**DRAFT**

**Boyds Civic Association**

**October 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** BCA President Dan Seamans called the Boyds Civic Association (BCA) to order at

7:31 pm. Twelve (12) people were present.

**Minutes** (Maggie Bartlett)**:** Minutes from the July 20, 2023 meeting were approved (some edits by Dan Seamans).

**Treasurer’s Report** (Elena Shuvalov): Treasurer’s report was presented and approved. Funds total $13,543.63.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**∙ Boyds Transit Center** (Dan Seamans): MCDOT’s design plan is 95% completed. The Hoyles Mill building is to remain as a significant historic feature, per the Historic Preservation Commission’s review. It is in need of repairs. The other buildings are to be torn down. There is no timeline as of yet. The pedestrian underpass near the train platform needs repairs and upgrading. It is owned and maintained by CSX. MCDOT might renovate, but it will need CSX to approve. Chris Arndt will follow up on the underpass.

**∙ Bucklodge Industrial Plan:** The June public hearing was postponed. Neighbors adjacent to the Bucklodge stream were notified on October 14th of a November 4th hearing. This 3-week response time was too short and the hearing was moved to December 7, 2023. One concern is the effect of storm water on the stream. Mike Rubin is one the land owners (2,000 acres) who’s property is effected by runoff from the built-out project. He is following this issue and has been contacted by BCA.

**∙ Little Free Library** (Dan Seamans): The Boyds Country Store has offered to host the little library and does not need a post on which to install the little library. Chris Arndt presented this information at the July meeting and funds were approved then.

**MOTION**: The Boyds Civic Association approved the motion to pay for the purchase of the little free library unit for $419.95 plus shipping and handling.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**∙ WUMCO Help, Inc.** (Katie Longbrake): WUMCO stands for Western Upper Montgomery County and provides residents in Boyds, Barnesville, Poolesville, and Dickerson with food items, emergency assistance for medical bills, household finances, and food expenses. WUMCO also hosts and/or participates in health fairs and dental clinics. WUMCO is currently looking for a part-time Resource Manager.

**∙ Schaeffer Road Bridge** (Dan Seamans): MCDOT wants to widen the bridge, but both BCA and BHS sent a letter wanting to preserve the historic features of the bridge. The Maryland Historic Trust has designated the bridge eligible for registration on the National Historic Trust due to its age and historic features. Public testimony was extended to October 27. The September 6 MCDOT presentation can be viewed at:

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/Schaeffer-Rd-Bridge/index.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/Schaeffer-Rd-Bridge/index.html)

**MOTION (passed)**: The Boyds Civic Association will submit the following testimony for the October 27 Hearing:

1. The bridge retain its one-lane width.
2. The parapet posts (“balusters”) connected by round metal railings should be retained in style and dimensions to closely resemble these existing features.
3. The need for a barrier guard rail to meet safety standards should be designed to be visually as unobstrusive as possible, so as not to introduce a modern feature that conflicts substantially with the historic features to be retained.
4. Should #3 not be achievable, is it possible to use a “W” steel barrier railing inside the retained parapet posts that would provide current safety standards? Would a double thickness “W” barrier meet current safety standards? (Is there a crash test of a double thickness “W” barrier that has been conducted and available from a national data base?)

**∙ Nominating Committee for 2024 BCA Officers** (Dan Seamans): Dan will write an email to the BCA looking for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Maggie will send that email out to the membership. Dan Seamans has offered to continue to serve as the president, Addi Davis offered to continue as an officer is some capacity. Elena Shuvalov wants to resign as treasurer, and Maggie Bartlett will not be continuing as secretary.

**∙ Clarksburg Gateway Center Sector Plan** **(Dan Seamans**): There have already been four public meetings with another one yet to come. Plans include the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to run along Rt. 355; and a possible new exchange off I-270.

**∙ Comsat Building** (Dan Seamans): This building has historic significance because the architect (Cesar Pelli) is now famous. The Boyds Historical Society has submitted a letter to designate it as historic.

**∙ White Ground Rd. Repairs** (Martha Aiken): The repairs to White Ground Rd. do not go wide enough to cover the existing holes along the edges. Members suggested she call 311 (already done) and to get in touch with our MD state representative Marilyn Balcombe (also already done).

**Next BCA meeting:** January 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

**MOTION to adjourn was passed unanimously at 9:15 pm.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Maggie Bartlett, Secretary, Boyds Civic Association and finalized by Dan Seamans, President, Boyds Civic Association.*

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