

Meeting of the Woodley Park Community Association
Stanford Center in Washington DC
June 4, 2008
7PM

John Goodman, President
Bill Kummings, Treasurer
Peter Brusoe, Secretary
Bill Menczer, Committee Member
Tamora Ilasat, Committee Member
Denny Clements, Committee Member
Chuck Lupton, Committee Member
Lee Brian Reba. ANC Commissioner 3C1

7:02PM. Having a quorum John Goodman called the meeting to order. Goodman reported that Elba Morales , Barbara Ioanes , Nour Jurgenson and Jay Sushelsky were unable to attend.

Minutes:

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting and voted to approve them.

WIS School and Traffic

Bill Menczer asked about the construction traffic at the Washington International School (WIS). He reported that there was a lot of construction traffic along Klingle Road, Woodley Road, and Cathedral Avenue. Denny Clements shared that they were not supposed to be using Cathedral. Menczer reported that whether or not they were supposed to, they are still using Cathedral. Goodman reported that Stephanie Zobay said they were not supposed to be going down Cathedral, and that Zobay had been doing most of the communication with the WIS project. It was resolved that Goodman was going to talk with Zobay to see if the construction company was doing what it had agreed to.

Zoo Master Plan

Goodman reported that the new 20 year Zoo master plan was put on the website but there have not been any comments posted as of the meeting. Goodman proceeded to give some history of the project. About a year ago the Zoo had discussed three different options. At least one of the options that was discussed previously was to reduce parking spots. The Zoo's current preferred alternative would add more parking spots to the Zoo. Using a multi-story parking garage on the east side will enable them to add more parking without changing the visual appearance. The other major part of the plan that concerned some WPCA members was adding an aerial tram around the zoo. Some people have expressed concern about the noise of the tram, and others were concerned about people looking into their apartment windows from the tram. At this point it is unclear how far the tram will be

from the buildings. Goodman thinks that it is an issue that we should flag and pay attention to as the Zoo comes forward with a more developed proposal. Goodman than moved on to Reports:

Maret BZA Application:

The Maret School held a neighborhood meeting to discuss its proposed increase in enrollment, which John Goodman, Denny Clements, Bill Kummings and Chuck Lupton, attended. They reported that there were about 25 neighbors with clear divisions of those in favor of the project and those who had concerns about the project. The majority of the concerns related to the parking and the queuing issues.

Goodman subsequently met with the Head of the School and Maret is planning on having another meeting with the neighbors across the street. Denny and Bill Menczer reported that they got a phone call from the business manager and informed them that they were inviting the “close-by neighbors” for a meeting at 6PM on the 11th. The purpose of this meeting is to answer some of the suggestions and to brainstorm about what can be done to address these construction issues as a follow up to the meeting. Clements suggested that there was more than just the drop off and pick up times, but also the occasional evening events during the school year with all of the parents and kids.

Tamora offered that Maret has been a good neighbor. Denny also suggested that the property values have gone up because of the caliber of the education that Maret offers. Lee Brian Reba was surprised to hear these concerns. Reba said they were aware that there was an issue with traffic queuing about what would be better. A brief discussion occurred about some of the suggestions that Maret offered at its meeting, including, but not limited to having drop offs at Garfield, a way to increase the traffic flow in the semi-circle drive-way, as well as evening meetings. One of the suggestions was to have everyone queue in the same way, (i.e. left and right). It was decided that this would be best discussed at next week’s meeting with Maret.

Outreach Committee

Tamora reported that her committee is meeting at her house on Saturday the 7th.

The Picnic on the 21st:

John Goodman reported that there were 34 RSVPs already for the 21st Summer Solstice party. Tamora thanked John Goodman for the positive write up in the article. Bill Menczer said that we do need to be sensitive to some issues. What if we have Zoo visitors who are not from Woodley Park crashing the party. It was suggested that we rent some tables, have a sign up sheet at the bbq to list the name and address as well as some push pins to indicate on a large area map where they live.

Each member of the WPCA board will take responsibility for passing out fliers to their neighbors.

Neighborhood Tour:

Adrienne Jamieson responded positively to starting a history tour at the Stanford center. . [Has she agreed?] Judy Waxman will introduce the neighborhood with a video on the neighborhood and to see what dates make sense (either a Saturday or Sunday). There is also a meeting on the 26th about how to set up a tour. While Tamora can’t attend

the meeting people will be there, and the pros/cons of setting up a neighborhood tour, as well as some workshops, how to develop a neighborhood tour. There is also a second workshop on how to set up and publicize a house or garden tour.

The Group thanked Tamora for all of her hard work on these projects.

The Acorn:

Denny Clements commented that he was really impressed with the quality of The Acorn and how nice of an issue it is. Denny commented on how much he appreciated Bill Menczer's article. Denny also thought the Twin Oaks article was very interesting. Denny thinks that it would be a good idea to have something like that in every issue and that would tweak the readers into really reading it. Reba said that he was going to share it with the head of Twin Oaks. Reba compared them to the Japanese embassy in how sociable they are.

The group then moved to the meeting schedule, tentatively we are set for two meetings:

Meeting for July 9th (2nd Wednesday) (Brusoe is checking with Adrienne)
Meeting for August 6th

Parking Issues

Bill Kummings then talked about parking issues on Cleveland Avenue. There is discussion of starting a petition to get a traffic study done on Cleveland Avenue to discuss issues related to speeding and noise generated by cars and in particular trucks. Reba hopes that WPCA understands that the WPCA's concerns are the ANC's concerns. Reba is really concerned that we may not present a unified front on an issue.

Check Book

Bill Kummings then asked about the signature accounts. The officers need to go to the bank and sign cards to allow us to be able to operate the account and cut checks.

WPCA Picnic Budget:

Denny moved that the WPCA make \$2,000 available for the June 21 Summer Solstice Picnic.

Chuck Lupton seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

The committee had discussed passing out fliers among the neighbors and sharing grills, coolers, and other equipment.

Invitations would be going out to Councilmember Cheh and Councilmember Graham.

Signs on Cathedral:

The committee talked about the paving project going on East of Connecticut avenue. Lee Brian commented about the markings of the street that only marked the right turn lane.

There is a backup on Cathedral. Reba said that the City is playing games and that DDoT is a scene out of dumb and dumber by not being able to create proper lane markings and match them with an appropriate sign. Reba would like to send the emails that he shared with DDoT without having this conversation people may be responding to emails that are not relevant. Reba would then share the image of the road.

Denny moved that the WPCA confer with Commissioner Reba to address the issue of proper street markings and consistent signs at the intersection of Cathedral and Connecticut Avenues that would restore them to their original state.

Seconded by Bill Menczer. .

Called to question. Approved unanimously.

Traffic: Bill Kummings raised an issue about the walk sign North East corner of CT and Calvert. There was a bus parked behind the stop line, and that it made it impossible to see the stop sign. Reba Reported that he had Jeff Jennings came out to meet with people and he was totally unresponsive. At Connecticut Avenue and 24th Street, the signal is not able to be seen. Reba asked for the Diego green signs. The intersection of Connecticut and 24th is properly marked, and that it is an eye sore. Reba is going in the backdoor to address this issue.

Red light at Devonshire and Connecticut.

Denny raised a question about the new red light signals at Devonshire and Connecticut. They have been up for months but not operable. The lights were not working because the contractor is still working on the bridge and will have the lights functioning when they complete the project.

Trash Can On Woodley Road:

Peter Reported that he put in a request with Councilmember Cheh's office to put another trash can on Woodley Road.

Zoo water issues:

There was some question about the upgrade to the Zoo sprinkler system and whether or not the upgrades to that system will cause issues with the water on Connecticut Ave. Goodman was of the opinion that it would not effect Connecticut Ave. [Subsequently, Goodman confirmed this with the Zoo.]

Moved to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 8:30PM.