

**Minutes of the Woodley Park Community Association  
Spring Membership Meeting  
May 8, 2019**

Present: Approximately 60 people were in attendance. A quorum of more than 12 WPCA members present was established.

WPCA President Carolyn Abbey gaveled the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. As the attendees got ready for the Mayor's arrival, Carolyn noted the presence of various members of the Mayor's cabinet, including Division of Parks and Recreation Director Delano Hunter, Division of General Services Community Outreach Director Wayne Gore, DC Public Works Director Chris Geldart, and DC Department of Transportation Director Jeff Marootian. Carolyn then introduced the other Board members that were present – Emily Curley, Warren Gorlick, Barbara Ioanes, Bill Kummings, Katie MacFarlane, Jeff Myers, and Courtney Tolbert.

Various members of the Mayor's cabinet then gave brief introductions and took questions.

- Dir. Marootian led off the presentations. Marootian described the DDOT responsibilities, and noted the Vision 0 program which is designed to enhance pedestrian and bike safety. Many Ward 3 roads are also in the process of being repaved.
- Dir. Geldart discussed the role of DPW in traffic enforcement. In response to a question, he indicated that it is often difficult to ticket buses idling near the Zoo as the drivers move their buses immediately when they see a ticket-writer in the vicinity. In other cases, the DPW agents simply request that the bus drive move on, without trying to give a ticket.
- Director Hunter introduced himself and noted that DPR in conjunction with other agencies and will soon commence Hearst Pool construction. He also noted the expanded budget for summer camps and that outdoor pools are opening a little earlier on certain days of the week.
- Mayor Bowser then took the podium. Bowser discussed her accomplishments over the past four years, including initiatives in the areas of affordable housing, early childhood education and early learning centers and other initiatives that will also assist to make daycare more affordable for families with young children. Bowser noted her work on traffic safety including a reconfiguration of K Street and the Vision 0 initiative. She expressed her desire to keep the Circulator free of charge, and noted her concern that CM Cheh seeks to reinstate the collection of fares. Bowser acknowledged higher levels of violent crime, and highlighted initiatives she is undertaking to reduce crime.
- Questions to the Mayor were raised on the following issues:
  - Affordable housing. Bowser noted her expansion of housing investment to expand affordability at all income levels.
  - Buskers. The Mayor discussed balancing the need to allow for free expression while addressing nuisances such as noise and impeding traffic.
  - Exempting pension income from DC income tax. Mayor gave little hope for a reducing taxes on pension income, or any other reduction in taxes, as she noted pressure to increase spending on housing and schools in particular. She identified certain fee increases included in the budget, such as increases to residential

- parking fees. Bowser noted that many on the Council supported a broader increase in property and/or income taxes on wealthier residents.
- Climate change and renewable energy initiatives. Bowser noted Cheh's leadership in this area, and that certain fees are in place that generate several million each year to promote these efforts.
  - Expansion of RPP restrictions to weekend hours in light of Zoo traffic. The Mayor said she had an open mind, but had concerns about increasing weekend parking restrictions. However, in response to further questions on the topic, the Mayor said she would work with DDOT to see if a parking study in the neighborhood is warranted.
  - Tree maintenance. The Mayor said that DDOT has enhanced its tree maintenance program. She asked neighbors to monitor particular trees in need of maintenance and report those issues to DDOT.
  - Water flow management. Connecticut Avenue is serving as a blockage to the normal drainage of water. The District is planning a walk-through to review such issues, and the Mayor may personally attend.
  - Auditor review of budget. The Mayor indicated her disagreement with a recent Auditor's report questioning the overall high level of District spending, and stated that she will continue to borrow for school renovations, which the Auditor opposes.
  - Alcohol Beverage Regulation Commission. The manager of a local liquor store questioned the timing and manner in which ABRA conducts its inspections, which is often at busy times of the year, such as around the July 4 and Thanksgiving holidays. The Mayor said she would review the issue.
  - Artificial turf. A concern was raised about the toxicity of the artificial turf surfaces. The Mayor said she understood the issue.
  - Tax incentives. The Mayor said she seeks to avoid paying undue tax incentives to incentivize business location decisions, but did not support elimination of all such incentives. Bowser contrasted the Amazon case, where she supported tax incentives to pay for infrastructure improvements, to the Marriott case, where she did not support incentives as she knew the effort would be futile and would simply force Maryland to offer higher incentives in response.
  - Circulator. The Mayor said that her additional investment in free and expanded Circulator service has cost \$16 million, and has resulted in expanded usage.
  - Library. The Mayor said she favors continuing investment in both library facilities such as the new CP library, as well as library services.
  - School maintenance. The Mayor will address school maintenance at schools that draw in local WP students, but she noted that there is a schedule for maintenance to ensure that there is even support for all schools.
  - Vouchers for homeless in local apartment buildings. The Mayor noted that some of the placements may not have been appropriate, and that it wasn't her intent to concentrate residents in particular buildings. She indicated that the lack of support for the residents with the greatest number of problems needs to be reviewed.
- Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10pm. Next meeting of the Board on Tuesday, June 4.

