the money that will be used to relocate the box has not been identified. Another Board member noted that the new traffic light pole at the corner of N. Edison Street and Wilson Boulevard is situated in the middle of the ADA ramp, which may block wheelchair access. President dal Cais agreed to contact Richard Best to seek clarification.

### **Annual Walking Tour**

On Friday, March 16, BCA member Terry Serie will submit BCA's request to participate in the Annual Walking Tour in which a County Board member walks with residents to review areas of concern. Serie plans to supplement the request with a tentative list of items for review. He also suggested meeting at Fire Station #2, which would allow the group to view/ask about inadequate sidewalks, improvements to Fields Park, and the repair/replacement of decrepit Bluemont Trail/Junction fencing, among other items.

### **Master Transportation Plan (MTP) Forum**

NCAC Representative Wendy Dean (who has been attending the MTP update meetings) announced that the County would hold a public "forum" on Monday, March 19, 2007, 7 p.m., at 2300 Wilson Boulevard (the Navy League building). Among the items of discussion will be the County's policy with regard to cutting into residential blocks to create new midblock streets as part of the redevelopment process. [Of particular interest to BCA would be the proposed new street to be cut from Glebe Rd. to N. Wakefield St. as part of the Peck-Staples redevelopment project.]

### **Peck-Staples Plan Update**

Peck-Staples Information Coordinator Terry Serie reported that developer JBG had plans to meet with the County to discuss possible revisions to its

redevelopment plan for the Peck-Staples site. Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) co-chair Inta Malis indicated that she would try to attend this meeting.

The SPRC is still working on its “notes” from the last meeting, which should describe the planning “framework” to be used to evaluate the Peck-Staples plan.

Serie also noted that Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC) may want to extend the CO-2.5 zoning (from the Peck site) to its Jordan Manor property (on Wilson Blvd. between N. Wakefield and Woodrow streets). According to nearby residents, it appears that AHC is trying to purchase at least one (and possibly up to four) residential property(ies) directly behind Jordan Manor. The current zoning for the property is RA-8-18. Under the current General Land Use Plan (GLUP), AHC would be able to build an 8-story building, but the zoning itself would likely need to be changed.

Angel Rivero is the owner of two nearby houses on N. Woodrow St., and Jean Peters owns two nearby houses on N. Wakefield St. Judah dal Cais said that he would attempt to contact Rivero to determine whether he would be inclined to sell any of his properties to AHC.

At the last Peck-Staples SPRC meeting, BCA suggested a building height limit of 95’ to 135’ and tapering the buildings as they approach N. Wakefield to the west and Wilson Blvd. to the south. SPRC members discussed a building height limit of 110’ to 115’ and seemed receptive to the tapering idea.

Depending upon what option JBG chooses, the next SPRC meeting may be held within the next three weeks. Serie said that he would check on and announce the date once it was established.

### **Adjournment**

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.