

BMCA General Meeting Minutes

Draft

Date/Time: Monday, October 19, 2015 / 7:02-8:59 PM

Location: Church of the Brethren

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

1. **Welcome and introductions (7:02):** Phil Klingelhofer, Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) President, welcomed the members and guests in attendance.
2. **Guest Speaker– Patti Hurst, Skaters for Arlington Skatepark**
 - a. Her group has more than 150 members and has been in operation for more than a year. They formed to support the repair or renovation of the deteriorating Powatan Springs Skatepark
 - b. The Park was designed 14 years ago. Design guidelines have changed dramatically since then. The County used the wrong kind of concrete when it first built the park and water has seeped into the concrete from both directions. As a result, the concrete is crumbling and loose concrete sits at the bottom of the bowls. The loose concrete is a genuine safety hazard.
 - c. The most cost-effective way to repair the skatepark is to replace it altogether. The County has employed a designer from Florida to bring the Park up to current standards. Ms. Hurst’s group fully supports the design.
 - d. The renovations are expected to cost \$1 million.
 - e. Parks also expects to fix the rain garden and add more shade.
 - f. On the motion of John Eckrote, the BMCA members in attendance unanimously approved the following resolution:
 - i. BMCA supports the renovation of the Powhatan Springs Skatepark in order to provide greater safety for skaters of all ages and the general updating of the park. We would also encourage Arlington County Parks and Rec to update other community parks for greater safety and beautification.
3. **Approval of Minutes (Sandra Spear):** The members unanimously approved the minutes of the June 22, 2015 General Meeting and of the September 16, 2015 Special Meeting.
4. **Treasurer’s Report (Rob Pilot):** The BMCA Treasurer (Rob Pilot) provided a written and oral Treasurer’s report (with copies available for all present, see Attachment (A) to these minutes).
 - a. The balance as of October 19, 2015 was \$8,521.66.
5. **Report of the President:** Phil Klingelhofer reported that APS has submitted a use permit request for secondary parking for Ashlawn Elementary School faculty and staff to use up to 30 parking spaces at Powhatan Springs Park.

- a. The BMCA membership present voted unanimously to pass the following motion:
 - b. BMCA has no concerns about the Use Permit by which APS proposes to lease up to 30 parking spaces at Powhatan Springs Skate Park for use by faculty and staff **contingent on** the completion of the new 8th Road/Wilson Boulevard ramp and stairs as soon as possible to minimize safety hazards the current stairs create for pedestrians.
6. **Report on Reeves Farm Conservation Society (Sandra Spear):**
- a. In September 2015, the County Board voted to approve the shape of a lot that would contain the Reeves Farmhouse if it were to be sold as a private residence. Under the zoning provision the County used, the garage would have to be torn down if the County actually recorded the approved lot in the deed books.
 - b. The County Board voted not to record the lot until and unless the Reeves Farm Conservation society failed in its efforts to preserve the farm for public use.
 - c. If the County Board does not record the lot within 3 years, it will have to go through the lot approval process again.
 - d. The Reeves Farm Conservation Society filed for 501c3 status with the IRS on October 1, 2015.
7. **Standing Committee Reports:**
- a. **Neighborhood Conservation (Phil Klingelhofer):**
 - i. BMCA has one completed NCP project – the improvement of intersections along Montague Street.
 - ii. BMCA has one nearing approval in the queue – removing invasive species in Bluemont Park, planting native species, adding nature trails, improving storm water control, and adding a sidewalk from the bike path near the south parking lot to N. Manchester St at 4th Street. Our project should be approved in spring 2016 and begin construction in Fall 2016.
 - iii. We need to decide on the next project to place in the queue. The membership discussed improvements to the intersection of Montague/Nottingham and 1st Streets, replacing yield signs on Manchester, removing more invasive species, asking for money for historic displays at the Reeves Farm, and improving traffic issues at 4th Street and Manchester.
 - iv. The membership unanimously voted to seek to complete the safety improvements along Montague from Nottingham to 4th Street, including any re-engineering and other safety measures necessary to achieve those goals.
 - b. **Communications (Lee Dioso)** Lee was not able to be present, but the membership thanked him for his generosity in producing the newsletter.
 - c. **Hospitality (Claudia Maloney):**
 - i. BMCA would hold its annual Veterans Day dinner at the Arlington Community Church on November 11. BMCA would provide barbecue from Rocklands. We welcome donations to Fisher House or Wounded Warriors Project.
 - ii. BMCA would hold its annual holiday caroling event on 12/20.

- iii. BMCA presented a lovely plant to Tony Ermovick in thanks for his hard work on the annual BMCA picnic.
- d. Safety (Chuck Norton)
Chuck notified the community that Washington Gas will be replacing gas lines in the neighborhood over a period of 6 months beginning in spring 2016.
- e. Conservation and Beautification (Josh Handler).
 - i. Josh reported that volunteers would be needed on October 31 to clean up trash and plant native species at Powhatan Springs Park.
 - ii. The membership unanimously voted to increase the budget for new plantings along Rte 50 from \$500 to \$1,600. This will permit us to plant larger trees.
- f. Membership (Matt Smith)
BMCA has 217 members now.
- g. Parks (Phil Klingelhofer).
The County is removing invasive vines from the NE corner of the Reeves Farm property.

8. **Conclusion.** Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Next BMCA General Meeting: TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Spear BMCA Secretary

Attachments:

- A. BMCA Treasurer's Report of October 19, 2015