

Bellevue Civic Association Winter Meeting
February 18, 2020 – Holton Elementary Library

The meeting began at approximately 6:30 pm.

- I. President, Bob Almond, called the meeting to order. Approximately 46 people were in attendance.
- II. **Minutes** - The minutes of our December 3, 2020 meeting were approved.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** - Zak Saul reported our bank account balance on hand as \$20,054.12. This amount includes PayPal but does not reflect pending payments for the newsletter printing or the Fauquier Patio project. Additionally, there are pending check deposits of \$892. Reserves are \$5,000.
- IV. **Third District Councilman's Report** – Chris Hilbert announced that this is the final year he will serve on City Council and thanked the BCA for maintaining one of the strongest associations in the city. Mr. Hilbert reported that he had voted against the Navy Hill project that was recently defeated by City Council. Some parts of the NH project were good and the City Council should evaluate them as independent projects. Mr. Hilbert reported that the Mayor's budget will be released on March 6th and he will not support any real estate tax rate increase. Questions from BCA members included a request for an update on paving for Westbrook and if the Mayor's new budget will propose a water or gas fee increases.
- V. **Crime Report Update** – Lt. Fleming, RPD – Lt. Fleming reported on crimes in Bellevue since January 1, 2020. Shop lifting at the CVS on Bellevue is at an all-time high. We have had (1) car break-in on Avondale and the RPD sees Bellevue as a hot spot for attempted thefts from cars. Groups of teenagers walk through the neighborhoods at night pulling car door handles on a regular basis. Of the 297 car break-ins that occurred in the city in 2019---276 of these cars were unlocked. Please lock your cars and keep valuables in the trunk, out of sight. (3) storage shed break-ins have occurred with criminals cutting shed locks during daylight hours. One person was arrested when trying to sell a generator and drill press to a Henrico pawn shop. Porch package theft is on the rise and the RPD has started a sign campaign to bring awareness to package theft. CVS and Walgreens have package delivery crates that can be utilized. Panhandlers are prevalent at major intersections in Bellevue. By law, panhandlers cannot block traffic, cannot block sidewalks, or be in the median. Members were asked to not give money to panhandlers. Lastly, speeding the neighborhood remains a problem and concern for the membership.
- VI. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Beautify Bellevue** - David Lydiard reported that work on the Fauquier Patio project is progressing smoothly. Currently he is working on a legal agreement between the BCA and the City. As soon as this is signed we will start work. Paver placement is expected to take ~ 11 days. Mulch day is coming up in on Saturday, April 4th (rain date April 18th). Volunteers to weed flower beds will start at 8:45 am and will be followed by mulchers at 9:45 am.
 - b. **Engagement & Outreach Committee**: Don Glazer announced the formation of a new committee that is forming to explore topics related to diversity, housing, and demographics in Northside. The ad hoc committee will work with other Northside civic associations to learn about the different neighborhoods across Northside and to identify opportunities to support and help neighbors in our communities. Any BCA members interested in joining this committee should contact Don.

- c. **Garden Walk:** Jo Murphy reminded members that the 2020 Garden Walk will be held on Sunday, April 26th from 1 to 5 PM. Please note the start and end times for the walk are new this year. 14 gardens south of Bellevue Avenue are featured this year. Artists will exhibit in 8-9 gardens and we expect a few gardens to have musicians. If you are interested in participating, please contact either Jill Krohn or Jo Murphy as soon as possible.
 - d. **Membership:** Joyce Foster reported that memberships (new and renewals) for 2020 are at 120. A Welcome Wagon subcommittee has recently formed to develop a packet of helpful information that will be given to newcomers as they settle into Bellevue. David Lydiard will provide the Welcome Wagon committee with a listing of addresses when houses are sold. The committee will use this list to contact and welcome new residents. Joyce is also working on creating a Volunteer Bank. Anyone interested in volunteering on any BCA committee should sign up with Joyce tonight when our membership meeting ends.
 - e. **Newsletter Ad Manager:** Bob Almond reported that our newsletter ad manager resigned today and asked for volunteers to contact him.
 - f. **Newsletter Edition:** Carrie Parker reported that the newsletter will be sent to the printer on 2/19 and we expect to start delivering it next weekend.
 - g. **Newsletter Design:** Justin Vaughn introduced himself to the membership as the person responsible for page layouts and design.
 - h. **Newsletter Distribution:** Barry Long has made initial contact with his delivery team. Barry will have the newsletters shipped to his home and will then deliver them to the delivery carriers. He is looking for a few more volunteers that can be called on as back-up carriers. Please see him after the meeting if you wish to volunteer.
 - i. **Sandwich Signs:** Paul Quel reported that he has one vacancy to fill.
 - j. **Security Patrol:** Jerry DeVoss requested more volunteers to assist with patrolling. Options are by car, bike, or walking. The commitment of time is 13 times per year or ~1 hour every 4 weeks. Please consider helping keep our community safe.
 - k. **Social Media:** Jami Bricker reported that she hopes to build a good social media presence for the BCA.
 - l. **Real Estate Update:** David reported that 62 home sold in 2019 in Bellevue and that the average price was 8% higher than in 2018. Currently, there are 4 active listings and 6 houses that are pending sale finalization.
 - m. **Membership Drawing:** was won by Lin Rasmussen.
- VII. **Unfinished Business: Westminster Canterbury Plans for 10 Acres of Old Azalea Mall:** Anita Adkins provided an update on constructions projects at WC. The Spiritual Center and walking trails will be complete by late summer. 10.6 acres of land were purchased in 2018 to build an additional 125 units, parking deck, and Fitness & Aquatics center. Road access will be built to enter the complex from Dumbarton Road. Staff, vendors and constructions vehicles will use the new entrance.
- VIII. **New Business – none.**
- IX. **Announcements/Open Discussions/Questions**
- a. Special Building Permit Announcement: Tom Hanraham, homeowner of 4206 Brook Road, informed the BCA of his plans to request a special building permit to enlarge a deck on his property. This was a courtesy announcement for neighbors.

- b. Third District City Council Candidate – Elaine Summerfield announced that she was running in November to fill the 3rd District Council seat that will open with Chris Hilbert’s departure from City Council. Elaine moved to Richmond in 2002, lives in Bellevue and has been active in non-profits organizations. She has provided both technical assistance and grant writing for non-profits. She is excited about continuing her journey of public service and hopes to be elected as our representative to City Council in the fall.
- c. Don Glazer announced that anyone interested in participating on a Richmond City Democratic Committee should see him after the meeting.
- d. Bob Almond announced that the BCA does not endorse any candidates but we do allow all candidates for office to address the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2020 at the Holton Elementary School library.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Margaret Hutchison, Secretary*