

**WPCA Executive Meeting – Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2024**

**Committee Members Present:**

John Goodman  
Warren Gorlick  
Leah De Hoet  
Barbara Ioanes  
Jeff Myers  
Linda Raphael  
Courtney Tolbert  
Stephanie Zobay

1. Establish quorum/confirm everyone can hear/see. A quorum was established.
2. Introductory items:
  - a. Approval of agenda. The agenda were approved.
  - b. Approval of minutes. The minutes were approved.
3. Financial stuff
  - a. Treasurers Report – The Treasurer’s report was accepted.
  - b. 2025 budget – Issues relating to the 2025 budget were discussed as part of the discussion on 2025 initiatives as described below. Stephanie is working on preparing a 2025 budget based on the input she received.
4. Call box repairs – Barbara reported on the status of the call boxes, which she stated were last repaired five years ago. There are eight such call boxes. Barbara stated that the cost might range from \$1,000 - \$2,500. John stated that once we know how much it would cost, then we can consider approving the expenditure, possibly with the assistance of businesses or other community organizations, including the local ANC. Barbara stated that due to snow and other factors, she and Judy Waxman, who is chair of the committee, did not yet know the extent of the repairs that will be needed. ANC Adam Prinzo stated that his understanding is that the ANC Chair would contribute funding to the project if a request was submitted in the proper fashion.
5. Tenant-management issues – Courtney noted issues with her own building, where the tenants had tried to obtain floodlights, but the landlord only provided them after the Mayor’s office got involved. She further stated that she and other members of the ANC Public Safety Committee met with the Deputy DC Attorney General for possible revisions to the SAFE Act, which would increase tenant protections and impose certain additional requirements on landlords where a building has been designated as a “problem building.”

Courtney stated that she still has concerns about the legislation, and that the draft bill should enhance further the protections for tenants that report problems in a given building. Adam noted that he, too, has been subject to retaliation from his own building management after reporting issues, as well as his prominence as an ANC Commissioner. Adam stated that they are targeting a revised bill by early February, and that enhanced protections from retaliation from building management companies would be part of these changes, along with other revisions.

It was discussed what further measures the WPCA might take on this issue. It was agreed that that at a minimum, the WPCA should put the ANC3C tenant's guide on the WPCA website. It was further agreed that once the revised SAFE Act draft is circulated, the WPCA might comment on the draft legislation if the Board still had concerns.

It was also noted that there are some very good landlords and management companies in Woodley Park. Consideration was given on how it might be possible for the WPCA to recognize the good landlords as well as identifying issues with other landlords.

Owen Cox, the Mayor's representative to the meeting, stated that any issues regarding snow removal or other problems that residents are having with District agencies can be directed to him, and he and his colleagues can try to address those issues. It was also noted that the Benin Embassy no longer occupies the space that it still own, and has consistently failed to remove snow on the sidewalk it is responsible for.

In the chat, Owen Cox provided his contact details and that of his supervisor, Kendall Gibson, the Ward 3 Manager, copied below.

Kendall Gibson | Ward 3 Manager  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services | Executive Office of Mayor Bowser  
The John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | Washington, DC 20004  
kendall.gibson1@dc.gov  
202.442.8150 Office  
202.341.7706 Mobile  
William Owen Cox | Ward 3 Liason  
Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services | Executive Office of Mayor Bowser  
The John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | Washington, DC 20004  
william.cox@dc.gov  
202.340.7853 Mobile

6. Initiatives for 2025 – John noted that the three largest expenditures for the WPCA are i) the summer picnic, ii) the holiday party, and iii) the trash/shred day. John asked for the Board's views as to whether the bulk trash/shred day, which has become more expensive over the years, is still a worthwhile expenditure. He also observed that as the volume of paper has decreased, there may be less of a need for a community shredding service. Various views on the trash/shred day were expressed, some believing it should continue, others questioning its utility in light of its cost.

As the WPCA develops a budget for 2025, John and Stephanie noted that the cost of the three major events was approximately \$7,400 in 2024, while membership contributions were only about \$5,000, though the WPCA also received a modest memorial donation and one-off grant from a community organization in 2024.

Stephanie requested that anyone requesting expenditures for the 2025 calendar year should email her with their ideas and the projected cost. Courtney noted that there should be a link on the WPCA Facebook page for donations, which all agreed should be done.

Leah volunteered that she would head a committee that would focus on a block party. Adam Prinzo said that the ANC could provide funding for the event, though it was later clarified that the ANC cannot pay for food and beverages, but can assist with other expenditures. Leah, Adam and Courtney will be a block party committee, which will come back with a proposal for the February meeting.

7. Website – Stephanie and Leah stated that they were unable to meet on this issue.

8. ANC and other community updates – Robert Meins, Director of the Woodley Park Main Street, discussed new businesses coming in, and was optimistic that new businesses will soon move into the remaining vacant storefronts.

Adam stated that the ANC will meet next Tuesday, Jan. 21, where the ANC will elect officers and establish committees. Adam also noted that the streetlight crossing time at CT Ave. and Woodley Road would be increased from 25 seconds, to 30 seconds, consistent with best practices. Adam also noted that DDOT is considering a safer configuration for the slip lane from CT Ave. to 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Janell Pagats stated that the ANC will test the concept of hybrid meetings and see how well they go. Janell also noted how the ANC will further outreach to the community, and her concern about the intersection where vehicles enter from CT Ave. to the Zoo.

9. Good of the order – Jeff proposed that the WPCA organize neighborhood potlucks. The concept was supported by the other Board members. Jeff will circulate a draft email that would be sent to all community members for which he has a contact.

10. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

