

BC7RC Meeting  
August 15, 2017

BC7RC Board Members in Attendance:

Ben Cooper  
Michael Mugaas  
Paul Mulligan  
Joe Sirni  
Nancy Vorona  
Laura Baker

The meeting opened at 7:32 p.m. Nancy welcome everyone and indicated that the meeting was co-hosted by BC7RC and the Mason District Council (MDC). Board members and other attendees introduced themselves. MDC officers present were Debbie Smith, Carol Turner, and Jon Clark.

**Reports**

Membership: Michael explained the two categories of membership, invited new members, and indicated that membership brochures were adjacent to the sign in sheet and that the correct zip code for BC7RC's PO Box is 22041.

Treasurer – Michael provided the balances in the savings and checking accounts and said that BC7RC had 1) received two memberships and 2) had not had expenses in the past 60 days. He also briefly reviewed a proposal from Board member Ozzy Jimenez for a payment portal proposal. Using PayPal, the portal would allow businesses and individuals to easily sign up as members and/or donate to BC7RC. The portal also would collect member contact information, making it easier to broadcast emails and news. He hopes to have details to bring to the board in Sept. for a vote. Covering the cost requires approximately 10 new business memberships, or 40 new individual members.

OCR: Laura Baker – OCR Revitalization Program Manager JoAnne Fiebe is helping update urban design guidelines and would like to present at BC7RC's October meeting. We should let Laura know as soon as possible if this is possible. Laura will check and report on the status of action items uncovered during the June maintenance walk through. She indicated that the Imagine Art Here project for 7C, by the Bank of America, is close to making a selection. BC7RC could invite the Arts Council to present to BC7RC.

**Sign Ordinance Presentation: Dept. of Planning and Zoning.**

Andrew Hushour, Deputy Zoning Administrator, and Leslie Johnson, Zoning Administrator, explained that Fairfax County is updating its sign ordinance in response to the 2015 Supreme Court decision (Reed vs. Town of Gilbert) and focused on the legal aspects of the revision. They also provided information about some changes as well as next steps; next steps will include policy-related changes to the ordinance. Andrew's presentation will be available and posted on BC7RC's website.

The Supreme Court decision is changing how governments regulate signage. Reed v. Gilbert specifically addressed non-commercial speech. However, Fairfax County and some other jurisdictions are extending the changes to commercial speech. It believes that other cases may indicate that the ruling applies to commercial speech.

The County is also proceeding with a zoning ordinance modification project and is seeking a consultant to help with revising and reformatting certain ordinances, and examining best practices. Stage of the sign ordinance: goal is to have this in place in 2019.

DPZ will present to the BoS in October; land use committee meetings and community and other stakeholder meetings will be scheduled in the meantime. Attendees encouraged DPZ to engage the public sooner rather than later.

Attendees questioned the plan to start with high (and, it is likely, unenforceable) timeframes for allowing signs. Proposed timeframes were higher than at present.

The group also thought it would be a good idea to send Leslie and Andrew examples of best practices, including those of local jurisdictions. Another suggestion was that future presentations include an attorney / a more thorough explanation of the content based decision and why the county is changing non-commercial and commercial sign ordinances at one time.

The group also thought the forthcoming I66 HOT lands might exacerbate traffic on parallel roads, including the Seven Corners intersection and Route 50. They agreed it would be a good idea to invite transportation officials to discuss the I66 HOT lanes, particularly the potential impact on and monitoring of impact in BC7RC's footprint.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.