

BMCA General Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, October 21, 2013 / 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Church of the Brethren

Attendance: 34

Minutes: *(Note: not necessarily in chronological order as presented during the meeting)*

1. Welcome and introductions (7:10 PM): Ms. Claudia Maloney, Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) President, welcomed the members and guests in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes (Tony Ermovick): Copies of the June 24, 2013 BMCA General Meeting minutes were posted on the BMCA website (<http://www.boulevardmanor.org>) in advance of the meeting and 20 copies were also made available to all meeting attendees. No comments or exceptions to the minutes as drafted were noted, and a motion to accept them as written was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report (Rob Pilot): The BMCA Treasurer (Rob Pilot) provided a verbal and written Treasurer's report (with copies available for all present, see Attachment (A) to these minutes). A motion to accept the report as written was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2013	\$7,148.42
Balance as of June 24, 2013	\$8,247.42

Rob also provided copies of the updated BMCA "Report of 2012 Expenses / 2013 Budget and Expenses Y.T.D." as well (see Attachment (B)).

4. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Communications (Lee Dioso). Not present / nothing to report. Claudia thanked Lee for the great job he again did in editing and publishing the October BMCA newsletter.
- b. Hospitality (Carlin Schwartz). Claudia, filling in for Carlin who was not able to attend the meeting, reported the following for this committee
 - Claudia recognized Tony for his efforts in coordinating the BMCA Community Picnic in September. Tony also thanked all the volunteers who helped out.
 - The Veteran's Day BMCA pot-luck dinner will again be held on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2013. Flyers for this went out on the backside of the picnic handout last month, and also was mentioned in the October BMCA newsletter.
 - The annual BMCA holiday Christmas caroling will be held this year at Sunrise retirement center on Sunday, December 15 starting at 4:00.
- c. Safety (Chuck Norton). Not present / nothing to report.

- d. Conservation and Beautification (Josh Handler). Josh introduced himself as the new Chair of this Standing Committee. Though this committee has had little action as of late, he stated he is focusing his attention to the Route 50 and Arlington Blvd by-pass road median for possible areas to engage VDOT and/or the County for improvements, as well as the Upton Hills Park area along Livingston. He is considering some invasive species (i.e., English ivy) clearance efforts for various locations in the springtime. Claudia thanked Josh for assuming this position.
- e. Parks (Phil Klingelhofer). Phil had to depart the meeting early / nothing to report.
- f. Membership (Matt Smith): Matt provided the following committee update:
 - Current members: 239 (this more than 2012!)
 - Donations: \$70 higher than last year
 - Of note: approximately 25% of the payments this year have been via *PayPal*

6. Special Committees Reports:

- a. Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) (Vacant). This Special Committee is currently without a Chair. If anyone is interested in serving as Chair of this committee, please contact Claudia.
- b. Reevesland (TBD / Joan Horwitt). The members of this Special Committee are still working with the County on possibly developing the property as a Learning Center. No specific update was provided as no committee representatives were present at the meeting.
- c. Ashlawn Expansion (Steve Schwartz). Not present / nothing to report.

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Arlington Villages Project. Gail Kutner continues to work on setting up a branch of the Arlington Villages Project, which seeks to enable residents to stay in their home and make Arlington home for the rest of their lives. Gail emphasized that Boulevard Manor is one of the first areas where they are planning on rolling out this program. She asked for those interested in helping to identify possible participants in this program to sign up on a list so she could contact them. Details on this program can be found at the website (<http://www.arlingtonvillages.org>), or by contacting the program manager at arlingtonvillages@gmail.com. Of note: there is a coordination meeting scheduled for November 14 at the Church of the Brethren to provide more information about this program and how it can be rolled out in Boulevard Manor.
- b. Manchester & Route #50/Arlington Boulevard Upgrades. No specific update was provided at this meeting. However, based on a BMCA member query, Claudia agreed to contact the County's POC (Jeremy Watson of the County's Transportation Division) to provide an update and will also ask that he attend the February 2014 BMCA General Meeting to provide a current update at that time.

- c. Incorporation of BMCA. Claudia stated that BMCA is in the final stages of completing the incorporation of the Boulevard Manor Civic Association. John Pomeranz, a BMCA resident, is leading this effort. An update will be provided at the next general meeting.
- d. Wilson Road Improvement Initiative. Claudia introduced Jana Lynott (BMCA member and also a professional transportation planner), who read a revised motion and letter text to the County concerning BMCA's position on the modifications that Bluemont Civic Association is proposing to Wilson Boulevard (see Attachment (C)). This issue was also discussed in detail at last June's BMCA General Meeting. Jana highlighted that the area of study that is being recommended has now expanded from George Mason road West to the county line, that the proposed motion/letter now emphasizes that any negative impacts are of special concern to BMCA residents (especially traffic), and also requests that bus system improvements be studied and analyzed. Following a procedural motion to accept the motion to approve this proposal/letter, Claudia opened the issue up for discussion. The following are a sampling of the key questions and concerns raised.
- A resident who lives on a "cut-thru path" street was concerned with increased cut-thru traffic. He was specifically concerned that any decrease in Wilson Blvd lanes will directly increase BMCA neighborhood cut-thru traffic. As such, he is very concerned about his own safety with more cars using BMCA as a cut-thru route to avoid increased congestion on Wilson Blvd. He believes our recommendations should specifically state that no reduction in traffic lanes will be supported by BMCA.
 - Key issue is that this motion is a request for a study only, and asks for a BMCA representative to be part of any County sponsored study group effort.
 - Emphasized that this was a study only.
 - Urban density is going up, and this study supports identifying various options to improve existing and new means of transportation.
 - The BMCA NCP includes desires for transportation and traffic improvements in and around our neighborhood, and also addresses the lane situation on Wilson Blvd.
 - Believe that this study will expose all options, some we might not even be thinking of.
 - States that if the lanes are reduced, breaks in traffic to exit from Livingston to Wilson Blvd will be very difficult in heavier traffic periods. Jana directly responded that the study would address this.

After approximately 15 minutes of discussion, a specific vote of all registered BMCA members present was called by the President with the following results:

Against: 2 For: 32

The motion was carried and BMCA will proceed with necessary communications of the text of the motion to the proper Arlington County authorities.

8. New Business:

- a. Access to 8th Road From Wilson Blvd. Mr. William Roberts, Transportation Program manager from Arlington County, was a guest speaker to discuss and present the plans to

extend 8th Road N. to Wilson Blvd. Several handouts of photos and proposed traffic flow were handed out, to include a drawing of the proposed access (see Attachment (D)). After explaining the handouts, a question and answer session follows. Significant comments and concerns with this proposal were as follows:

- How will unauthorized traffic be controlled/prevented from using this new access?
- How will cars parking on 8th Road turn around since they can't exit using the new road extension as it will be one way east-bound on the western end?
- How will this affect traffic on Wilson Blvd?
- Will bicycles be allowed to use the new access?
- How will this affect the various residents who have access along 8th road on the western end?
- Temporary construction easements will be needed on private property, but no land acquisitions.
- Current working estimate for this initiative is \$800,000, with the main purpose being to improve safety for the school.
- Mr. Roberts has been directed to proceed with developing various conceptual designs, though the path forward for seeking approval of this initiative with the County Board is unclear.

Consensus of the BMCA members present was that BMCA needs to stay closely engaged with this issue, and to seek the proper opportunity to voice any concerns with the proper County and County Board authorities on this issue.

- b. November 5th Elections. A BMCA member informed the members present that due to the ongoing parking situation at the north parking lot at Ashlawn Elementary School and the associated difficulty in accessing the gymnasium, voting this year will be held in the multi-purpose room.

9. Conclusion. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Next BMCA General Meeting: February 24, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Ermovick
BMCA Secretary

Attachments:

- A. BMCA Treasurer's Report of October 21, 2013
- B. BMCA Report of 2012 Expenses/2013 Budget & Expenses YTD, as of October 21, 2013
- C. Revised BMCA Motion on Wilson Blvd Sidewalk Improvements (draft Sept 24, 2013)
- D. Proposed New Site Plan for Wilson Connection (map / undated)

**Boulevard Manor Civic Association
Treasurer's Report
October 21, 2013**

Beginning Balance as of 1/01/2013: \$ 7,148.42
(Combined Balance of BB&T Checking & Savings Accounts)

Membership Dues/Donations Income (Y.T.D.): + \$ 2,940.62
Interest credits Y.T.D. + \$ 1.78

Revenue Balance (Beginning Balance + Income) **as of 10/21/2013:** \$10,090.82

Expenses to date: cleared Bank account (\$ 1,793.40)*
issued, not yet cleared Bank account (\$ 50.00)

Total Expenses Y.T.D. - \$ 1,843.40

TOTAL Balance as of 10/21/2013: = \$8,247.42

*Figure includes two items totaling \$125.00 which cleared Bank account in 2013, but were part of 2012 expenses.

CURRENT BB&T BALANCE as of 10/21/2013: \$8,297.42
(see bank online overview on reverse page)

**Submitted for Approval by Rob Pilot, Treasurer
October 21, 2013**

Boulevard Manor Civic Association
Report of 2012 Expenses / 2013 Budget and Expenses Y.T.D.
As of October 21, 2013

January 1, 2013 Bank Balance: \$7,148.42
October 21, 2013 Bank Balance: \$8,297.42

		<u>2012 Actual</u>	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>2013 Actual</u>
January	Membership Drive	15.00	100.00	
	Signage (general meetings, special events)	-	200.00	
	Annual .org & .com web registration	102.54	50.00	
	Supplies	-	50.00	
February	Newsletter	-	90.00	-
	General Meeting (donation for room)	50.00	50.00	50.00
	Refreshments	37.05	30.00	-
April	Easter Egg Hunt / Social	83.97	150.00	108.46
	Ashlawn Fun Fair Donation	150.00	150.00	150.00
May	Newsletter	-	90.00	
June	General Meeting (donation for room)	50.00	50.00	50.00
	Refreshments	-	30.00	
July	July 4 th Ice Cream Social	69.48	150.00	115.26
August	Arlington Civic Federation Dues	50.00	50.00	50.00
Sept.	BMCA Annual Picnic	898.20	1,000.00	989.06
October	Newsletter	17.98	90.00	
October	General Meeting (donation for room)	50.00	50.00	
	Refreshments	-	30.00	
November	Veteran's Day Social	409.35	500.00	
December	Arlington Community Church (Donation for meeting room for year)	100.00	100.00	
	Miscellaneous	50.00*	100.00	205.62
	TOTAL:	\$ 2,083.57	3,110.00	1,718.40

*Figure represents donations to Fisher House Foundation and Wounded Warrior Project in which BMCA received donations in same amount to offset this expense

Submitted for Approval by:
Rob Pilot, Treasurer

**Revised BMCA Motion on Wilson Blvd Sidewalk Improvements
(draft date: September 24, 2013)**

Background

The BMCA values the safety of all users on Wilson Boulevard and the roads of the Boulevard Manor neighborhood.

We recognize that many of the sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard do not meet County and ADA safety standards, and we appreciate the efforts of the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) and the Dominion Hills Civic Association to improve these sidewalks. As part of the Ashlawn addition project, the APS transportation consultant, Toole Design Group, recommended that Wilson Blvd be reconfigured between Patrick Henry Drive and George Mason Drive to improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists and facilitate safer access of students to school. BMCA also acknowledges that the Arlington County Transportation Commission recommended to the Board at its meeting on May 7, 2013, a reconfiguration of Wilson Blvd between Glebe Road and the western edge of the Ashlawn School district in order to improve safety and facilitate active transportation in the corridor.

Motion

The BMCA recommends that the County study all options to improve conditions for pedestrians and all other users between George Mason Drive and the western County line. Options to be studied should include, but are not limited to, reconfiguring the street, widening sidewalks, and undergrounding utilities. The BMCA does not recommend a specific design solution at this time.

In considering this proposal, we request that the County include a BMCA representative in any consultations or deliberations, and to give particular attention to:

- the safety of children, older adults living in the Sunrise retirement community and surrounding neighborhoods, and all motorists and non-motorists going to and from Ashlawn Elementary School.
- ensuring that any efforts to improve safety along Wilson Boulevard do not inadvertently lead to adverse effects on Manchester Street, Livingston street, and other streets in Boulevard Manor
- ensuring the continued flow of traffic along Wilson Boulevard while discouraging speeding
- evaluating the potential impact of any changes to the roadway on planned bus improvements in the corridor.
- bicycle safety on Wilson Boulevard

Note: BMCA NCP Report section 3-20 recommends that we provide adequate width side walks and stairs in all identified locations where the facilities' are missing, in need of repairs, or too narrow for use by handicapped persons.

