

BMCA General Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, October 20, 2014 / 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Church of the Brethren

Attendance: (Not taken by secretary)

Minutes:

1. Welcome by BMCA President Ann Wilson

2. Guest Speakers:

a. Arlington County Police Officer Ruiz ran through local crime statistics for BMCA and surrounding neighborhoods: June 20- Oct 16: everything looks really good. 27 calls for service/incidents. 1 Domestic Disturbance, 6 destruction of prop, including back vehicle windows broken. Several plain clothes officers working the area. One family offense call, involving CPS, 2 frauds: driver of vehicle presented fake id card during traffic stop, subject gave wrong info at skate park, over the summer several people calling asking for money reportedly working with Dominion Power and the IRS. The IRS won't call, they'll send something in the mail. Also Arlington Sheriff's office fraud going around (caller ID said courthouse), family member in jail or warrant out, had to pay fine or money through green dot card at CVS. 5 larcenies from autos, because vehicles unlocked or windows open. If it happens give a call to let them know it's going on to deploy officers. A robbery at Upton Hills, at golf course. Said he had a weapon. Simple assault domestic related, simple assault unrelated – juveniles at the skate park.

Recently in Lyon Village and West End of Wilson 18 burglaries. Doors unlocked, back doors and windows open. Criminals walking around looking for an opportunity. Half were day time burglaries. Sometimes people in the house at the time. People didn't even hear the people in their homes. Occurring near East Falls Church Metro. A few suspects, just waiting for them to commit burglaries.

b. Arlington County Parks and Rec update: by Lyndell Core:

Park Rangers housed at Bluemont Tennis Shelter have been relocated up to Powhatan Skate Park where they have offices, and will check in and out.

Managing parks and public spaces: adoption or friends of group are critical to maintaining the parks, and act as liaisons for the target usage group. (ex. Rose Garden, dog parks, etc.) Powhatan Skate Park: now has a sponsor group. Skaters For Arlington Skate Park. (two reps here at the meeting tonight). Now formalized with agreement as a sponsor group. Resp for getting communications back and forth between users and Park staff. Park successful. Beginning with morning workouts. Want to change operating hours to make them consistent

daily. (As are other parks facilities.) Move hours on weekend to 10 pm, on weeknights 9 pm, keep it all the same year round.

The Civic Associations concerns are addressed by: sponsor group and rangers being there. (on until 10 pm). 6 month pilot. Change makes sense to how we manage lighted basketball and tennis courts.

Comment from Tony Ermovick: In the clean-up efforts from the stream pulled out dozens of beer bottles. Need to be aware of that. Possibly underage drinking?

Comment from Sponsor group: Primary concern that lights remain consistent. A friend dropped into the bowl, not knowing the lights were about to go off. Very frightening.

Claudia: How do the timers work?

Core: Monitoring lighting, one of the biggest expenses. Will check timers.

c. Arlington County Transportation Program Manager William Roberts: 4th time back. Ashlawn Safe Routes Projects update. Another larger community meeting set for Wed night at DHAR Association. Showed current plan drawings.

8th Rd: eliminate extension of roadway. Now working on ADA compliant walkway and stairs, drainage issues, impacts to DHAR property impact. Will connect to the sidewalk recently constructed by the schools.

Widening of sidewalk along Manchester to 6 feet wide. Path from 4 Mile Run Trail that will connect to newly widened sidewalk. There will be stairs opposite 8th, up big hill. And another staircase over by Tennis Shelter. (discussion of crosswalk, bicycles, Bon Air section all wanted, Tool Report (safety) , Grade, parking on both sides, slope barrier, where ever the ramp goes people will cross directly.

5th and Montague Intersection: Make crossings safer. Not more asphalt. School needs to figure out entrance. Ripping up asphalt and turning it into greenspace.

Question from Rob Pilot: New stripping on Wilson Blvd? What happened to study we requested formally before this was done. Restriping from Manchester up to George Mason, One lane up, one lane down. Trial period. Just doing paint. Letters from BMCA asking for additional info. Neighborhood concerns re cut through if lanes on Wilson cut down.

Mr. Roberts will raise concerns with pedestrian engineers.

3. Approval of minutes from June Meeting. Motion to approve by Phil Klingelhofer, second by Chuck Norton. Approved.

4. Standing Committees Reports

a. Newsletter: Lee Dioso not present, but newsletter articles needed by tomorrow.

b. Conservation and Beautification: Josh Handler: Rt 50 Crepe Myrtle clumps residents along bypass road ... some clumps of trees with bushes around them good. Then we need to decide, and make proposal to VDOT. Design included rework of bus stop at Manchester and Montague. Designer proposed 4-5 clumps of trees for the more open spaces.

1st Sunday in Dec, 1pm clean-up for a couple hours. Clear off vines of the trees we want to keep.

Talked about special outreach to neighbors along bypass rd. Probably far enough along in the planning.

c. Hospitality: Carlin Schwartz not here. Claudia Maloney shared: Veteran's Day dinner. Want to surpass money raised from last year (\$500) Tue Nov 11 at 6:30, BBQ. 4th Annual.

d. Membership. Membership consistent with this time last year. 8 less. Dori Byron made a \$100 contribution to beautification.

e. Parks: Phil Klingelhofer: new partnership a good thing for Powhatan. More oversight the better.

Quite concerned by the County Board taking over public space for low income housing or other use. County's own study shows we are behind in the amount of public green space and park land for our number of residents. Giving up the little we have isn't wise.

Resolution 1: Preservation of Park Land in Arl Co. Board voted to approve the resolution and rec to membership full approval. Phil Klingelhofer moves to approve the resolution. (see handout)

Discussion requested by Tony Ermovick.

2nd by Claudia Maloney

Tony Ermovick: Strong desires to keep green space. Area of concern: Community centers, rec centers, replace with schools? Our position needs to not be divided. Need to protect the places. Hard to divide out rec centers/ community space. Even though it's harder to protect community centers, but hard to split it out.

Chuck Norton: Everyone here has a stake in this. It will affect out property values. We are completely surrounded by parks. It would affect out property values.

Sandra Spear: Requests sharing uses for community centers and schools.

Kel Kettner: Lubber Run falling apart. Would be a good reuse to build the school there. There is a limited amount of land. We may need to repurpose some of these community centers.

Rob Pilot: Many old schools repurposed, why can't they be repurposed to schools.

Sr programs, teen programs, daycare already bursting at the seams. Doesn't see reusing community centers. Barrett School is next to Lubber Run.

Matt Smith: Every year: school district growing one more school each year as big as Ashlawn. Everything trending up. Kids are coming. Have to put them somewhere. Long tradition of neighborhood schools.

Josh Handler: Surplus of luxury housing, not enough green space, affordable housing,

Phil Klingelhofer called question: 16 for. 5 abstained. Motion carried.

Resolution 2: Neighborhood Conservation Committee. Time to use some of our funds. When approved a few years ago, our plan opened up some of our tax dollars to priorities in our community. First thing: Better street lights, curbs to slow traffic. Second plan: enhance the property values of our community. Have parks provide natural space for wildlife and plants. Provide opportunities to us and children to enjoy wild places. Propose: Restoration of Woodlands in Bluemont Park using Neighborhood Conservation Program Funding.

Must be submitted by the 15 of Nov, to be considered in funding round in May 2015. If approved, would probably receive funding Spring 2016. We have bonus points for our first 5 projects on a diminishing scale, that expire around 2020. Valuable improvement to our neighborhood. The invasive plants problem is far bigger than what we can tackle with volunteers. Barcroft Park is a good example of a successful cleanup over 5 years. Includes replanting with native plant species. Some of it can generate by themselves.

Discussion:

Josh: Wants to start with Bluemont, and then tackle Powhattan Springs.

Seconded by Anne Wilson.

Paul Svercl: speaks for it. Concerned we need dollar value. Phil responded: the County figures out spending.

Matt: Thank you for rolling in the sidewalk problem. Start the nature walk, with wetlands walk, at bottom of Manchester and 4th. Maybe settlement pond before it goes into 4 Mile Run, wetlands area, etc.

Tony: "Should" word over discretionary. Exchange for "shall"

Staff will write proposal.

Vote Called: Unanimous.

f. Safety: Chuck Norton. Ebola concerns. Arl Co Fire Dept have it under control. Not trying to play catch-up. Graduate 2 more classes of training for CERT. Chuck, Phil, Tony, and two others (Tony's wife Laura, & Herb Levotan.)

Claudia: Everyone should get a flu shot.

g. Treasurer's Report: Rob Pilot . Balance: \$8,412.52. On budget.

h. Reevesland: Joan Horwitt: 100 teachers have gone through before school started. All students from 2, 3, 4. Planting garlic, and growing lettuce. November 5th- Day of big lunch. Lawns to Lettuce for Lunch. Fiesta Salad. Ron Bottachi makes salad dressing. Arl Co: looking into stabilization of foundation. Reevesland Learning Garden has filed for 501c(3)

5. Meeting adjourned: Anne Wilson: Reminders of upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Ovando