

Bellevue Civic Association Summer Meeting

August 18, 2020 – Virtual via Zoom

The Zoom connection was opened at 6:00 pm to allow members ample time to connect.

The meeting began at approximately 6:34 pm.

- I. **Call to Order** - President, Zak Saul, called the meeting to order. Attendance numbers varied during the meeting from a high of 58 connections to 43 members when the meeting adjourned.
- II. **Minutes** - The minutes of our February 18, 2020 meeting were approved. Our May meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions on social gathering size.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** - Zak Saul reported our bank account balance on hand as \$22,870 in checking, and \$268 in PayPal. Reserves are at \$5,000. These amounts do not reflect pending payments for the newsletter printing, the Fauquier Patio project, Security Patrol reimbursements or Bellevue Tree replenishment voted on by the membership during the meeting.
- IV. **Crime Report Update** – The RPD could not join our meeting. David Lydiard reported that Lt. Fleming was reassigned to work the downtown district in June but will be back in our precinct by October. David then shared statics on in our area. There have been 2 burglaries North of Bellevue this year; 2 robberies of Bellevue merchants; 8 vehicle break-ins; and 1 vehicle theft.
- V. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Membership** – Joyce Foster reported that our membership drive that started in July was successful and will be repeated in the spring of 2021. The drive encouraged 123 new households to join the BCA. We currently have ~300 members. Joyce also reported that the Welcome Wagon committee delivered it first set of bags last week. Joyce requested volunteers for future Welcome Wagon bag assembly to contact her via email.
 - b. **Garden Walk** - Jill Krohn reported that the Garden Walk has been rescheduled to Sunday, September 20th from 1 to 4 PM. Please note the start and end times for the walk are new this year and that restrictions including mask requirements and the number of people entering gardens will be mandatory. The committee will distribute a flyer prior to the Garden Walk.
 - c. **Newsletter Edition**: Carrie Parker (Editor) and Justin Vaughn (Design Layout) were not able to attend the meeting. Zak Saul reported that the newsletter delivered this week missed a few advertisements. BCA will extend a credit to these advertisers. This issue was a little thin on articles and members were encouraged to write articles on topics of interest and send them to the editor for consideration.
 - d. **Sandwich Signs**: No report.
 - e. **Security Patrol**: Jerry DeVoss requested more volunteers to assist with patrolling. Options are by car, bike, or walking. Due to COVID-19 most patrols are currently being done by bikers and walkers. For those that drive a patrol, Jerry assured the membership that lights and signs are wiped down before and after use. The commitment of time is 13 times per year or ~1 hour every 4 weeks. Please consider helping keep our community safe.
 - f. **Hospitality**: No report. Zak Saul joking asked Holly Wilson, our Hospitality volunteer, if she could come up with a way to serve “virtual pizza” for future Zoom meetings.
 - g. **Beautify Bellevue** - David Lydiard reported that the “Meet & Mulch Day” was postponed due to COMVI-19. There is no firm future date at this point but he hopes to reschedule in the fall. David currently has 4 volunteers for this event and needs to increase this number to 12. Volunteers are divided into 2 crews: one that weeds flower beds and the

other that comes behind them and adds mulch. David also reported on the Keep Bellevue Green initiative. In 2017 the BCA adopted 80 trees and individual residents adopted 30 trees for Keep Bellevue Green. This project targeted the replacement of trees lost to storm damage and disease. At the time of the 2017 project Bellevue had 150 empty tree wells from large trees lost in our canopy. He also directed the membership to our Facebook page and the Identify Capital Trees link for a map of empty tree wells. Members expressed concern that tree recipients don't always water trees and asked the BCA to consider ways to not plant trees if the household is unable or unwilling to water. David asked for volunteers to map out Bellevue streets for empty tree wells. He proposed that the BCA adopt another 80 trees this year at a cost of \$4,000 as follow up to our discussion of adding trees during our February 18, 2020 membership meeting. The membership voted and approved this expenditure.

- h. **Newsletter Distribution:** Barry Long reported his distribution team has 3 new volunteers and all routes are currently covered. He is looking for a few more volunteers that can be called on as back-up carriers. Please contact him after the meeting if you wish to volunteer.
- i. **Engagement & Outreach Committee:** No report. Don Glazer reported that the committee is trying to organize and intends to reach out to other Civic Associations to determine if there are joint efforts, for example blood drives, that can be coordinated together. Don wants to build relationships with other associations. Any BCA member interested in joining this committee should contact Don.
- j. **Social Media:** No report. Jami Bricker encouraged the membership to use our Instagram account.
- k. **Real Estate Update:** David reported that 44 homes have sold since January; 14 houses are under contract and 2 are in active status. Average contract prices are 1.02 times greater than the listing price in this Seller's Market.
- l. **Membership Drawing:** was won by Jonathan & Cammie Ashworth.

VI. **Ongoing Business**

- a. **Bellevue & Fauquier Project:** David Lydiard reported that the final stamp of approval from the city's Urban Design committee will be provided on September 18th and work will begin shortly thereafter. Paver stones and materials have been selected.

VII. **New Business**

- a. **Changes to Board:** Zak Saul announced changes to the board due to board member resignations in July. For the remainder of 2020 the Board of Directors is as follows:
 - Zak Saul, President
 - David Lydiard, Vice President
 - Treasurer, Angie Warner
 - Secretary, Margaret Hutchison
- b. **Nominating Committee:** Zak Saul reported that a Nominating Committee has formed to determine the slate of officers to be presented to the membership at our November meeting for election to serve the BCA in 2021. Please contact Margaret Hutchison if you are interested in serving on the board.
- c. **AP Hill Statue Statement:** Zak Saul reported that he appointed a committee to draft a statement on the AP Hill Statue removal in response to a recent membership survey. Committee members included Liz Pettit, Chuck Epes, Lin Rasmussen, and Margaret Hutchison. The committee statement was presented on our Zoom meeting and on a

website. Members could vote to accept or reject the statement during the meeting, by email, or on www.bellevuerva.org. Voting will closed by end of day, Wednesday, August 19th. The statement is as follows:

The Bellevue Civic Association requests the Mayor and the City Council of Richmond remove the A.P. Hill statue, pedestal, and interred remains as expeditiously as possible. In making this request, the BCA joins the Hermitage Road Historic District and the Historic Brookland Park Collective in recognizing the statue perpetuates beliefs offensive to many in our community. Additionally the BCA requests that a redesign of this hazardous intersection occur to improve safety for the users.

If the voting outcome supports a release of this statement, our Social Media chairperson will post it on our social media accounts.

VIII. Announcements/Open Discussions/Questions

- a. BCA member Brooke Ullman suggested the BCA organize an informal Bellevue Walk Around in October when the weather is cooler that features porch musicians. Brooke will work with Don Glazer on this event and report details to the board.
- b. Brooke Ullman also asked if anyone in the meeting knew if it would be feasible to close MacArthur to traffic so that restaurants can expand outside seating. Liz Petit reported that the city had considered closing some streets for this purpose but backed off the initiative because it was largely biased in favor of more privileged neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2020. Location to be determined but Zoom is a viable option.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Margaret Hutchison, Secretary*