

Woodley Park Community Association
September 5, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting
Herbert Hoover Room
Stanford in Washington Center
7:30PM

Present:

Bill Menczer, President
Paul Poe, Vice-President
Warren Gorlick, Treasurer
Peter Brusoe, Secretary
Bruce Forrest (2013)
John Goodman (2012)
Rob Meisnere (2012)
Sarah Taber (2013)
Jay Sushelsky (Past President)
Armen Tashdinian (Membership Services Chair)

ANC Commissioners Present:

Bill Kummings
Anne-Marie Bairstow
Lee Brian Reba

Members of the Community Present:

Jeff Kaliel

President Bill Menczer called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. He thanked everyone for attending and their commitment to the WPCA.

The board approved the meetings of the June meeting without changes and John Goodman agreed to post it on our website.

Treasurer Warren Gorlick reviewed the treasurer's report that was previously distributed via electronic mail. It follows:

Current Balances:

Checking: \$5,342.47

Since last report: \$193.40 to Armen for Association membership expenses (#1115);
\$300 to D. Hokinson for face painting services at picnic (#1093); \$1,826 to D. Ensign for
food and other picnic supplies (#1116); \$24 to Jay for ice at picnic (#1117); \$180 to DC
Treasurer for the required 2 year report for a domestic filing entity (#1103).

Savings: \$5118.05

Additions since last report: Deposits of \$1,437 (\$420 of which was deposited but not yet posted to the account), and insignificant interest payments.

Withdrawal of \$2,900 deposited into checking account and insignificant cash deposit processing charges.

CD: \$14,020.90

Minor interest payment added.

PayPal: \$759.03

Additions since last report: \$145 in contributions, minor fees deducted.

Total: \$25,240.45

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously by the board and President Menczer thanked him for his hard work.

Active Projects:

The President turned to active projects of the association.

Picnic Report: A brief re-cap of the annual June picnic was given by Committee Chair Sarah Taber. The event had over 200 people, and we came in under budget of \$2,150. The event was made possible thanks to the hard work of over 30 volunteers between the ages of 10 and 70. There are some areas that we could pare down in the future. President Menczer thanked Sarah for an outstanding job!

Neighborhood watch: The neighborhood watch report was tabled for the next meeting due to the absence of the chair.

Officer Fennell's Presentation:

At this time a report was given by Officer Bob Fennell of the Second District of the Metropolitan police department. He detailed some recent activity including another attempt to break into the Woodley Park branch of the Bank of America, District Kitchen had a bicycle stolen, and several bicycles were stolen from the WMATA station bike racks.

Officer Fennell recommends that we may want to look at adding a traffic signal to the Connecticut Avenue and 24th street turn to help reduce the potential for accidents between automobiles and pedestrians.

Automobile thefts continue. He strongly recommends that people do not leave any valuables in their cars and beat officers will continue to place warning placards under windshield wipers of those vehicles containing vulnerable items visible to the officers.

Officer Fennell reported that his duty tour has been extended for another year in the Woodley Park. Officer Fennell discussed that he intends to continue to vary his shift in the community as it helps to disrupt crime. Criminals have been known to observe police officer shifts and by changing his working hours, this helps to disrupt criminal activity..

There were a couple of questions including tee shirt vendors blocking space, the break- in at 2800 Woodley Road, and Cleveland Park police patrols. Officer Fennell reported that he'll let the code officer know about the tee shirt vendors, he'll follow up on the 2800 break in and reported that there would be

a beat officer returning to Cleveland Park.

A question was asked about the north bound Connecticut Avenue traffic. People are turning left when the pedestrians are in the walkway and if there was a way to monitor this with a red light camera to help catch that. Commissioner Anne Marie Bairstow said that she spoke with Lisa Scudder to see if it is technologically feasible. If so, the board authorized President Menczer to ask for one to be added to the community. **NOTE:** By the 8:09, 20 minutes after Anne-Marie emailed, Ms. Scudder reported that it was possible and President Menczer will ask. The board also authorized President Menczer to ask for the additional light on Connecticut Avenue and 24th, but he will follow up with officer Fennell to confirm that our description of the request was consistent with what Officer Fennell was recommending.

Membership Development : The report was tabled for the next meeting due to the absence of the chair.

Acorn: The *Acorn* is 98% completed, is being edited, and will go to print on 9/10. It should be delivered by 9/20 in time to promote the general membership meeting and the historical walking tour. The board thanked John Goodman and Bill Menczer for all of their hard work on this project.

Historic Walking tour: Jay Sushelsky reported on the historic walking tour. Things are well on track for another highly successful event! The Tour Leaders have re-visited their script. Stanford will host the introductory talk, and the Maret School will provide space for the reception. Jay will ask about bringing food into Maret School and what policies they have in place. Warren Gorlick moved that we spend up to \$150 on the food, Rob seconded, and the body voted unanimously to approve it. The Wardman Tower will not be part of the tour this year.

There were several follow up items that need to happen. Sushelsky will follow up to see how many people the lower level of Stanford can hold. This number will represent the maximum number of RSVPs that we can accept for the tour.

The body then discussed how to promote the Walking Tour. Goodman will send an email blast in addition to the promotional article in the *Acorn*. A discussion occurred about posting it in the Washington Post or the Northwest Current. After discussion, the group decided that those sources had a broader readership than just Woodley Park and could overwhelm the RSVPs, thereby crowding out our membership's participation.

The body then discussed the program. It was decided to do a simple program listing events and activities, and tours of the neighborhood, to be done by Jay. Rob Meisner will create the flier for distribution only to the large apartment buildings.

New Business:

Renovation & Expansion of 2852 Conn Ave:

John Goodman reported that the project is going to be similar to the redevelopment of the Wardman Woodley buildings. The plan is to gut the townhouse, make it into separate units, and build another building behind it with more units. President Menczer will extend another invitation to the project architect, Jim Malone, to make a presentation at our October meeting. Earlier in the week, Malone cancelled his appearance at today's meeting.

General Membership Meeting: Plans are underway for a general membership meeting to be held on October 16, 2012. Our speaker will be Jennifer Steingasser, Deputy Director of Development Review

and Historic Preservation in the DC Office of Planning. She will be there to discuss the upcoming changes in zoning regulations and to respond to questions from the audience. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm, at which time Bill Menczer will make a few announcements, followed by the election. Armen will supply the ballots and will enlist Barbara Ioanes' help at the front desk. Ms. Steingasser will speak after the elections are held.

Elections Committee: Bill Menczer asked the odd year at-large members – Bruce Forrest, Zev Lewis and Sarah Taber to serve on the election committee. Sarah was asked to chair the committee. The Board approved the appointments. They will report all eligible nominees for the positions by the beginning of October.

Hosting an ANC Debate forum

A general discussion occurred regarding an ANC candidate debate. Secretary Brusoe offered that the last time we hosted a debate for City Council we had around 75 or 80 people show up, many of whom were supporters. Brusoe then recused himself from the rest of the discussion because of his ANC candidacy and the absence of the other candidate running for his Single Member District. After the board explored different options including moving the general membership meeting to 7 pm and then having the debate, or limiting it to the contested ANCs. Finally a consensus was reached that a debate would be hosted at a time and location to be determined (not during the general membership meeting) and it would be done for all four single member districts. Warren Gorlick moved and Rob Meisnere seconded. The vote was 5-1 with Brusoe abstaining. John Goodman agreed to contact the 4 candidates in competition to find an agreeable date for the event.

Ward 3 Preparedness Exercise on Sept 11, from 7-9PM. Rob Meisnere agreed to represent the WPCA at this event to be held at the Chevy Chase Community Center.

Rock Creek Park Update: Bill Menczer reported on the status of the street lights along Rock Creek Parkway. All the lights are new, but have not yet been wired. The delay was the result of PEPCO taking several months to approve the wiring scheme proposed by the park. The Park Service now has the go ahead to install the wiring and cables, which will take place in two months. The new and extended Massachusetts Avenue entrance ramp construction will commence shortly and should take about 2-3 months to complete. By November or December we should have the lights operational and the ramp completed.

Holiday Party: Bill Menczer will take the lead on a holiday party at the Marriott Wardman Hotel and will contact the general manager.

ANC Commissioner Reports:

Anne-Marie Bairstow: Nothing new to report. She did inform the group that the construction plans at 3000 Connecticut has been up for review, there have been no other changes, and the ANC has already passed two resolutions about the proposal.

Bill Kummings: Cleveland Avenue had its median trimmed.

Lee Brian Reba: Lee Brian has had discussions with “Baked by Yael”, a bakery business now run out of a rented commercial facility, about locating in the commercial district. The owner is looking for locations in areas up the Connecticut Avenue corridor and is interested in Woodley Park because of the hotels and Metrorail, and the cross-section of neighborhoods. She has various locations where she drops off her baked goods for customers to pick them up, such as at the wine store in Cleveland Park. She works as an online business and products go via shipping and local businesses. If she moves to Woodley Park, then her business plan entails being open 7 days a week, from 7am-7pm, selling baked goods, coffee, cake pops, cookies, and an assortment of baked goods. She also wants to have space for children’s parties, especially with the cake pops and cupcakes. The vast majority (75-80%) of her sales would be takeout although it would not be a fast food, and a large portion would be from corporate catering and out of town shipments. Regarding trash concerns, it should not be an issue. There would be a minimum amount since customers would pick up her products and leave the premises. She’s looking at 10-15% take out. She’s also looking at selling cards, and displays in the store. “

The group supports the concept and would be eager for her to consider Woodley Park as a location for her business. Bill Menczer agreed to invite her to our October meeting to make a presentation on her plans.

Report from Mary Cheh’s office:

Anthony Catalino, Legislative Counsel to Council Member Mary Cheh, Esq. sent Bill Menczer a list of several upcoming hearings and roundtables sponsored by Ms. Cheh’s committees on the Environment, Public Works, and Transportation. They are as follows:

The Committee currently has a dozen hearings scheduled for the fall. These include:

- A public hearing on two bills: the Department of Motor Vehicle Reciprocity Amendment Act of 2012, which would allow a part-time resident to obtain a reciprocity sticker and an out-of-state business to register a vehicle in the District, if the business provides the vehicle to an employee for the employee’s use and the employee is domiciled in the District; and the Careless Driving Amendment Act of 2012, which would create a new offense of Careless Driving and would align the penalties for Careless Driving and Reckless Driving with those of other states;
- A public hearing on the public vehicle-for-hire (taxicab) industry in the District of Columbia. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss innovations in the public vehicle-for-hire industry, the implementation of the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012, and Bill 19-892, the Sedan Class Amendment Act of 2012;
- A roundtable on the flooding in the Bloomingdale neighborhood;
- A roundtable on recycling and waste disposal. The Committee will examine the state of waste management and recycling in the District and how the District’s practices can be more efficient. Specific topics to be considered will include policies and practices for composting, commercial recycling, construction & demolition waste, and commercial waste hauling. The Committee will also consider other issues related to waste reduction, recycling best practices, and related topics;
- A public hearing on the District Department of Transportation DC Streetcar Amendment Act of 2012. This bill would establish a governance and financing structure for the District’s streetcar system;
- A water quality roundtable;
- A public oversight roundtable on the District’s Snow Removal Operations Plan for winter 2012-2013. The Department of Public Works has the primary responsibility for the District’s snow removal

operations. Efficient operations require the participation and coordination of several government agencies. The roundtable will review DPW's readiness for the coming snow season and the agency's ability to coordinate with other entities;

- A disabled parking hearing;
- A public oversight roundtable on motor scooters including registration, insurance, parking, and compliance with traffic laws for scooters and motorized bicycles;
- A roundtable on the implementation of the Healthy Schools Act of 2010 and the District's Environmental Literacy Plan;
- A public oversight roundtable on air quality in the District. The District remains a non-attainment area for two pollutants and the Committee will explore how air quality in the District can be improved;
- A public oversight roundtable on the performance of the Sustainable Energy Utility. The Sustainable Energy Utility was created as a result of the Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008.

Paul Poe expressed interest in attending the recycling and waste disposal roundtable; Bill Kummings was interested in the water quality roundtable. Bill Menczer offered to contact Anthony and to let both know of the dates and locations of these meetings.

Good of the Order: Brusoe reported that Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl recently installed St. Thomas Apostle's new pastor, Msgr. Charles Antonicelli. Msgr. Antonicelli goes by Fr. Charles.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. The motion was seconded and was unanimously approved.