**BMCA General Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** Monday, June 22, 2015 / 7:03-9:37 PM

**Location:** Church of the Brethren

**Attendance: 41**

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

1. **Welcome and introductions ( 7:03):** Ann Wilson, Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) President, welcomed the members and guests in attendance.
2. **Guest Speaker**– **Captain Pat Donahue**, Commander of the 1st District, reported on criminal activity in the area.
   1. There has been some MS-13 gang activity in the area. An alert citizen noticed an encampment on the County line behind the Target Shopping Center and notified police. Fairfax and Arlington police worked together to remove the encampment. Additional MS-13 gang insignias have been spotted behind the Powhatan Skatepark. If anyone notices insignias or other evidence of gangs, please call the non-emergency police number (703-558-2222) to report it.
   2. Someone is stealing catalytic converters from cars in the middle of the night. This has happened 6-8 times in the First District. If you hear clanking noise in the middle of the night, alert the police.
   3. Report any graffiti to police at the non-emergency number. The faster graffiti is reported, the faster it can be removed.
3. **Guest Speaker - John Vihstadt** – Approx. 7:20 p.m. County Board member John Vihstadt had been invited to speak at our February meeting, but had a conflict so came to the June meeting instead. He had agreed to the June appearance in February, months before the controversial vote in May on Reevesland.
   1. **County-Wide Issues**
      1. He encouraged residents to apply to join one of Arlington’s 40 commissions. The applications are on line.
      2. For the 2016 budget, the County Board will have a new independent auditor reporting directly to it. The audit committee will include citizens.
      3. He encouraged our civic association to appoint representatives to serve on the Community Facilities Study, which meets every other Wednesday at Wakefield.
      4. The County is revisiting the proposed Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center to try to lower both the construction cost and the operating cost.
      5. The County is reexamining its Retail Action Plan to stimulate retail leasing at street level.
      6. He reported on the Affordable Housing Master Plan.
      7. The County hopes to expand its Toll-Free Fraud and Abuse hotline to accept calls from the public within 1 to 2 years. The hotline will have no tracing capability and no voice recognition capability.
      8. The County is in the process of re-envisioning the Courthouse area. They hope to move parking underground and transition to a town square feel.
      9. The County is exploring the purchase of roughly 6 acres at N. Quincy and Washington Blvd from Billy Buck for roughly $30 million. They are exploring uses for the site, including light industrial, affordable housing and parkland.
      10. Parking meter rates are rising $0.25 per hour and may extend to 8 p.m.
      11. Dog tag fees have not risen since 1986 because the County needs authorization from Richmond to raise the fees, but still most owners do not register their dogs. The tag fees help pay for dog parks.
      12. The County is focusing new resources on economic development.
   2. **Local Issues**
      1. Various access routes to Ashlawn are in the design phase and will be built or modified in the Spring to Fall of 2016 time frame.
      2. The Wilson restriping got off to a rough start due to a signal problem at Jefferson. The County has yet to consolidate bus stops along Wilson, which will improve traffic flow. They cannot extend the restriping to the County line until they allocate dollars to the project.
      3. He is trying to arrange a County/School Board joint meeting with the Community regarding Ashlawn.
      4. On Reevesland, he noted that there were no votes to spend the $2 to $2,5 million required to renovate the house and do all site work that would have been required to do what the Learning Center had wanted. He noted that, in hindsight, 24 hours notice to the Boulevard Manor community had been too little notice. He said that the County Board’s vote did not commit them to selling the house to a private individual but would permit sale to a non-profit. He said that the historic district overlay on the property prevented its development into McMansions. He encouraged residents to go to the County’s website to read the FAQs about Reevesland.
      5. Regarding the Powhatan Skatepark, he noted that cracks are appearing in the bowls. A group of adult skaters is trying to get the park repaired. No money exists in the budget for doing so at this time.
   3. **Questions & Answers (8:02)**
      1. He was asked if any other budget issue had brought as many supporters to the County Board meeting (130) as Reevesland had. JV said no, but that Animal Welfare League had more emails. JV repeated that the vote on the County Board had been 5-0 against Reevesland funding.
      2. Several people asked about Wilson restriping and noted that WAYZ is routing people through our neighborhood plus left turns onto Wilson are taking longer.
      3. He was asked about the land swap at Virginia Hospital Center and described the parcels at issue – VHC-owned property on Lee Highway and Carlin Springs Road for County-owned property across the street from VHC.
      4. He was asked about school capacity and siting issues. The County and School Boards are weighing adding seats at existing schools and building new schools.
      5. He was asked whether funding for Neighborhood Conservation programs will increase given the cost increases associated with new storm water management requirements. He couldn’t say for certain.
      6. He was asked about the crumbling concrete in sidewalks and at Ashlawn. He reported that the County and APS were investigating the cause of the problem;
      7. He completed answering questions at 8:50 p.m.
4. **Karl VanNewkirk, President of Arlington Historical Society** Mr. VanNewkirk reported that he had been contacted by Sandra Spear to inquire whether AHS would be interested in working to save the Reeves Farm property. He indicated that AHS was interested in exploring the idea.
5. **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).
   1. The balance as of June 22, 2015 was $9937.49.
6. **Standing Committee Reports:**
   1. Communications (Lee Dioso)

Always looking for stories for the newsletter.

* 1. Conservation and Beautification (Josh Handler).

Josh has been working with an arborist to get trees to plant along Rte 50. He has been given a $500 budget. He hopes to get them planted in the fall near the corner of frontage road and Nottingham/Montague.

* 1. Membership (Matt Smith)

BMCA has 200 members representing 109 households. Thirty percent pay by PayPal on the website. Donations for beautification are up. He also has rewritten the website using Wordpress.

* 1. Parks (Phil Klingelhofer).

Parks is working on invasive species removal at Powhatan Springs park. We are requesting a safe sidewalk from the bike path to Manchester at 4th Street as part of our Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

* 1. Safety (Chuck Norton)

Chuck wanted people to know that a catalytic converter can be cut from an SUV in seconds.

1. **Special Committees Reports:**
2. **New Business:**
   1. **Thanking for service**
      1. President, Ann Wilson
      2. Board Member, Phil Klingelhofer, N. 1st St
      3. Board Member, Matt Smith, N 3rd St
   2. **Election of Officers**: Tony Ermovick, Claudia Maloney, and Sandra Spear have nominated the following residents to serve as Officers, who were elected unanimously:
      1. President – Phil Klingelhofer, N. 1st St
      2. Vice President – Claudia Maloney, N. 8th Rd
      3. Secretary – Sandra Spear, N 6th St
      4. Treasurer - Rob Pilot, N 3rd St
   3. **Election of Board Members** (2015-2017 term) the following nominees were elected unanimously:
      1. John Eckrote, Wilson Blvd.
      2. Tamara Gelboin, N 6th St
      3. Josh Handler, N. Livingston St
      4. Molly Flynn Stevens, N 4th St
      5. Chuck Norton, N 2nd St
   4. **Continuing Board Members** (term ends June 2016):
      1. Courtney Collard-Meltzer, N 2nd St
      2. Tony Ermovick, N. 3rd. St
      3. Nicole Frost, N 5th Rd
      4. Sandy Horwitt, N 5th Rd
      5. Paul Sverel, N 3rd St.
3. **Upcoming Events**
   1. July 4th ice cream social, 7:30 pm, Arlington Church of the Brethren
   2. September 13, Annual Picnic, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m., Upton Hill Regional Park
   3. November 11, Veterans Day potluck dinner, 6:30 p.m., Arlington Community Church
4. **Conclusion.** Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

**Next BMCA General Meeting:** TBA

Respectfully submitted,

***Sandra Spear***  BMCA Secretary

**Attachments:**

1. BMCA Treasurer’s Report of June 22, 2015