

## **Membership Minutes of the Woodley Park Community Association May 18, 2016**

Present: Approximately 30 people were in attendance. A quorum of more than 12 WPCA members present was established.

WPCA President Peter Brusoe gaveled the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He thanked everyone for coming and announced that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposed WPCA design guidelines for the Woodley Park Historic District. WPCA Vice President Barbara Ioanes, who chaired the WPCA historical committee, and Roxane Sismanidis, a member of the WPCA historical committee, made a brief presentation regarding the process that had resulted in the draft guidelines.

Peter then opened up the proposed guidelines for discussion. Concerns and opportunities raised included the following:

- The proposed guidelines will undermine compliance. The cost of compliance is extremely high, people will rather just pay a fine or risk going to court.
- The restrictions will undermine the value of houses in Woodley Park generally.
- The policies will unduly advantage some people who already have additions, while unfairly disadvantaging those who do not.
- The proposals would unduly impact the elderly and the handicapped.
- While some felt that the proposals should take account of variations on each street, others objected to any process that would result in more specific requirements for each street.
- Some expressed the view that since the Historical Preservation Office already has guidelines that include the rears of properties, it would be appropriate for the WPCA to issue its own guidelines on the rears, though most did not support the existing proposed WPCA guidelines.
- Some expressed the view that the members of the WPCA historical committee did not represent the predominant views of the community, that were strongly opposed to the guidelines.
- Some expressed the importance of maintaining site lines in back alleys, particularly Woodley Road alley and 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> alley which have unique look and are a shared neighborhood amenity.
- It was noted that the existing guidelines are misleading where they suggest that "anything goes" in the rears (language like the rears are of insignificant importance from a historical perspective) and that needs to be changed.

Various non-binding votes were taken through the course of the evening, as set forth below:

*By a non-binding vote of the membership, a large majority felt that no guidelines should be issued for the rear.*

*By a non-binding vote of the membership, a large majority felt that the status quo should be retained by not issuing any further guidelines.*

After the votes on hearing all the specific comments, Peter proposed that the Committee take back the feedback, and revise the proposed guidelines in light of the comments received. Peter indicated that his hope was that the WPCA might issue final guidelines in September or October

2016. It was also agreed that the HPO would be invited to make a presentation to the WPCA membership in June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.