

**Bluemont Civic Association
Executive Board Meeting
December 12, 2006, 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, Terry Serie, and Lisa Byington.

Review and Approval of 11/14/06 Minutes

Secretary Lisa Byington provided minutes from the November Executive Board meeting held on November 14, 2006. The minutes incorporated comments provided earlier by several Executive Board officers, as well as a resolution proposed by Terry Serie (in his role as Information Coordinator for the Peck/Staples site) and approved by the Board on November 14. A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was made and seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

December Newsletter

Members of the Executive Board discussed whether publication and distribution of the December newsletter should be delayed in light of the Arlington County Planning Commission's decision to change the date of the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meetings originally scheduled for December 18, 2006 and January 22, 2007. The Planning Commission has proposed combining the two sessions into one longer session on either January 4 or January 8, 2007. Many BCA officers expressed concern at the County's changes to the schedule after so much work had been done to publicize the meeting dates and generate neighborhood interest in the proposal. In order to ensure that BCA members and residents continue to remain informed, the Board agreed to postpone publication of the December newsletter pending the County's schedule for the SPRC meeting. Given the holidays, the Board encouraged Serie to stress with the County that January 8, 2007 is the better date.

Proposed Redevelopment of Peck/Staples Site

The Executive Board discussed the precedent that the SPRC and Planning Commission would rely upon in reviewing the application by JBG requesting increased density for the Peck/Staples site. The Board believes that the General Land-Use Plan, the Ballston Sector Plan and the Bluemont Civic Plan provide sufficient support for BCA's position that the scope of JBG's application is excessive, both in increased density and increased height of the buildings. The Board discussed strategies for presenting these arguments to SPRC and the Planning Commission.

Board members also discussed the consequences of any proposals to widen N. Wakefield Street or to provide cut-through access from N. Wakefield Street to N. Glebe Road.

The Board also discussed the timing of the Planning Commission's deliberations before it would be willing to make a recommendation to the County Board.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Judy Collins reported that BCA currently has approximately 290 members, and approximately 60 people have renewed their membership in BCA. The December and January newsletters will include renewal forms.

Civic Federation Report

Civic Federation Representative Kate Mesches reported on the most recent Civic Federation meeting. The meeting included a public forum, at which School Board members discussed a number of issues. The School Board is considering changes to school boundaries to reflect changes in school enrollment in the County. As schools near capacity, the School Board may need to re-assign children to different schools or transfer school programs (such as special-education or magnet-school programs) to different schools. Such re-assignments may affect the schools that Bluemont area children attend.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission (NCAC) Report

NCAC Representative Wendy Dean reported that the NCAC will meet on December 14, 2006. At that meeting, the NCAC will consider alternative ways to complete NC projects and consider new, smaller project proposals, in light of the staffing shortages faced by the Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Other New Business

The Board discussed the need to update the BCA website. Newsletter Editor Suzanne Sundburg agreed to confer with a colleague who may be able to help with BCA's website.

Other Old Business

President dal Cais reported that another tenant, the American Trucking Association, has signed a lease for space in the Regent (at 950 N. Glebe Road).

Adjournment

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.