

Bellevue Civic Association Fall Meeting
February 15, 2022 — Zoom Meeting

The meeting began at approximately 6:30 pm.

- I. Vice President Tim Pfohl called the meeting to order. Approximately 56 people were in attendance.
- II. **Minutes** - The minutes of the November 2021 BCA meeting were approved.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** - Current balance of \$15,810 in checking, \$9,350 in mural fund.
- IV. **City Tax Assessor Presentation** - Ben Barber from the Engagement Committee introduced Richie McKeithen. Richie shared that assessments are, by law, done at an annual basis at 100% of market value in a fair and equitable manner. Assessments are analyzed based on sales in each neighborhood, which throughout Richmond are running at a robust pace. Property size and condition are taken into account. Residents can look over their notice and set up a first-level review by the end of December of each calendar year. Disabled veterans can apply to be exempt from property taxes and there is a senior citizens tax release program. Henrico and Chesterfield also assess at 100% of market value. Seniors interested in the tax relief program can call 646-5195 to speak with Valerie Weatherless. Ben followed Richie's presentation by sharing details on the Fiscal Year 2022 Adopted General Fund Revenue. The general fund is the money not already appropriated by law, and is where decisions are made. General property taxes make up roughly half of the revenue that the city has to appropriate. Real estate property taxes fund a tremendous amount of the city's activities. Funds go to education, public works, public safety, community development, and other public services.
- V. **MacArthur Avenue Mural Effort** - Aliza Sterling (owner, True North) has been fundraising for a mural project on MacArthur Avenue since early 2020. Nico Cathcart is a local mural artist secured for the project. The 2019 Board made a \$200 commitment to the mural project, and the current Board made a motion at the meeting to make an additional \$1300 commitment to the project. The membership approved the motion to fund.
- VI. **Garden Walk and Porchella Budget Proposals** - The Garden Walk budget request was for \$740 and the Porchella budget request was for \$3900. The membership approved motions for both the Garden Walk and Porchella budgets.
- VII. **Scottish Rite Building (4204 Hermitage Rd)** - The Scottish Rite owners have a tentative contract for purchase with Virginia Repertory Theater, who will require a special use permit to offer arts and cultural programming within the space. The BCA Board expressed a desire to write a letter to the Virginia Planning Commission expressing support for the special use permit. The membership approved a motion for the BCA Board to write the letter of support.
- VIII. **Committee Updates**
 - A. Beautify Bellevue- David Lydiard spoke about the upcoming Meet & Mulch event, which is timed around the Garden Walk. The event is tentatively scheduled for April 16. Volunteers should email David at beautifybellevue@bellevueweb.org.
 - B. Traffic Calming - Anyone interested in joining a group dedicated to reviewing traffic data for the neighborhood and formulating recommendations for review should email traffic@bellevueweb.org. Members discussed traffic calming techniques and potentially engaging groups such as BikeWalkRVA to learn about creating safer traffic infrastructures.
 - C. Garden Walk - The Garden Walk is taking place on May 15 and there will once again be artist collaboration as part of the Garden Walk.
 - D. Membership - Joyce Foster shared that the 2022 Membership Drive has begun. The membership goal is 600 members. Interested neighbors can join at bellevueweb.org and pay with PayPal or mail in the form printed in the Bellevue Times. The Welcome Wagon needs a new volunteer manager and anyone interested can email membership@bellevueweb.org.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.