

**Bellevue Civic Association Spring Meeting**  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Battery Park Christian Church

- I. President Jerry DeVoss called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Approximately 46 people were in attendance.
- II. Minutes from the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 will be submitted for approval at our August meeting along with the minutes of tonight's meeting.
- III. Angie Warner, Treasurer, reported that the BCA has a current checking balance of \$14,864.55 and a balance of \$9,480.76 in the mural fund saving account.
- IV. Third District Councilmember, Ann-Francis Lambert, provided updates from City Council. The City budget was approved last week and includes raises for all our police and firefighters. It is hoped that the increase in salaries will make the city a top tier employment destination. Ms. Lambert urged BCA members to assist the RCPD in identifying crime "hot spots" and to report suspicious activity or gun shots. The A.P. Hill statue is approved to come down in the near future. A committee will be formed to review designs for this intersection. Virginia recently authorized localities to begin using photo speed enforcement in school and construction zones. BCA members who would like this to extend to residential areas should lobby our legislatures.
- V. Lt. Fleming, Richmond City Police Department, reported that a speed trailer has been placed on Brook Road and Laburnum. Members were asked to call the RCPD non-emergency number if anything at all that looks suspicious. Members were also asked to report street light outages and any street lights that are blocked by tree limbs. Proper lighting helps deter crime. Car break-ins and theft of catalytic converters continue to be problems. An arrest was made last week on Seminary Avenue during a car break in.
- VI. Clint Shettle, Pesticide Enforcement Supervisor for the VA Dept. of Agriculture was invited by the Beautify Bellevue committee to give a presentation on the impact of pesticides on the environment. Ron Stilwell, a local beekeeper, augmented the presentation with insights on how pesticides effect honeybee populations.
- VII. Committee Reports
  - a. **Mural Committee:** Elaine Summerfield reported the mural project has raised approximately \$10,000. The project has met a delay and painting cannot begin until brick work repair by the building owner is completed. Ed Trask, our mural artist, submitted designs to the committee and is revising his design based on committee recommendations.
  - b. **Engagement & Outreach:** Elaine Summerfield reported that Jason May, Richmond Budget Director will discuss the City Budget Process at our next meeting.
  - c. **Beautify Bellevue:** David Lydiard reported that our April Meet & Mulch event had only two volunteers. Because it has been difficult rallying volunteer manpower the

past couple of years, David will ask 3<sup>rd</sup> Party companies to provide quotes to mulch our main common areas twice a year. David will provide quotes to the board and hopes to come with a recommendation at the August membership meeting. There are currently 18 streetlights out in Bellevue that were reported in October 2021. Members were asked to “Up Vote” repair of specific Bellevue light outages on the RVA311 website. More votes drive a faster response from the city. David also urged the membership to water newly planted trees. Help save our investment in the Bellevue canopy!

- d. **Garden Walk:** Patty Fogg reported that our 32<sup>nd</sup> Garden Walk on Sunday, May 15, 2022 was successful. It featured 15 gardens and 8 local artists.
- e. **Porchella:** Rob McAdams thanked the volunteers who helped make this spring’s Porchella a big success. Members were asked to complete a survey on the event and offer feedback and ideas for the fall Porchella. The survey can be found on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/bellevuerva](https://facebook.com/bellevuerva)).
- f. **Membership:** Joyce Foster reported that there are currently 352 BCA members against our goal of 600 households. Volunteers are needed for the Membership Committee’s multiple initiatives: Welcome Wagon, Volunteer Bank, Bellevue Brochure, etc.
- g. **Newsletter Distribution:** Barry Long reported that the newsletter delivery for this quarter is complete and thanked his group of seasoned volunteers for their efforts in getting the publication distributed.
- h. **Traffic Report:** David Lydiard reported that he and co-chair Margaret Pfohl and their committee have been working to address traffic concerns in Bellevue. The City has said “No” to requests for flashing lights at Laburnum and MacArthur, and to a request for left hand turn lanes on Laburnum due to lack of funding. They were successful in gaining approval for a new stop light and Pedestrian Crosswalk at Monticello and Laburnum. The crosswalk will have push button light activation and a digital timer. Installation of this crossing improvement will hopefully begin construction by October 2022. Laburnum between Brook and Hermitage will be widened by 18 inches on each side of the median strip (for a total of 36 inches) to provide regulation size parking lanes on Laburnum. Construction on this project is expected to begin in 2024. Plans to install “No Parking” signs flanking alley entrances on MacArthur are in the works because people exiting alleys have limited visibility.
- i. **Real Estate Report:** David Lydiard reported, as of May 17<sup>th</sup>, that there were no homes actively for sale in Bellevue. 11 homes have sold in Bellevue in the last 90 days.
- j. **Security Patrol:** Jerry DeVoss reported that we are in need of volunteers. We currently have only 15 teams.

#### VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Nominating Committee:** Jerry Devoss asked for volunteers to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee. A slate of officers will be presented at our August meeting and will be voted on at our November meeting. Jo Murphy volunteered to serve on the committee. Please contact Jerry at [president@bellevueweb.org](mailto:president@bellevueweb.org) if you will help

canvass for 2023 officers or want to be considered for an office. All current Officers have reached their limit for serving in their respective positions.

IX. **New Business:** None.

X. **Community Announcements:**

- a. The Plant Swap will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 – 11:30 AM in the Once Upon A Vine parking lot.

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm*

*Respectfully submitted by Margaret Hutchison*