

**Bellevue Civic Association**  
**Q3 membership meeting – August 15, 2023**  
Battery Park Christian Church Fellowship Hall and streaming on Zoom

*The meeting began at approximately 6:30pm.*

**I.** President Tim Pfohl called the meeting to order. Approximately 38 people were in attendance. Participants also joined the meeting via the Zoom option.

**II.** Minutes- The minutes of the May 16, 2023 BCA meeting were approved.

**III.** Treasurer's Report- Paul Wilson reported balances as follows: Checking \$6935.87; Savings \$9925.93; PayPal \$1276.75; Cash \$0.00. Total Cash/Assets \$18,138.55. Liabilities were reported as follows: Reserve Fund \$5000.00; Mural Fund \$9877.19. Total Liabilities are \$14,877.19. Available funds are \$3261.36. **Note: The Savings account is the Mural Fund.**

**IV.** The Honorable Betsy Carr, current member of Virginia House of Delegates, candidate for 78<sup>th</sup> District. After redistricting, Ms. Carr will be representing our district & is running unopposed. Ms. Carr is on the Appropriations Committee & is on the sub-Committee for Health. Ms. Carr made it clear that she wanted to hear from her constituents in her district. Education, environment & housing are areas that she pays attention to in her representation. She encouraged folks to contact her if they had ideas about potential legislation for the upcoming 2024 General Assembly session. If interested, you can sign up for her newsletter by contacting her email [delegate.carr@betsycarr.org](mailto:delegate.carr@betsycarr.org). Her cell phone is (804) 986-6852.

**V.** Mr. Gary Lindsay, the new Principal of Holton Elementary School, spoke briefly. He also introduced his Asst Principal, Dr. Burwell. Bellevue residents are encouraged to reach out to the school if they are interested. One of the goals Mr. Lindsay stated is to increase the involvement of the community this year. There was a brief discussion regarding traffic and pedestrians around the Holton area. Mr. Lindsay said the school enrollment is 500 and there are only 4 buses. The majority of Holton students either walk or arrive by car, making pedestrian safety an ongoing issue and priority.

**VI.** Lt Brian Robinson from the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct spoke in the place of Lt. Robert Fleming. Crime is down, on average, in our area. Hyundai & Kia issues continue with key fob start vehicles. If you come to the precinct, they will provide you a Club to help protect your property. He also encouraged folks to contact their dealerships. Catalytic convertor theft is down in Bellevue. He did note it continues to be an ongoing issue in Scott's Addition. An issue was raised regarding the speeding on Bellevue Ave. Lt. Robinson noted that there is an uptick in the lack of conforming to current traffic laws in the City overall.

## VII. Committee Reports

**-Garden Walk-** Patti Fogg reported on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Garden walk. She indicated the turnout was good. She expressed appreciation to all the yards who participated and to the Garden Walk Committee. Rock painting was a new activity and was well received. She reported they came in under budget- Westminster Canterbury provides good financial & in-kind support. **Patti noted that the Committee needs new members & they are also in need of a new Chair for the Committee.**

**-Membership Update-** Jodi Teitelman, Co-chair. We got about 11 new members at National Night Out, pulling our membership up to over 200 homes. Our next meeting, we will be electing new officers & only members in good standing can vote- please check to ensure that you are a member. As of now, membership is \$15.

We are proposing after many years that we raise the membership fees to \$25 effective 2024. We are providing notice that we will be discussing this change at the November 2023 meeting. Since that affects the by-laws, we will be voting on this at the November meeting. A resident asked about the rationale for raising the dues- this person stated we seem to always have available funds. Jodi noted that BCA supports & sponsors many civic and community events. Tim noted that Porchella dropping back to 1 time yearly has decreased the merch sales & they will need more BCA support. We have not planted any trees for at least 2 years for a variety of reasons. We will detail all the BCA is involved in supporting & sponsoring, as well as providing a clearer rationale at the November meeting.

**-Traffic –** Margaret Pfohl & David Lydiard reported on the following projects:

There is a new speed bump on Claremont coming from Hermitage.

There is now an illuminated No Left Turn at Hermitage & Laburnum. We are contacting the various city officials to determine the plans for that intersection. It is hoped that turn lanes can be installed.

We are waiting on DPW to put a mobile speed feedback sign between Lamont & Newport, on Bellevue Avenue, heading west. We are requesting that one also be installed heading east.

DPW rejected a speed table on Bellevue b/c the Fire Dept opposes it.

Approval for a Stop sign at Fauquier & Nottoway- no date on delivery.

Sidewalks – we have not been successful in obtaining the link for the timetable of sidewalk repair/replacement despite repeated requests.

Enhanced speed zone on Laburnum- we are still waiting for the signs.

Continuing to work on extending the school zone around Holton.

Speed cameras have moved to procurement.

Everyone is reminded to go to 311 to make requests of the city. It is also encouraged to upvote requests. The link is [www.rva311.com](http://www.rva311.com) and there is also an app for mobile use.

Tim reminded us that Councilwoman Anne Lambert is also a resource for us- let her know your concerns & interests.

**-Beautify Bellevue-** David met with DPW re Adopt A Tree program & was assured that we would have information by August 2023 meeting- we have not heard back. There are still multiple vacancies affecting the administration of this program.

David reminded Bellevue residents that if you want to plant a tree in the grass median in front of your house you can do that. All you need is a permit form an arborist. Contact David for more information. Volunteers continue to be needed for Beautify Bellevue.

We need volunteers for the **Richmond Marathon Pope Avenue water stop**. The marathon is scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**-Social Media/Communications:** Shari Parego. The website has been updated.

**-Security Patrol-** Volunteers needed. Jerry says he has about 2 people.

**-Halloween Monster Mash-** We have secured Once Upon A Vine for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Halloween Monster Mash, to be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kristin Tam has agreed to take over the Committee.

### **Other Business & Announcements**

**Real estate report** – Bellevue continues to be robust in sales. All but 2 of the houses sold in the last 3 months have been above \$500,000.

**RVA Connect Survey.** RVAconnect.com. We are Area 1. BCA encourages folks to look at the survey and have their priorities heard.

**Update on Fall Line Trail.** Sections of the Fall Line Trail for the City of Richmond have been broken into segments. There has been no funding or detailed design work re: the Bryan Park/Hermitage Road segment. This section will probably be designed/funded/discussed about 2025.

Tim noted that he is frequently contacted by local organizations to share announcements. Here are a few that may be of general interest.

**FeedMore** is in dire need of additional volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels.

<https://feedmore.org/get-involved/individuals/volunteer>.

**Richmond Tree Stewards'** fall training classes are open. Cost is \$150.

<https://richmondtreestewards.org/class-application-2023>.

**Historic Richmond's Golden Hammer Award** nominations for outstanding historic preservation projects are due Sept 10. <https://historicrichmond.com/goldenhammerawards2023>.

**Richmond CASA's** fall training begins Sept 26 for volunteers who can serve as advocates for abused or neglected children in the court system. Sarah Keel Crews at (804) 646-5184 or [www.volunteer@grscan.com](mailto:www.volunteer@grscan.com).

As a general reminder, BCA and the committees that support our events are always in need of volunteers. Please let us know if you interest in volunteering with BCA.

As always, please feel free to reach out to BCA Board members for any questions or concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.