

Woodley Park Community Association
October 1, 2014, 7:30PM
2700 Woodley Road

Attendees

Executive Committee Members

Peter Brusoe, President

Barbara Ioanes, Vice President

Warren Gorlick, Treasurer

Emily Wagner, Secretary

Daniel Dembkowski, 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

Sarah Taber, At-Large Executive Committee Member

Bill Menczer, Past President

ANC Commissioners

Commissioner Lee Brian Reba

Community Members

John Goodman

Betsy Merritt

Roger White

Administrative Items

Establishment of quorum – Established.

Agreement to Agenda – Agenda accepted.

Approval of minutes of previous session – Acceptance delayed. Please send Emily any edits.

Treasurer's Report – Warren presented the Treasurer's report. In the current month, our finances were essentially unchanged, absent the one dollar earned on interest in our CD account. Looking forward to the rest of the year, however, with some significant expenses coming up to publish the Acorn, and certain expenses associated with our holiday party, Warren anticipates a significant further reduction in the WPCA reserves (around \$2,500 decrease) unless a new membership coordinator is able to send out membership renewal requests and solicit donations, similar to what Armen used to do for us.

Updates from ANC Commissioner

October 1, 2014 Minutes

Commissioner Lee Brian Reba attended HP meeting and will fully support whatever the WPCA would like to do next. He also offered to discuss the special BZA application for Nandos; discussion tabled to later in the agenda.

Old Business

Historic District update – Barbara updated that we had a very good turn-out for the first committee on historic design. Three past presidents, council-member for the national trusts, an architect, among others. Four people attended who testified at HPRB meeting. The committee is in the process of writing up the minutes from that meeting. Barbara also talked with Anne Brockett at the HPRB staff. Barbara reminded us that the document we are working to revise is a WPCA document. Also, Barbara mentioned that an email came into the WPCA AOL email: the address was woodley1@comcast.com. If anyone hears from this person, please let Barbara know.

McDonald's Discussion – We did indicate our disapproval to the architect, and sent a short email to HPO to flag. John reports that we will send something more substantial in a couple of weeks. John predicts that they will discuss at the November meeting.

Mural update – Bill Kummings worked on some language to include in the Acorn which will aim to solicit feedback from neighbors about whether they'd support new public art in the neighborhood.

Acorn update – Peter should have edits back to authors by Saturday (10/4) evening.

Report from Membership Management Subcommittee – The committee is researching software tools and testing options that are both affordable and a good fit. The committee will circulate the matrix of options and prices to the Executive Board. Peter hopes to have something out for the **general meeting on November 12** so we can get the new system ratified [did he really say that he was going to present this for ratification?]. In the meantime, a solicitation email will be sent to the membership. Peter to share the email with Warren. Gasper wrote up a membership management job description, which we will include in the next edition of the Acorn. He is working now to include any further edits from the Executive Board.

Honoring Armen Committee – We are still researching this, and we will continue discussion at the next meeting once Peter has more information. Gasper raised the question on whether we should create a formal guideline. Discussion ensued about how we would build those guidelines; would they be based on length of service, relationship to organization (i.e., board member or chair members, etc.), impact of contribution? Or would this be based on the discretion of the board? No motion was made. Warren and John confirmed that there is nothing in the bylaws that would preclude us from making a donation in honor of a departed community member.

General Membership Meeting – To be held on November 12; location still TBD. We are planning the program. Peter invited Mary Cheh. (And Rob was right!) Barbara asked for volunteers to help with the sign-ins and the elections. Bill K. and Dan volunteered to help with the sign-ins, Bill M. will manage the election.

Library Report – Roger White reported that there has not been a community meeting yet. The news is that engineers have done the inspections over the summer and Roger understands that a decision will be posted on October 8 regarding whether the building will be torn down or renovated. After that decision has been made, community meetings will be held for public comment on the architect. From Roger's layman perspective, the building is early post-war and the infrastructure is old; the elevator needs to be totally replaced.

New Business:

Nandos – Nandos has asked the BZA for several variances\special exceptions to locate in the old Bank of America location.

Fast food establishments are not allowed in the WP business district, but about 7 years ago, the Zoning Commission changed the definition of “fast food” to be more broad. Nandos wasn't fast food under the old definition, but is under the current one because customers pay before they eat.

The problematic part of the application is for a waiver of the cap on restaurants. Zoning rules say they can only be 25% of the ground floor frontage in the business district. We are now at 33%. The argument that they make for granting a variance is not “special.” Hard to see how we can say “yes”.. Barbara reminded us that we wanted these rules so that Woodley Park would be a livable place for residents; so we would have a variety of places (banks, cleaners, grocery) in the neighborhood. More restaurants mean an economic shift for the existing restaurants and we didn't want to make the neighborhood into a restaurant neighborhood. She believes Nandos can wait. Warren countered to say that Nandos would be a good addition to the neighborhood. Lee Brian reviewed the business model of Nandos with the group. Patrons are greeted, seated, and served by waitstaff. There are no disposable cutlery. ANC is speaking with Nandos in October. BZA hearing on December 14.

Peter asked if there was a motion to support their special exception as to fast food. Rob moved. Bill seconded. Barbara opposed. Emily abstained. Rest of the Executive Board was in support.

Peter asked if there was a motion to consider an exception to the current zoning rules in order to exceed the restaurant cap due to economic hardship. Discussion ensued about whether we can support their reasoning behind their argument. Warren proposed that this issue should be discussed at the November 12 meeting. Peter asked if there was a motion to report at the general membership meeting and ask the general membership for their vote. Moved by Warren. Seconded by Rob. All approved. Barbara abstained.