

Bluemont Civic Association, General Membership Meeting
October 26, 2005, 7:00 pm
Arlington Traditional School

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07pm.

Arterial Traffic Management (ATM) Study

Now that construction has begun along Wilson Blvd, Richard Best from the Arlington County Division of Transportation returned to explain the current construction. He first reviewed the background of the ATM project, including previous Civic Association approvals of the plans for Wilson Blvd between George Mason and Frederick. He said construction of the section from George Mason to the McDonalds' would take an additional six to eight weeks. Landscaping would be completed in the spring. He explained that the dual purpose of the changes was to accommodate the 17,000 to 18,000 cars that Wilson gets each day and make it safe for pedestrians. There is no intent to funnel the traffic elsewhere, so the back-ups currently being experienced should go away once construction is complete. He reviewed the changes being made including widening sidewalks and cross-walks, installing raised landscaped medians, narrowing driving lanes to make traffic observe the speed limit, adding curb nubs, eliminating the free right-hand turn from Wilson onto George Mason and using that space to improve the transition to the other part of the bike trail across Wilson. When the weather again gets warm enough to pour concrete, the County will resume work on the section from the McDonalds driveway to Frederick. Best said right-of-way issues still needed to be resolved along the McDonalds' to Frederick segment. Best said the signals would be upgraded at every intersection covered in the ATM project, including at Wilson and George Mason. As the ATM project progresses, he said, any intersection that qualifies for a traffic light will get one. Best said he would return to the Association when plans for future stages are at the 50 to 60 percent stage.

Redevelopment of the Bob Peck Site

At the November 16 General Membership meeting, the developers of the Bob Peck site will present their plans. They will be requesting greater density.

Wilson Blvd Working Group

Judah dal Cais explained that the Working Group has been studying how to make Bluemont safer and more attractive, including having a main street (Wilson Blvd) we can be proud of. The group was trying to determine the scope and scale of development that the community could accept, so that Bluemont could have flexibility in negotiations with any developer. The Group met with Tom Newman of the County Real Estate and Economic Development Office to discuss what is realistic and how to work with a developer. The Group then met with Lisa Marr of County Planning to discuss how zoning works. Dal Cais said the Group will meet with more people, and is looking for

expertise within Bluemont. Kate Mesches encouraged anyone with expertise in development to join the group.

Neighborhood Conservation

Kate Mesches reported that the Association will again propose the 9th Street project as its priority at the December NC meeting. The Harrison Street project will start construction the week of November 21, and the North Kensington project is done. There were cost overruns on the 5th and Frederick, and 7th Street projects, which was to be expected given the delay between funding and actual construction. Mesches said she would be meeting with the engineers and the adjacent neighbors about the overruns. A member asked about traffic calming on North Emerson, noting that neighbors had already circulated a petition. The member was encouraged to contact Mesches for information about the County's official petition process. Mesches noted that such projects could be handled through the Neighborhood Conservation or traffic calming process.

Halloween Parade

Laura Kirkconnell provided an update on the Halloween Parade to be held October 30 from 1:30 to 4:30. She noted that more volunteers will be needed for the event to be held next year. In response to a question on games to be held at the event, dal Cais authorized Kirkconnell to purchase three piñatas.

Membership on Committees

Bob Atkins encouraged members to join the Association Committees.

Next Meetings

The November General Membership meeting will be on November 16. The December General Membership will be on December 21. The Executive Board will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

President dal Cais adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.