

## Minutes for the BCA Annual Meeting on 6/18/03

Shortly after 7 p.m., BCA President Carl Hallinan called the meeting to order. There were 23 members present, among whom were NCAC Rep. Judah Dal Cais, Treasurer Carol Spicer **[Carl, please confirm her attendance]**, and Civic Federation Reps. Bob Atkins and Ed Fendley.

Carl made announcements and then distributed the meeting's agenda. He also distributed copies of the proposed changes (which were highlighted in red and blue type) to the Association's bylaws. He asked that these changes be passed around and reviewed during the meeting prior to the discussion and voting which was scheduled on the agenda for 7:55 p.m.

First on the agenda was a presentation regarding emergency preparedness. Josephine Peters, Director of Emergency Planning for Public Health, spoke at length about the change (as a result of the 9/11/01 tragedy) in the County's response to and management of potential public health crises. Next, Tonya Woodson, Commander of the First Police District, spoke about the police department's role in emergency preparedness. Finally, Jackie Snelling, Chair of the Citizen Corps Council, discussed ways individual citizens can prepare themselves for potential emergencies. Emergency preparedness packets were distributed to all members who were present.

The next item on the agenda, regarding the Bluemont Railroad Display, was pushed back in anticipation of the arrival of the County Department of Parks and Recreation. Instead, an officer from the first police district gave current crime statistics for the neighborhood. (Corporal Robert Rutledge who serves as our neighborhood police liaison is a reservist and has been called to active military duty for an indefinite period of time.) She described our neighborhood as having a low crime rate. She also told our group that the police have caught the man who they believe is responsible for rapes along the bike path.

As the speakers for the train display were not yet on hand, Carl moved to introduce a discussion of the bylaws, and Robert Atkins seconded the motion. Bernie Berne **[Carl, please confirm spelling of the last name]** and Suzanne Sundburg objected not to the discussion but to a vote on the bylaw changes, as the document was seven pages long and contained numerous, substantive changes on every page, making it difficult to absorb in such a short period of time. Also, Suzanne Sundburg noted that these changes had not been sent in writing by the Association Secretary to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting set for the vote, as required by the current bylaws.

Carl responded that there was no money in the budget to comply with the 30-day advance written notice as required by the bylaws. He said that the changes had been in the works since October 2002 and a brief mention of them was made in the June newsletter (postmarked 6/14/03). Accordingly, he felt that sufficient notice had been given.

Carol Spicer **[Carl, please confirm this name]** noted that it was possible for members to call for advance copies, as was mentioned in the May 2003 newsletter. Suzanne Sundburg responded by saying that the brief mentions in the newsletter failed to convey the importance and complexity of the changes, and that many of the changes would actually give the BCA officers greater decision-making authority, thus possibly disenfranchising rank and file BCA members. She also noted that there were no added safeguards to prevent possible abuse of the additional authority.

Carl Hallinan moved again to discuss each change individually. Alternately, Bob Atkins suggested identifying and setting aside the “controversial changes” and then discussing and voting on those portions to which all could agree. That motion was seconded, and three changes were identified as being too “controversial” to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting: 1) Article VI. Officers, Section 8. Duties of the President, bullet point number five which reads “Represent the Association on any occasion on which in the President’s judgment the interest of the Association is involved, and make or authorize statements on behalf of the Association on any matter in which the Association has arrived at a position or policy”; 2) Article VII. The Executive Board, Section 2, the new section that reads “The Executive Board shall be authorized to adopt positions or make comments that, in the judgment of the board, serve the interests of the Association, provided such positions or comments are consistent with the Bylaws, the Neighborhood Conservation Plan and adopted positions of the Association. However, the Executive Board may not take actions specifically reserved to the votes of the membership.”; and 3) Article VIII., Section 5., a new section which reads “Voting privileges for Association business are extended to members in good standing who are present at the vote. Motions may be made at any advertised meeting, with votes other than elections taken by a ‘show of hands’ or voice vote, and recorded by the Secretary. Election of officers shall be conducted by ballot. A majority vote is sufficient for the adoption of any motion that is in order, and not addressed elsewhere in these Bylaws, with the exception that a two-thirds vote or 30 days [sic] notice is required to adopt any motion that suspends or reverses a current Association position.”

With the exception of the three items noted above, a motion was made to vote on the “noncontroversial” portion of the changes. That motion was seconded. A voice/show-of-hands vote was taken. Except for one no, all others present voted yes; no one abstained.

Carl noted that Secretary John Huennekens had sent him additional changes via e-mail at approximately 1 a.m. on 6/18/03. Since those changes had not been incorporated into the main document, they were considered separately. Accordingly, Bob Atkins’ motion was made to vote on the changes listed under A. These changes were described ones “to correct errors, improve style, or prevent undesirable consequences.” The motion was seconded and a vote was taken regarding items A.1. through A.6. There was one no vote and the rest voted yes; no one abstained.

A discussion ensued about the changes requested by John Huennekens under section B. Agreement about which items/changes were “noncontroversial” could not be

reached. A motion was made to postpone consideration of and voting on the items in sections B and C of John's proposed changes until the September general meeting. At that time, the "controversial" portions of the main document were also to be considered and voted on. The motion was seconded.

Bernie Berne asked to make a new/additional change to the bylaws. It was decided that additional changes would also be considered and voted on at the September meeting. Bob Atkins asked to establish a deadline for additional changes. It was decided that additional changes must be submitted no later than August 1, 2003. Ideas regarding proper notification prior to the September meeting were discussed, but no solution was decided upon. The new officers and executive board members will have to discuss and determine the appropriate way to notify the membership of the unresolved changes.

After concluding the discussion of bylaw changes, Mike Leventhal and Dick Wark of the Department of Parks and Recreation unveiled the proposed Bluemont Railroad Display. They circulated color copies and drawings of the artist's concept of the project. The display, as currently envisioned, will be composed of three pylons displaying period photographs and two framework displays which will provide a brief overview of the development of train service at Bluemont from the 1920s through the 1950s. Although other suggestions had been made for the display, the County employees said that other concepts had been explored but were too expensive with respect to the limited funds budgeted for the project. Bernie Berne had additional questions/comments which he directed to the County employees once they had concluded their presentation. The County employees offered to post color pictures of the final designs on their Web page once they become available.

Next, Kate Mesches presented the Arlington Traditional School (ATS) resolution for consideration. She noted that although most County children attend schools in their neighborhoods, our neighborhood is an exception. Because ATS is a magnet school, children in our neighborhood are eligible to attend ATS only by lottery, along with all other children in the County. All neighborhood children who do not win the lottery are sent to either Ashlawn or McKinley Elementary School. No special consideration is given to children living in close proximity to ATS.

While ATS does allow BCA to hold its meeting on ATS property, Kate noted that there was little other interaction between the school and the neighborhood. In fact, there had been some disagreement between ATS parents and BCA members regarding a reduction of the the speed limit on Wilson Boulevard. BCA wanted the speed limit to be reduced; one or more ATS parents wanted to keep the speed limit at 35.

Kate made the following motion for consideration and a vote:

We authorize the civic association to request that the Arlington School Board work with Bluemont residents to 1) explore ways in which Arlington Traditional School's current admissions policy could better serve the neighborhood families with schoolchildren in particular those families who live most proximate to the school; and 2) explore ways to

enhance the relationship between the Bluemont neighborhood and Arlington Traditional School for the benefit of both.

The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. All voted yes.

Finally, Carl Hallinan called for the election of new officers and executive board members. He recognized and thanked Bob Atkins who served as the Nominations Committee Chair. The slate of candidates for the 2004 election was presented: Judah Dal Cais for President; Lou Martin for First Vice President; Talmadge Williams for Second Vice President; Kate Mesches for NCAC Representative; Judy Collins for Treasurer; Suzanne Sundburg for Secretary; Bob Atkins, Ed Fendley, Talmadge Williams, and Bob Waffle for Civic Federation Delegates; and Adrienne Pilot, Ellen Armbruster, Judah Dal Cais, and Dan Laredo for Civic Federation Alternates.

Carl called for any additional nominations from the floor. There were none. He subsequently offered to provide a paper ballot, but in the interest of time (it was after 9:20 p.m.) and because none of the positions was contested, he asked for a voice vote if no one objected. There were no objections. Members who had been present at the meeting voted to elect the entire slate of candidates.

The meeting was then adjourned.