

Woodley Park Community Association
General Membership Meeting

April 8, 2015

7:30PM

WPCA Executive Committee Members

Peter Brusoe

Barbara Ioanes

Warren Gorlick

Yoni Gedan

Dan Dembkowski

Bill Menczer

Bill Kummings

Gasper Magallanes

Rob Meisnere

Sarah Taber

65 members attending

The Woodley Park Community Association meeting was gaveled into order at 7:30PM.

President Peter Brusoe welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He introduced several guests present including the new 2nd District Commander, Melvin Gresham, ANC Commissioner Lee Brian-Reba, Michael Matthews the Ward 3 Representative from the Mayor's Office. He then introduced the Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia.

He reviewed the presidents report with the group. (Copy attached).

Library Committee Chair Roger White gave an update on the library and introduced the librarian for the Cleveland Park Library.

Picnic chair Sarah Taber reviewed the upcoming June Picnic

Vice President Ioanes gave an update on historic preservation.

Treasurer Warren Gorlick gave a report on the finances of the association, there were no questions.

President Peter Brusoe shared that Board Member Gasper Martinez performed the audit on the accounts and all came back good.

President Brusoe then asked for nominations for secretary. Yoni Gedan was named by the Executive Committee to serve on an interim basis since the last meeting, the association voted to name him secretary until the annual meeting and elections in the Fall.

Commander Gresham then took some questions from the group including issues related to having more beat cops, perhaps having public roll calls of the patrols to better connect with the public. Several questions came up about the zoo temporary barriers and how long those would be up.

President Brusoe then introduced Mayor Bowser to the association.

Mayor Bowser shared some of the highlights of her first 100 days in office.

She then proceeded to take questions from the audience.

Some of the questions came up included:

- 1) Grandfathering in Deal Middle School for Oyster-Adams current students
- 2) Overall lack of communication on the feeder patterns for the schools.
- 3) Concerns about funding for Wilson High School
- 4) Ensuring that Eaton students maintain Alice Deal as their in-boundary middle school
- 5) Concerns regarding rent control and tenant protection in building conversions
- 6) The relocation of the FBI building probably to Maryland from the District of Columbia
- 7) Concerns about Metro infrastructure and communication of issues.
- 8) Concerns about the difference in numbers being reported on the Woodrow Wilson High School funding.

The WPCA then considered a resolution from the membership that the Woodley Park Community Association oppose cuts to the per pupil funding at Woodrow Wilson High School, and that the per pupil remain at \$9,276. It was approved by a majority vote of 8-2-3.

The body then moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM

President's Report

My dear fellow Woodley Parkians:

I am truly excited to welcome each and every one of you to our Spring meeting. We are pleased that Mayor Bowser accepted our invitation to come and speak with us about her vision for the city and some of the new and exciting programs that she is bringing to the city. I wanted to prepare a written report of some trending issues and things that you should be aware of within the association and the neighborhood in lieu of a long talk.

Zoo Security (Option 1): We are very pleased with how the zoo handled security this year around Easter Monday. Last year at this time we had a heated community conversation. We worked with Director Kelly and his staff at the zoo, as well as coordinating with the 2nd District. I think we can all agree that the events this year are much better than in previous years. We will be in touch with the zoo to see how we can help to improve this new system to ensure that it is working well for our local residents as well as our visitors. If people have specific feedback please let us know as we prepare for 2016.

Zoo Security (Option 2): The zoo put forth a good effort this year in attempting to control the violence that has plagued the zoo and our neighborhood on Easter Monday. The zoo, in consultation with other zoos in the country, did a thorough job researching different options. When we met with the zoo and discussed all of the various options, this was in their opinion the best plan that kept the zoo open, while still ensuring public safety. The plan came at a significant public cost in terms of real dollars, staff time and resources. Ultimately, the plan failed. I would be remiss if I did not thank the zoo and the second district for their efforts at communication and willingness to try something new. Last year there were suggestions on how we can address this problem including making Easter Monday a mandatory training and paid day for the Summer Youth Employment Program, removing it as a school holiday, closing the National Zoo on Easter Monday, or making Easter Monday a ticketed event. Tonight, we will be asking the association to weigh in on which path forward they want us to take. Public safety must be paramount.

Maintaining the Restaurant Cap: Our last general meeting we had a very comprehensive discussion about the restaurant cap and the association voted to maintain and preserve the cap. The ANC voted by a narrow majority to support breaking the cap. Vice President Ioanes, Past President John Goodman and I testified before the BZA on the issue. Ultimately the BZA ruled against us. As I write this we are still waiting for the formal written order and will evaluate future directions. I would be remiss if I did not extend my personal thanks to John Goodman for his legal advice, guidance and dedication, and my personal appreciation to Barbara Ioanes who accompanied me to the ANC meeting and the BZA meeting.

The Cleveland Park Library: The Cleveland Park Library will be rebuilt. This Library serves both the Cleveland Park as well as the Woodley Park communities. As such it is critically important that Woodley Park has a strong and knowledgeable voice on this issue. I have asked Roger White to serve as the chair

of our Library Committee and he has done an outstanding job in helping to advise the WPCA and to be able to keep us in the loop on the most recent developments. I want to thank Councilmember Mary Cheh for her hard work and efforts advocating for this project and ensuring that there is sufficient funding to build the library that our community deserves.

School Feeder System: The WPCA recently passed two resolutions regarding the school feeder system. The first would be to keep our students attending Alice Deal School. The second is to have a school other than Francis Stevens be the alternative school for Woodley Park residents who opt out of the bilingual program at Oyster Adams. We are happy to discuss either one of these two resolutions this evening, as well as entertain other resolutions as may be brought before the association on these issues.

Funding Cuts To Woodrow Wilson High School: As many of you have read in the news, DC Public Schools is looking at cutting funding to Woodrow Wilson Senior High School. Many people in the community have expressed their disappointment in this decision. We should not be mortgaging our children's' future to balance a city budget. Tonight I will be asking the Community Association to vote to oppose these cuts.

Honoring Armen: The executive committee raised money from among ourselves to plan a tree in honor of Armen in the Tregaron Conservancy. One of my favorite quotes is that society grows strong when men plant trees, whose shade they will never enjoy. Armen's tireless dedication and commitment to the community personifies that ideal. There will be an unveiling of the tree probably in the fall. I want to thank every board member who chipped in to support this effort. Perhaps the best way we can each honor Armen is to remember his tireless service and dedication to the community.

Some Staff changes in the association: I am pleased that Dan Dembowski has stepped up as our membership services manager. He has been doing an outstanding job and we appreciate the work he has been doing. The neighborhood watch has been an issue of ongoing concern. I have also asked Dan to step up and become co-captain of the watch.

Community Service Partnership: We were pleased to partner with St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, here in Woodley Park, and be the co-sponsor of their day of service. Over 70 people came to our neighborhood to participate in this outstanding venture.

Spring cleanup day: We are in the process of scheduling the Spring Cleanup day. We are thinking June. We hit an issue with finding a vendor who can handle paint and other substances.

The Picnic: Our Picnic is set for XXXX from XXXX. I cannot thank Sarah Taber enough for her work and leadership on this.

Mural: We had discussed having a new mural installed in Woodley Park to complement the Marilyn Monroe Mural. The Mural committee met outlined a procedure and examined costs. The costs to do this project would have been in the tens of thousands of dollars. The resources of the association are

not enough to sustain this type of project.

Historic Preservation: Vice President Barbara loanes is leading an effort to examine some of our historic preservation policies and some alley ways in the Eastern Part of Woodley Park. More updates will be forthcoming.

WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2015

Current Balances:

Checking: 9740¹ (\$9797)²

3/10/15	1135	Dan Dembkowski	Membership Expenses	38.45
3/09/15	1134	Peter Brusoe	Mailbox keys	18.00

Savings: \$5632 (\$5352)

Contributions of \$280.

Minor interest earned.

CD: \$14,045 (\$14,044)

Minor interest earned.

PayPal: \$968 (\$786)

Contributions of \$182.

Total: \$30,385 (\$29,979 as of last report)

¹ All accounts rounded to nearest dollar.

² Parens indicate prior month.