

Woodley Park Community Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2013, 7:30p.m.

ATTENDEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Peter Brusoe, President
- Barbara Ioanes, Vice President
- Warren Gorlick, Treasurer
- Emily Wagner, Secretary
- Rob Meisnere, At-Large Executive Committee Member
- Bill Kummings, At-Large Executive Committee Member
- Sarah Taber, At-Large Executive Committee Member
- Stephanie Zobay, At-Large Executive Committee Member
- Gasper Martinez, At-Large Executive Committee Member

ANC COMMISSIONERS:

- Commissioner Lee Brian Reba
- Commissioner Jeff Kaliel

COUNCILMEMBER CHEH'S OFFICE:

- Devin Barrington, Communications Director

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

- John Goodman
- Armen Tashdianian

1. WELCOME

- a. Administrative Notes: To ensure consistency on our Executive Committee distribution list, Peter Brusoe is planning to organize a Google Group. We will continue to use multiple emails for all members who have more than one preferred method of contact.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT - PRESENTED BY WARREN GORLICK

- Warren shared that this is an interesting time of the year, given that WPCA tends to receive a lot of donations just before the end of December. Warren recommended that we might want to put something in the WPCA bimonthly e-newsletter to encourage members to send in contributions. Because our donations tend to be tied to membership year and renewal, John Goodman asked if this would complicate things for Armen; however, Armen reassured us that it is easy for him to add a year to a contributor's membership even if we

receive an “off-cycle” payment. John Goodman agreed to add the upcoming e-newsletter.

- At our January 8th meeting, we can expect a full report from Warren on end-of-year totals, as well as 2013 vs. 2012. In addition, Peter and Warren will work out a budget for 2014, and bring it to the next Executive Committee Meeting on January 8 for approval. Finally, the books will need to be audited at year-end. Emily has agreed to execute the review.
- An issue was raised about filing the “postcard” (online) for the IRS. Warren will check to verify if we are in compliance.

3. SECRETARY’S MINUTES

- a. October Meeting Minutes – Approved. Peter will distribute the revised final draft after Thanksgiving.
- b. General Membership Meeting Minutes – Approved.
- c. November Membership Meeting Minutes – Approved.

4. COMMITTEES

- a. Oyster School Committee: Rob, Warren, Barbara
 - i. Peter asked the Executive Committee if we want to submit testimony for David Cantina. The testimony would be due on 11/22. The board voted in the affirmative; however it was not a unanimous board. Warren was in dissention. Bill Kummings requested Warren to clarify the reasons behind his dissention and Warren gave further details and made copies of the LSAT report available for the Executive Committee’s reference. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes.
 - ii. Oyster School Committee to discuss a budget for this effort in the coming weeks.
- b. Tree Committee:
 - i. Tree Committee to keep working given the issue on Cleveland Ave.
 - ii. Bill Kummings asked two questions: Should we get involved in neighbor vs. neighbor negotiation? Should we undertake more beautification efforts? Decision made to address trees on Cleveland Ave., and then we’ll move forward after that issue is resolved.
 - iii. Sarah Taber encouraged interested parties to sign up as Tree Canopy Keepers. More information and registration can be found online at ddot.dc.gov, [here](#).
- c. Neighborhood Watch:
 - i. Nour was absent from the meeting. We can expect an update from her at the January 8, 2014 meeting.
- d. Nominating Committee:
 - i. Barbara introduced Gasper Martinez, who expressed interest in serving on the board, and nominated Gasper for the open at-large position. Nomination was approved.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Report on General Membership Meeting: Brief summary provided by Barbara. It was a small (but good) turnout. We covered bike registration and neighborhood crime, and elected, unanimously, the new members of the Executive Committee.
- b. Report on Special Meeting: Special Meeting was discussed earlier in the evening; please see Section 4.a.i.
- c. Report on Connecticut Ave. Safety Issue: The proposed location for the new stoplight would be too close to the light up the street, but signs have been added to warn cars about the pedestrian crossing. Issue now closed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. American Red Cross Donation to the Philippines: Barbara proposed a \$200 donation. Warren estimated we have about \$27,000 left, and that \$200 was within our capabilities. Peter, however, expressed concerns about donating money outside of a General Membership Vote. Sarah suggested putting out a donation jar at the Christmas Party. Barbara expressed reservation about “staffing” the donation jar. Emily motioned, instead, to request that guests attending the WPCA Christmas Party bring a canned food donation for a local food bank, such as Central Union Kitchen, Martha’s Table, or Capital Area Food Bank. Rob seconded. Emily Wagner to research food bank options.
- b. Appointing New Committee Members
 - i. Budget Committee – Gasper joined Peter and Warren.
 - ii. Bylaws Committee – Not needed, as we last updated the Bylaws in the spring of 2012.
 - iii. Membership Committee – Barbara will chair; Bill Kummings, Armen will participate.
 - iv. Membership Levels – Peter removed from agenda
 - v. Public Works – Sarah & Stephanie co-chair; Zev to be invited to join.
 - vi. Mural and Beautification Project – Zev, Bill Kummings, & Marilyn Falik, the WPCA member who suggested via email to the WPCA board that a mural would be a nice idea and, perhaps, an effective way to stop graffiti.
- c. Discussion on Draft Ethics & Donation Policy: We do not currently have a donation or solicitation policy. Peter asked if we would like to draft a plan governing how we interact with local businesses. Executive Committee members agreed that, while a formal policy is not essential, we will not solicit donations unless the board approves ahead of time.
 - i. Lunches and Federation of DC Citizens Associations Holiday Luncheon Tickets: Armen will attend the luncheon at his own expense. Bill Kummings and Emily Wagner will attend as well, as representatives of the WPCA.
 - ii. Do we need a policy on sending representatives from our board to events when we are covering the cost of tickets? (This question remains unanswered.)

- d. Holiday Party: We expect to hear back from the Washington Marriott Wardman Park no later than December 1st. If the Wardman can't accommodate us, Peter is going to approach the Omni Shoreham. Special annotation: The holiday party is scheduled for 12/18 at the Wardman.
 - i. Barbara raised the issue about "party to-do list." Emily Wagner volunteered to design a flyer; John Goodman and Sarah Taber will coordinate distribution; decorations will need a \$100 budget.
- e. Dunkin Donuts:
 - i. Lee Bryan reported that DD does not have an occupancy permit yet, and that they have not submitted an application for zoning. Given these reasons, he stressed that the topic of conversation was very premature. Once DD is further along in the process, WPCA can begin to address signage—to ensure that the building is aesthetically pleasing—as well as other issues, including trash, increased foot traffic, and how the storefront fits into the overlay zone. Barbara reported that we are currently under 31%. Jeff suggested we voice concerns early so we can intervene early. Lee Brian assured us that, if this boils down to a zoning issue, the ANC will take action. Lee Brian will keep Peter informed on how the issue develops, and will report on this topic to the Executive Committee during our January 8, 2014 meeting.
- f. Holiday Decoration Contest – Committee decided not to host a contest. However, there was a motion to create a Facebook page. Emily will mock-up a few versions of the page and draft a set of rules to govern the page and WPCA's use of social media.
- g. Plans for 2014 – Tabled for January 8, 2014 discussion.
- h. Acorn – Tabled for January 8, 2014 discussion.
- i. Christmas Caroling – John Goodman to include an announcement in the WPCA bimonthly e-newsletter.
- j. Resolution Honoring St. Thomas Apostle on their 100th anniversary – Tabled for January 8, 2014 discussion.
- k. Local Artist Reception – Tabled for January 8, 2014 discussion.

7. REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

- a. ANC: Lee Brian reported that the ANC is planning to work on rat abatement on the 2700 block in the very near future. In addition, McDonald's is planning a renovation. Permitting was approved; now waiting on final approvals. Start date not yet determined.
- b. Jeff: Reported on the good work of the Tree Committee, and suggested we talk about ways to beautify our commercial strip in Woodley Park over the next few weeks. How can we support, encourage, and assist in the beautification of Woodley Park?
- c. Devin Barrington, Communications Director for Council Member Cheh (covering for his colleague Michelle) reported that the mayor has selected a vendor for the Cleaning Crew, who will be picking up trash and maintaining plant boxes in

Woodley Park. After the holidays, Cheh's office would like to have an event where we introduce them to communities they serve in the neighborhood. Barrington said he would look into an update about whether there was money in the budget for getting a new, free "super" trash can and how Woodley Park can apply for monies towards study our commercial corridor (similar to the study that was done in Cleveland Park).

- **MINUTES PREPARED BY:** EMILY WAGNER, SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- **NEXT MEETING:** JANUARY 8, 2014, 7:30PM, STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON, HOOVER ROOM, 2661 CONNECTICUT AVE, NW DC 20008