

BMCA Special Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, May 2, 2016 / 7:06-9:00 PM

Location: Church of the Brethren

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

1. **Welcome and introductions (7:07):** Phil Klingelhofer, Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) President, welcomed the members and guests in attendance.
2. **Guest Speaker–Kathy von Bredow, RLA, Arlington County Parks and Recreation**
 - a. Ms von Bredow brought details of the Neighborhood Conservation Project for Boulevard Manor that is slated for approval this June. She sought confirmation from the Community that the Community agrees with the priorities within the plan.
 - b. The budget for the entire project is \$785,000. That will be the sum appropriated through the NCP approval process. If the cost of all components of the project exceeds the budget, lower priority items will not be completed.
 - c. The priority list is:
 - i. Remove invasive species from Bluemont Park from an area delimited by the end of the South parking lot, following the trail that connects the park to N. 1st street, then along N. Manchester, to include the wooded area between N. 1st Street and Rte. 50. Then, back behind the homes on N. 1st that abut the park, extending to and along N. Carlin Springs Rd, then following Four Mile Run creek back to the South Parking lot. This will be a 5-year plan.
 - ii. After the second year of invasive removal, plant new native species in their place and water the new plants for one year.
 - iii. Build a new sidewalk (5 or 6 feet wide) connecting the bike path near the South Parking lot to N. Manchester. This may require removing a utility pole.
 - iv. Install wood fencing around the disc golf course to separate natural areas from golf course.
 - v. Build nature paths with signage in natural areas.
 - vi. Purchase interpretive signs for placement around the Milk House or on the path leading to it at the Reeves Farm site.
 - vii. Mulch nature paths through the woods.
 - d. Because invasive plants do not respect property lines, the County will ask the contractor doing the invasive plant removal to offer a discounted rate to adjacent neighbors for invasive plant removal on their properties.
 - e. The anticipated timeline is NCAC approval in June, County Board approval in September, then beginning with plant removal in the fall. The sidewalk may be built beginning in the spring.

- f. The sidewalk will not be and does not have to be ADA-compliant because it is connecting existing trails.
 - g. The members present and voting approved the following motion unanimously:
The Boulevard Manor Civic Association approves the Neighborhood Conservation Project for Bluemont Park as presented at the BMCA meeting on May 2, 2016.
3. **Phil Klingelhofer** introduced a motion to reconfigure the Bluemont Park Disc Golf Course to protect the natural environment from further damage. The assembled members objected to the motion as not having been announced in advance and as beyond the scope of the special meeting. Action on the motion was deferred until the June General Meeting.
 4. **Josh Handler** reported on the County Staff's report to the community regarding the Wilson Boulevard reconfiguration. Staff found that travel times in the direction of heavy traffic during rush hour increased slightly, while travel times in the off-peak direction decreased slightly. Volumes remained constant. No increase in cut-through traffic through Boulevard Manor occurred. Speeds on Wilson Boulevard declined slightly. Mr. Handler then proposed a motion that BMCA ask the County to study extending the reconfiguration to the County line. Members expressed opposition to the motion because it was not announced before the meeting and was beyond the scope of the Special Meeting. Action on the motion was deferred until the June General Meeting.
 5. **Sandra Spear of Reeves Farm Conservation Society** reported on recent developments regarding the Reeves Farm property. After much analysis, the RFCS had begun investigating replacing the existing garage with a barn to handle rental and educational activities. Some members expressed concerns about potential impacts from unruly wedding guests should weddings be a source of revenue.
 6. **Conclusion.** Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next BMCA General Meeting: June 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Spear, BMCA Secretary