

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Joint Executive Board and General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 7:30 pm
Arlington Traditional School

Call to Order

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 pm. In attendance were Carl Drummond, Mary Thorne, Sam Ferro, Suzanne Sundburg, Wendy Dean, Terry Serie, Judah dal Cais, Judy Collins, and 11 Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) members.

Approval of Minutes for 11/12/08

Secretary Mary Thorne distributed draft minutes for the 11/12/08 Joint Executive Board and General Membership meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The membership voted to approve the 11/12/08 minutes as drafted. Thorne will forward the 11/12/08 minutes to the Webmaster for posting to the BCA Website.

School Boundary Changes/Arlington Traditional School Issues

Arlington School Board members are considering three options to alleviate school under/over-enrollment. They will have a work session on December 16 and take a vote on December 18. Interested parties are encouraged to send letters or e-mails. Two options on the table would require the ATS program to move to another site and turn the existing building back into a neighborhood school. Several neighbors who are not parents of ATS students spoke in favor of creating a walk zone preference for Bluemont children who live within walking distance. (The options to move the ATS program to another location had been suggested by school staff members as an alternative to the walk zone.) Several neighbors who are parents of ATS students spoke against moving the ATS program or permitting a walk zone. Some present feel that this issue could divide the neighborhood further and would like to see both parties working on a consensus position. Judah would be willing to lead a working group with representatives from both sides. Both groups agreed that BCA should discuss this issue after the School Board has voted on December 18.

Neighborhood Conservation (NC)

NC Representative Carl Drummond reported that the suggestion to install playground equipment on the trail had not been approved. Bluemont's first-priority project (N. Frederick Street) will probably not be funded in the December funding round. Anyone with proposed NC projects should contact Carl. Projects must be voted on affirmatively by BCA before being presented to NC.

Planning Commission

Terry Serie reported that Bluemont resident, Steve Cole was appointed to the Planning Commission two months ago. Terry reports that there are three site

plan applications adjacent to Bluemont. American Service Center is looking to expand their building to enclose their existing parking lot on the corner of N. Glebe Road and Quincy Street. Developer Crimson Urban LLC wants to build a residential building on the current site of Goodyear Tire (at the corner of N. Glebe Road and N. Carlin Springs Road). Steve Cole is assigned to this project so he will be able to report progress to BCA. This site is in Buckingham, just across the street from Bluemont. JBG, developers of the Fairmont building on N. Fairfax Drive has applied to county staff to change the Fairmont's site plan. It will be at least a couple of months before the site plan review committee considers this application. Ryan Whittier, a development associate with Crimson Urban LLC, will attend the January 28 BCA meeting to present details of the future development at 650 Glebe Road (Goodyear Tire).

Steve Cole reported that Crystal City, which is considered the economic center of the county, has lost a lot of tenants. This is largely due to the Pentagon's Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) plan. In a move to reverse this trend the planning commission has voted to add development in this area. Many buildings across the 236-acre site will be torn down, and 14-story buildings will be replaced with 30-story buildings. The county is focused on designing neighborhoods where people can live, work and shop.

In the current system the county hesitates to enforce zoning violations because they are criminal offenses. Terry reported that the county wants to switch the zoning violations to a civil offense in order to increase enforcement. This change came out of the discussions regarding accessory dwellings.

Other Updates

Newsletter articles should be submitted to Suzanne Sundburg by January 14. Sam Ferro needs the text by January 16. Robbie Guenther is working with Budget and his insurance company on the liability coverage that Safeway requires before he can park the Budget rental trucks in Safeway's parking lot. Budget has been in restructuring since July and has been slow to respond. Judy Collins reports that only 80 members have paid their dues for 2009. The Wilson Boulevard Revitalization Working Group will meet on Sunday, December 14. This group will coordinate with those working on the proposed NC plan update. The American Red Cross has offered to give a presentation on emergency preparedness. The Red Cross has asked BCA to distribute a write-up of local Red Cross activities via the BCA e-list. There has been talk of constructing a miniature golf course at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and N. Randolph Street next to the Ballston Commons parking garage. One neighbor heard that the county might no longer have the funds to maintain the Bon Air Rose Garden would be digging it up. The Ballston Virginia Square tree lighting will be indoors at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex.

Adjournment

Judah dal Cais adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.