

Bellevue Civic Association Spring Meeting
August 27, 2019 – Ginter Park Library

The meeting began at approximately 6:30 pm.

- I. President, David Lydiard, called the meeting to order. Approximately 45 people were in attendance.
- II. The minutes of our May 21, 2019 meeting were approved.
- III. Matt Howells, Treasurer, reported our banking account at \$19,660.47.

IV. Speakers:

- a. **Kenny Horak, Paving Manager for Richmond City** – Mr. Horak provided an update on road paving for Bellevue. Paving will begin in October and will follow DPU gas work completion. All roads on the list will be milled and paved due to extensive trenching for the new gas lines. Normally, local streets only get a heat and slurry seal. A list of 21 streets was distributed to the membership. Any streets paved within the last 4 years are not included on the list and no additional streets will be added before July 2020. No streets will be closed during the paving project; however, alternate lanes will be closed as the streets are milled and paved. One member asked why MacArthur Avenue was not on the list. This street has a high crown, poor drainage, and lots of delivery truck traffic. A request was made for a street core test to be done on MacArthur. Another member reported that the 3900 block of Fauquier Avenue was missed in the paving work that was done on Fauquier last year. Mr. Horak will inspect this section and determine if it should be added to the list. Several members reported smelling gas often at the corner of Bellevue & Fauquier and at Fauquier and Claremont. Torrence Robinson, Deputy Director of Operations joined the later part of the discussion and reported that his department maintains 2400 miles of roads in the city.
- b. **Chris Hilbert, 3rd District Councilman's Report** – Mr. Hilbert reported that the bulk of the City's \$15 million dollar surplus came from expense reductions. The Council is currently reviewing ~ 900 pages of ordinances associated with the stadium deal. He personally voted against adding a referendum on the November ballot because the Council is paid to conduct reviews on behalf of the public and should not pass the burden of this review process onto the public. Central questions that need to be answered are: Can a city the size of Richmond support a coliseum that holds 17,000 seats? What is the estimated life of this coliseum if we build it? And what will it cost per year to keep this building properly maintained? This is a \$1.5 billion project and taxpayers will owe \$350 million over the next 30 years. The membership was encouraged to attend a meeting at 6:00 PM on 8/29/19 at the Police Academy to discuss this development. Chris also reported that the Bike Lane on Brook will likely be completed in the spring of 2020 due to gas line installation work that is still in progress. Gas work must complete before the Bike Lane work can begin.
- c. **Sgt. Misiano, RPD Neighborhood Crime Report** – Sgt. Misiano reported a 25% increase in larceny in Bellevue. Shoplifting increased this quarter from 2 to 3 incidents and there were 2 thefts from UNLOCKED cars. Members requested the police reinstate the speed monitoring signs and reported that Amazon vans drivers are speeding throughout the neighborhood but especially so on Laburnum. Sgt. Misiano reminded us to be sure to call in speeding complaints because the number of complaints drives the location of speed traps.

III. Committee Updates

- a. **Membership Update:** Joyce Foster reported that membership is currently at 275 with 2 new members joining tonight. Joyce is setting up a Volunteer Bank for members that want to participate in activities on an ad hoc basis. A Volunteer Bank notebook will be available at membership meetings. Please fill out your contact information if you are interested. Requests for Hospitality Pizza/Drinks/Supply pick up was an example of this type of service. 4 members volunteered to cover the next 4 meetings: Chuck Mayhugh, Holly Wilson, Janet Forte, Barry Long, and Breanna Detwiler. The Membership Drawing was won by Leslie Ellis.
- b. **Garden Walk:** Jo Murphy's Garden Walk committee report was a request for a donation of \$1,000 from the BCA to fund a party for past and present Garden Walk participants. The Gardening Committee has not been successful in finding someone to chair the committee for our spring 2020 event and hopes that a party will energize the gardening community. Jo expects the event will include 75- 125 people that have participated over the past 30 years (garden hosts, artists, musicians, and committee members). The committee wanted the membership to vote at the meeting on this request, but per BCA bylaws, requests from committees need to be presented to the board for consideration as a first step. The board had offered the Garden Committee \$250 in July toward this event and had not received a reply to this offer from the committee prior to the August membership meeting request.
- c. **Newsletter Editor:** Joe Sanderson / Justin Vaughn. No report.
- d. **Sandwich Signs:** Paul Quel. No report.
- e. **Security Patrol:** Jerry DeVoss requested more volunteers to assist with patrolling. Options are by car, bike, or walking. The commitment of time is ~1 hour per month. Please consider helping keep our community safe.
- f. **Volunteers Needed:** David Lydiard asked for volunteers to fill open positions:
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Hospitality Coordinator – 4 members volunteered during the meeting to assist with pizza delivery.
 - Beautify Bellevue
 - Newsletter Distribution Coordinator

IV. New Business

- a. Joyce Foster requested reimbursement of \$592 for Membership Committee expenses submitted to the Board that covered a 6 year span. Our by-laws do not allow the board to fund items over \$500 without a vote by the membership. The Board was opposed to honoring this request because guidelines are in place for committees to submit expenses annually and payment- in-arrears is not a sound business practice. The membership voted to allow the payment and asked that we change our by-laws to clearly state time limits for reimbursements.
- b. David proposed a vote on two projects that have been discussed with the membership since February 2019. A motion was made to defer the vote on both projects until our 4th quarter membership meeting. A request was made to provide written, line-item cost estimates so the membership can make a more informed decision.
 - Project #1: Create a hardscape patio area with a bench at the corner of Fauquier and Bellevue. Estimates obtained from two contractors came in at \$7,000. The area would provide a low wall for seating and 2-3 benches so

that walkers could have a gathering/rest area. The city has approved this work.

- Project #2: Create a sand volleyball court with picnic tables at Holton Elementary School. This project has approval from the school board and is covered by our current insurance policy. This project is estimated to cost \$7,500 if all work is contracted. With volunteers, the cost would be lower.
- **Community Announcements** – none.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2019. The location of the Membership Meeting has not been finalized and will be communicated by social media and with the sandwich signs.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Margaret Hutchison, Secretary*