

WPCA Executive Meeting

September 10, 2014, 7:30pm to 9pm

Attendees

Executive Committee Members

Peter Brusoe, President

Barbara Ioanes, Vice President

Warren Gorlick, Treasurer

Emily Wagner, Secretary

Daniel Dembkowski, At-Large Executive Committee Member

Stephanie Zobay, At-Large Executive Committee Member

Gasper Martinez, At-Large Executive Committee Member

Rob Meisnere, At-Large Executive Committee Member

Bill Kummings, At-Large Executive Committee Member

ANC Commissioners

Commissioner Lee Brian Reba

Commissioner Gwen Bole

Councilmember Mary Cheh's Office

Megan Brown

Community Members

Elizabeth Merritt

Don Blandin

Estella Salvatierra

John Goodman

Sonya Hochevar

Roger White

Maribeth Handsman

Bill Bushy

Jim Bird

Nan Simpson

Washington Metropolitan Police

Captain Melvin Gresham

Lieutenant Ralph Neal

Trena Carrington, AUSA

National Zoo

Pamela Baker-Masson, Associate Director of Communications

Treasurer's Report:

Warren Gorlick reported that we have not received any further donations since the first week in June through the membership administration system, though some minor donations were received at the June 14 picnic and through Paypal. We have had expenses since, so we are just over \$28,000. Report accepted.

Report from the Zoo:

Pamela Baker-Masson, Associate Director of Communications at the National Zoo, reported on behalf of Director Dennis Kelly. She said the Zoo would have a more formal announcement of its plans in later fall and, in preparation, there have been a lot of meetings and lots of discussions within the Smithsonian Institution. She said that Director Kelly wanted to convey to the WPCA that the Zoo has been doing its very best to call upon resources within the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Police, and other organizations such as the Urban League, who have expertise in dealing with youth. She also reported that the Zoo is now looking into access control, such as bag checks and wands. Baker-Masson explained it is not a possibility to implement as a permanent solution, but they could implement during days with high visitation. She said this is because the Zoo, unlike the other institution with “hard entrances,” is much more porous and it will take time to test what will look in the long-term. They are now consulting with the National Park Service in terms of models that work with big events, such as the 4th of July on the National Mall. They are now looking at school calendars through 2015 for all school districts and planning for those events in advance.

John Goodman asked about the timeline for a proposal – Baker-Masson said that September 26th of this month, there will be a Zoo meeting. Following that meeting, the Zoo is aiming to have a proposal in place in October. Baker-Masson gets the sense that the ideas that have been discussed to-date are viable and good options for the Zoo. She feels that they are confident that we are now looking into how we can actually execute.

Question from the community was asked about how the Zoo defines “high visitation” – Baker-Masson explained that high visitation days are based on past attendance. Thanksgiving is a big week for visitors, as well as spring break. We know that those days are popular with the local population. The summer, of course, is big for tourism.

Barbara Ioanes asked a question about Halloween planning and crowd control – Baker-Masson said the Zoo reaches out to the media to give out traffic warnings and coordinates with the Metropolitan Police.

Question from the community was asked about how the Zoo is planning to coordinate crisis communications – Baker-Masson explained that Zoo first reaches out to the Metropolitan police primarily. Dan Dembkowski, co-chair of neighborhood watch, suggested that everyone sign up for the DC Alerts and the Metro Police Twitter feed. The Zoo also plans to think about how they reach out to the community directly.

Commissioner Reba added that Director Kelly shared an overall special event security plan and that he was working with his security team to look at capacity limit restrictions and forcing control entry at certain points throughout the Zoo, as well as magnetometers. The Director also told Commissioner Reba that they planned to look at other zoos across the country and to assess and perhaps adopt some of their action plans. Commissioner Reba also reported that Director Kelly was considering changing some of the hours around Easter Monday.

Baker-Masson added that, since that meeting, the Zoo has discussed closing for a special event on Easter Monday. Next week, Baker-Masson also reported, is the annual conference of Zoos and Aquariums, which will be an opportunity for the National Zoo to connect with other organizations on how they handle unruly behavior.

Question from the community was asked about other youth organizations involved, specifically considering other types of staffing (i.e. youth workers) – Baker-Masson said we have employed youth staff task force in the past, and that the Zoo plans to take council from them going forward as we try to determine what is appropriate staffing going forward.

Baker-Masson closed the conversation by reinforcing that safety is Director Kelly's number one priority. She will take the following topics back to Director Kelly: traffic alerts for Halloween, as well as crisis communications with shops and local community.

Presentation from Metro Police Department:

Lieutenant Neal reported that in, PSA204, we have had 13 robberies and 1 assault from January 5 until now. In Woodley Park, we have only had 3 robbery (only one of which was armed) and 1 assault. Most criminal activity is happening north of the Zoo. The investigation for the recent fires in the Marriott is still ongoing. No leads on the recent bike robberies. MPD encourages us to register our bikes at National Register our Bikes. Lieutenant Neal said, as the days are getting shorter, always try to walk in pairs and stay in well-lit areas. Also, Lieutenant Neal encouraged us to have USPS trucks deliver to someone who can sign for and protect your package.

Report from Commissioner Lee Brian Reba:

Commissioner Lee Brian Reba reported that the All Souls Church shared a recently updated timeline of their current project, which aims to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities. Commissioner Reba encouraged anyone who is interested in learning more to visit www.allsoulsdc.org.

Commissioner Reba reported on the Historical Preservation application for the enclosed screen rear deck. The application was supported by the ANC, but denied by HPRB because of opposition from neighbors. HPRB members suggested at the hearing that the community look at revising the design guidelines for the historic district.

Commissioner Reba also reported he has been working with Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the Historic Preservation council to address Dunkin Donuts' noncompliance with signage rules. They are now facing a fine and hearing. Commissioner Reba reported that they have been unresponsive to our requests for trash control and proper signage both on the store and near the metro. Likewise, Commissioner Reba is talking to Noodles & Co. about their trash control methods.

Report from Commissioner Gwen Bole

Commissioner Bole reported that she recently attended an interesting meeting for ANCs on visitor parking passes and resident parking passes. The visitor parking passes (VPPs) say they expire on 9/30, but that date has been extended to 12/31. DDoT has proposed a new system in which residents of RPP blocks will apply for VPPs (rather than their being sent automatically). Individuals can visit the DMV website to do so. Commissioner Bole also reported that the new passes are going to look different and will be encrypted to make it easier to track lost or stolen passes.

Commissioner Bole also reported on the on-going pedestrian safety issue at the intersection at 24th and

Connecticut. She has met twice with two safety engineers. She has also met with the citizen participate in safety program. She received final word from the pedestrian safety person for DDOT, who said it's "just fine the way it is" and, in essence, that it was "up to national standards." Commissioner Bole requested that we have some volunteer to count the cars that turn on red on Woodley Road in order to determine if we could also install a sign that says "No Turn on Red" during certain hours. In addition, Commissioner Bole is glad to help with the stop sign issue at the new building on Woodley Rd.

Mary Cheh's Office

Megan Brown reported that she is happy to take an issued raised during the meeting to Mary Cheh. Warren Gorlick asked about the plumbing company van that is parked on Woodley and Klinge Rd. Warren called DDOT who came out and investigated, but the concern of a private company is using a public space as a storage facility. Megan will get this on the radar for further investigation.

Update on the Upcoming Renovation at the Cleveland Park Library

Roger White reported that a meeting re: the renovation activities has not occurred since the WPCA last convened. It is anticipated soon. The branch manager of Cleveland Park says that a formal engineering survey of the site began this summer.

Vacation At-Large Board Position

Dan Dembkowski has been suggested a replacement for the vacant position on the board. Barbara moved to appoint him to the board. Rob seconded. Dan accepted.

Membership Management Position

There was much discussion on ways to move forward. Peter suggested that we move renewals from throughout the year to a one-time yearly renewal, both by mail and email. John suggested that the staggered schedule made the load easier to handle. Also, he suggested that we should probably move towards automating the system. Warren underscored the importance of the partnership between the Membership Administrator and the Treasurer. John suggested that we have an interim-system in which they will cull the current database for contacts whose membership has lapsed in order to reach out to them, and recording any new contributions that are received into the existing database. For the time being, John, Peter, and Stephanie will run the interim system. Gasper will write-up a position description for the open position which we will post in upcoming issue of *The Acorn*. A community member encouraged the WPCA to have a new system in place by the Holiday party.

Historic District Update

Barbara reported on the history of the Woodley Park historic guidelines, which were written in the 1980s and based on what other neighborhoods in D.C. had in place. At the recent historic preservation board hearing, the historic preservation board chair encouraged Barbara and the WPCA to think about revising our guidelines, specifically related to how Woodley Park regulates the backsides of buildings (i.e., extra garages, screened-in decks, etc.). Barbara moved to engage the community on behalf of the WPCA in order to solicit community feedback on a potential revision to these certain elements of our historic preservation guidelines. Accordingly, Barbara will form and chair a WPCA committee (to be determined) to lead the community engagement effort. Emily seconded the motion. The board voted positively. Peter and Rob abstained from voting.

McDonalds:

Peter reported that the one consensus we have arrived at is that the neighbors do not approve of the design. It is the owner of the building who has filed the application. Peter moved that the WPCA file a

letter stating our disapproval of the proposed change. Barbara seconded. The board, overall, voted positively to draft the letter; Rob voted against.

Manhattan Market Discussion

Manhattan Market has requested an extension to extend the hours of beer and wine sales. WPCA does not plan to take a position. (Also, Sherry's delivers!)

Community Clean-Up Day

Peter reported that Community Clean-Up Day 2014 a very successful event. Thanks to Stephanie for taking some materials to the transfer sight, as well as all of those who participated. Warren reported that the Clean-Up Day was not overly expensive, with the WPCA contribution coming in around \$550, and Woodland-Normanstone Association paying an equal amount.

Summer Picnic

Peter reported that this was another great event. A Special thanks to Sarah for all of her hard work. Warren reported that the picnic came in under-budget as well at \$1,600.

Mural

Bill Kummings provided a brief report on status of the project. He would like to formalize three people who are willing to serve on the committee and proceed. Rob and Peter have volunteered to serve on the committee. We will put a notice in *The Acorn* and see if we receive any feedback from the community about a new public art project in the neighborhood.

The Acorn

The following articles will be included in the next issue. The deadline for submission is September 25th.

- Historic District article – John
- New Principal profile – Rob
- Tour of 2700 – Emily
- Zoo Safety Update – Dan
- TOPA process – Sonya

Nominating Committeew

The Nominating Committee had nothing to report.

WIS Construction Update

Warren reported that the noise has stopped.

Discussion of General Membership Meeting scheduled for November

The membership agreed that it would be great to invite the Arts and Humanities Director, the President of the Art Deco Society, and others to chair a panel who can talk about the Woodley Park urban aesthetic and design standards for Connecticut Avenue. WPCA also plans to reach out to DDOT.

Holiday Party

We would like to aim for somewhere between December 14 and December 19. Peter to check with the Marriott on dates.

Potential Memorial Donation for Armen Tashdininian

Barbara moved to support an organization—specifically to the Washington Ballet or the In Series at

Source. Discussion was held in terms of what kind of recognition the WPCA could support. Among the options, a park bench, flower box, and picnic table were discussed.

Comments from the Community

Sonya Hochevar made a comment that there are not enough trash receptacles near 2900 Connecticut Ave. Peter suggested that they put in a 311 request (including a specific address), and also reach out to Mike Fabrikant, the Ward 3 Liaison for Mayor Gray, as well as Mary Cheh's office.