

**General Membership Minutes**  
**May 1, 2012**  
**Stanford In Washington Center**  
**Lower Level**

Attendance:

President: Bill Menczer

Treasurer: Warren Gorlick

Secretary: Peter Brusoe

Other Executive Committee Members

Bruce Forrest

John Goodman

Barbara Ioanes

Zev Lewis

Rob Meisnere

Sarah Taber

Jay Sushelsky

22 Members of the Association

President Bill Menczer welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Gregory Ensign gaveled the meeting to order.

Bill established that a quorum was present since more than 12 members were in attendance at 7:05 pm. There were a total of 22 members in attendance.

**President's Report:**

Bill presented his report of WPCA activities since the last general membership meeting in November 2011 and reviewed upcoming events as follows:

December 2011: WPCA treasurer accounts were independently verified

December 15, 2011: More than 100 people attended our annual Holiday Party at the Marriott Wardman

February 2012: WPCA provided comments on the National Zoo's environmental assessment of their proposed retaining wall. WPCA asked that construction activities take place during the off peak season so as not to temporarily lose 55 parking spaces. The comments included support of the construction option of the wall that best mitigates its negative visual effects.

March 3, 2012: Hazardous materials clean up day with more than 200 participants, held in the parking lot of the All Souls Church

March 2012: WPCA Board proposed revisions to WPCA bylaws to conform them with the new DC Nonprofit Corporation Law effective in January 2012. Draft bylaws were provided to the membership for review.

April 2012: WPCA delivered 2000 copies of the Spring Acorn edition to Woodley Park residents.

April 2012: WPCA provided its proposed comments to the membership on DC zoning rules regarding accessory dwelling units.

May 3, 2012 is the opening reception of the Artists of Woodley Park exhibit at the Stanford in Washington.

June 6, 2012 is our Executive Committee's monthly Meeting.

June 16, 2012 is the annual summer solstice picnic at the Woodley Playground from 4-8PM.

October 20, 2012: historical Woodley Park Walking Tour which is a repeat of a similar tour that was extremely popular four years ago.

November 2012 will be our annual general membership meeting and the elections of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee.

Nick Burgess asked if we were going to sponsor a shredding truck at the next hazardous clean up day. Bill replied that there wasn't enough of a need in the past so we decided not to do it again.

### **Proposed bylaws**

Bill Menczer then went over the bylaws that were distributed at the start of the meeting. The bylaws were changed because DC changed the laws governing nonprofit corporations. Some of these bylaw changes included banning voting by proxy at general membership meetings, providing a way for the Board to vote by email, restating the limits on WPCA's political activities to mirror the limitations on 501(c)(3) organizations, modifying some provisions to recognize current operating practices, requiring calendar year budgets, and expanding the territory of the WPCA to include an additional 35 homes that would be eligible for membership.

Brusoe moved approval of the amended bylaws, Barbara Ioanes seconded, they passed unanimously and became effective on May 2, 2012.

### **Filling positions:**

Bill Menczer explained that the WPCA secretary had resigned and that Peter Brusoe was serving as secretary until the general membership meeting at which time the association could act on it. Bill proposed electing Peter to serve the remainder of the term as Secretary.

Jay Sushelsky moved that we vote by acclamation, seconded by Barbara. Passed unanimously.

John Goodman had been temporarily serving in an at-large position that became vacant due to the resignation of Paul Poe when he was elected vice president in November 2011. Brusoe moved the election of John Goodman by acclamation, Jay seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **Update from Montessori School**

Ann Weymouth is the director of human resources and data management and the legal services liaison at the Aidan Montessori School. She addressed the body about some of the exciting construction work coming up over this summer.

The Montessori playground will be pulled out and be replaced with a natural playground. It will be replaced with a web based grass, some decking will be added, all of which will allow the playground to be more useful. They should start construction on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and it should be completed before mid-August.

There were a couple of questions including:

Question: Is the playground open to non-students?

Ans: there have been a lot of problems in vandalism and theft so they closed it. There have been thefts as recently as last week.

Nick Burgess asked if there was a benefit to the community if it would be locked.

ANS: Right now the fence would still remain.

Bill: What about parking restrictions?

Anne: The spots right in front of the school may be used for staging

Peter Brusoe: Will there be weekend construction as well as weekday?

Anne: Not sure if there will be construction on Saturday. They'll get back to us.

### **DDOT:**

Bill introduced our DDOT speaker who was Mr. Sam Zimbabwe, the Associate Director for the Policy, Planning, and Sustainability Administration of the District Department of Transportation. He develops policies that govern the use of public space; implements safety, pedestrian, and bicycle programs; prepares strategic goals and plans for the entire city; issues permits to developers, vendors, and utilities; and assumes responsibility for the overall management of public space in DC. He was previously the Director of the Center for Transit Oriented Development at Reconnecting America, and worked as an urban designer and planning associate for the Port of San Francisco. He holds a Master of City Planning degree in Urban Design from the University of California and a Bachelors of Science in Urban and Regional Studies from Cornell University.

Some of the issues he talked to us about:

Onstreet Parking

Quality Control Measures for street paving

Pedestrian Friendly improvements to Connecticut Avenue, NW

## Rush Hour Congestion

Pedestrian and Bicycle safety issues and DDOT communication with our community

Sam thanked Bill for the warm introduction and introduced some of his colleagues: Aaron Rhones and James Cheeks from DDOT.

One of the problems is the lack of a transportation plan. The last time there was a comprehensive transportation plan was in 1997. We have had very stable car ownership in the district even though the population has been increasing.

The First Question: was on congestion, pedestrian safety, and traffic on Connecticut Avenue, NW.

DDOT has been working with the CAPA study for the past two years. They have done work on 17 intersections to modify and improve pedestrian times. Some locations that haven't been looked at in a few years were looked at. They've installed leading pedestrian intervals before other cars are moving. The District is doing an overall re-timing of all signals in the district and examining corridors to time the signals to maximize the people through-put and serving all users including motorists, those going cross-town and pedestrians. The DC Traffic Signal system is one of the oldest in the country, it's the first electronic system, the infrastructure uses copper while others are using wireless or fiberoptic. They will also be doing work on bus signal priority or preemption and hopefully all of these projects will address most of the issues we've noticed. When people cheat the light they wind up "blocking the box." MPD and DDOT are actively working to ticket those who block the box. MPD wants to use a new "block the box" technology that will allow a plate to be able to be captured much like a speed camera. DDOT is working with the CAPA recommendation and looking at the whole corridor.

Charles Osgood: There has been an issue with traffic on Ordway east of Connecticut Avenue.

James: DDOT is planning on putting a new pedestrian signal at Newark.

Random Neighbor Follow up: I meant crossing Ordway

James: In order to do this we will need to take the whole area into concern according to the Federal Highway Administration.

David Ensign clarified that the issue is that the main line has lights, but the service area. (incomplete thought here)

Another neighbor asked if DDOT could tell us the time frame for the entire transportation improvement program to be finished?

James: five years, 756 intersections have work orders in place. The consultant has been taking counts and trying to get the data required to run the model and optimize all of the signals. What happens is we get the signal data and we put it into the model and we check it and put it in to test it, and then make a comparison to see if there is a difference.

Sam: There was a question of timing. If there is a large change there will be a notice of intent sent to the ANC. If it's re-striping it may be 72 hours and we'll put out signs.

Aaron: Regarding repaving of the roadway, if the size is 250 square feet or less, then it is handled in-house for emergency work. We try to do it in 48 hours. In cases of pavement exceeding 250 square feet we use a contractor, and that notice is a minimum of 72 hours. If it involves any traffic adjustments and the signals at the intersection they'll do a notice of intent for 30 days to the ANC and the Community.

Sam: There's a question on time frame: Paving the alley behind 2600 Connecticut Ave, NW: This is scheduled for May and there should be Notice in a week or two which will be delivered to the residents.

Aaron: There's a fiscal year plan and we do it on a monthly schedule so within the next couple of weeks there will be notices that DDOT is coming, but at a minimum there will be 72 hours. There will also be a re-striping of the Taft Bridge and will be coordinated with the neighbors.

The quality of the work: Aaron urges us to use 311 (the Mayor's citywide call center) that has improved service delivery and helps to keep the city accountable. All local road paving work has a one year warranty; All. Federal paving roadwork has a five year warranty. The only exception to these rules is if DDOT can prove faulty or substandard quality by taking pavement core samples for analysis and testing.

The mild winter is helpful because it reduces wear and stress with the freezing and thawing, but also because it saves money over-time because paving and snow removal come from the same budget.

Ward 1 uses an enhanced residential parking permit program where one side of the street is restricted to zone 1 permit holders while the other side has a two hour grace period for non-permit holders.

DDOT has experimented with Visiting Parking Permits for every address in the ward. There will be some proposed rules, right now it's free, but DDOT may institute a small fee.

In Ward 6 DDOT is using "performance parking" and trying to vary the parking prices to achieve optimum space turnover.

DDOT is also working on commercial and bus parking in the district that will allow them to adjust parking prices for trucks and buses and see how they can increase turnover in spaces.

Charles Osgood: Asked about blind alley curves and the need to put in mirrors.

James; We don't put in mirrors anymore since people were shooting them out or knocking them out.

Barbara Ioanes: Asked if DDOT was going to address bridges

Aaron: They're working to put speed cameras on two bridge lanes.

Barbara also asked about reversible lanes on Connecticut Ave, NW during rush hour:

Sam: The reversible lanes is a balancing act and trying to determine a policy perspective and is there a way we can address some safety issues.

Bill thanked DDOT for all of their great information and their efforts on behalf of the District of Columbia.

## **PEPCO**

Bill then introduced our next speaker Karen Lefkowitz. She is a VP for Business Transformation with Pepco Holdings Incorporated. She has been with PHI for more than 30 years and is responsible for the planning, design, and implementation of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure program. She was previously the director of customer relations and director of systems operations, with responsibility for the daily operation of PHI's electric system that includes Pepco, Delmarva Power, and Atlantic City Electric. She has a BA in business administration from GWU, and an MBA from Marymount University. She is also on the board of directors of the Woolly Mammoth Theater. Karen spoke about Pepco's smart grid initiative which includes the replacement of existing meters with smart meters equipped with technology that allows two-way communication between a home or business and Pepco. This will facilitate more accurate billing, more information for customers on daily usage, and the ability for Pepco to better and more quickly respond when customers need them, such as during power outages.

Karen made her presentation using Power Point slides of the program. (Presentation will be included) Many people have electric meters located inside their house. This new program allows for wireless reading of the meters outside the house. Additional data is given. We need an infrastructure in place that can react to the changes in the market place. At the end of the day what this is all about is "a value to the customers." The success of PEPCO relies upon the value to the customer.

Data is collected once every hour, and transmitted every four hours and available to the consumer in twenty four hours. The system also allows something called last "gasp." When power goes out, the last "gasp" of power in the meter transmits a report to Pepco and allows for a much faster and accurate reporting and response system.

Armen Tashdianian asked if there were obligations involved for people to get new meters and to sign up for the website. Karen stated that customers don't need to do anything to get a meter, and the installation takes less than a one minute of power interruption.

Charles Osgood asked about cyber security.

Karen said that Pepco has met with the Department of Energy which said that PEPCO's plans are in place and are adequate.

Peter Brusoe asked about usage of the website functions

Karen said that there aren't current stats for DC, but about 30% of the users in DE have signed up for it.

Bruce Forrest asked about display information. Karen said that PEPCO is looking at doing a combination of points and displays of data for inside the home, but nothing definite yet.

Bill thanked Karen and Pepco for coming and making the presentation on smart meters.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.