

Woodley Park Community Association
October 16 Membership Meeting

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

WPCA President Carolyn Abbey gavelled the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She thanked everyone for coming and introduced the other Board member present: Jeff Myers, Warren Gorlick, Courtney Tolbert, Barbara Ioanes, Peter Brusoe and Katie MacFarlane.

- Acceptance of agenda – The agenda was accepted.
- WPCA board nominations and elections
 - Barbara described the voting procedures and those running. Three at-large nominees, John Goodman, Jeff Myers and Katie MacFarlane, as well as Warren Gorlick for Secretary, and Stephanie Zobay for Treasurer all were running for their respective positions unopposed. Barbara requested additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, an oral vote was taken, and the membership voted to approve this slate for these positions.
 - Barbara requested the two nominees for the President position, Peter Brusoe and Courtney Tolbert, to provide brief statements, which the nominees proceeded to do, and the nominees answered questions from the membership. Ballots were distributed, and, later in the meeting, the voting results were announced, with Courtney receiving the most votes, and therefore Courtney is the new WPCA President.
 - Barbara also announced that Peter had received the most number of write-in votes for the Vice President position, and she therefore announced that Peter is the new WPCA Vice President.

Report from treasurer – The Treasurer was not available to deliver the report.

National Zoo update Director Monfort and his staff discussed various issues, including:

- Zoo perimeter fencing. The project is proceeding as planned, and will reduce the current 13 entry points to six. The Fine Arts Commission will review the fencing plans on October 17.
- One of the Zoo's panda will be returned soon to China as the rental agreement is ending and he is of mating age. The Zoo will commence discussions with China on extending the current rental agreement of two other pandas that will terminate at end-2020 absent any extension.
- Parking/Garage – Monfort discussed earlier plans for a garage that have now been rejected, properly so in Monfort's view, as it would have only increased total spaces by 65, at a cost of \$70 million. Any garage built at the Zoo should have more capacity in Monfort's view. There is now a ride share area at the entrance. Monfort plans more ride share spots and better signage to enhance visibility of the drop-off spots. In answer to a member question, Monfort said that no off-site parking lot has been identified at this point.
- Circulator – A pilot program involving the Circulator has now terminated. The Zoo is waiting for results on ridership usage. There is a separate pilot involving Big Bus that is ongoing.
- Traffic enforcement – Monfort will work with the appropriate District officials to improve the quality of the contractors that are hired to direct traffic in peak periods.

- Bike path – The contract for the bike path has been delayed. Monfort doesn't know when a new contract will be issued. This project is handled by DDOT.
- Bike rack – The racks will be improved.
- Renting space – Smithsonian can now rent space directly to potential users; it no longer needs to co-host an event.
- Zoo hours – While Zoo hours were longer in the past, Monfort does not support longer Zoo hours due to budgetary and safety reasons.

Councilmember Mary Cheh provided an update and answered member questions on the following:

- Comprehensive Plan update – Plan released on Oct. 15. There will be a comment period. There is a concern about reducing “examples” that may make it seem these are the only options.
- Woodley Park Mainstreet – Cheh noted that this is the 5th Mainstreet project. She praised the Woodley Park Mainstreet leader, Ryan Wegman, as being particularly good at his job.
- Heat emergencies – Centers have been set up in each Ward.
- Affordable housing – Cheh noted the Mayor has an affordable housing plan, but there are few details at this point. Cheh also discussed the possible strengthening of existing rent control requirements. The District's current voucher program may also be revised, as there is too high a concentration in particular buildings, and a failure to provide services to those who need them. A member noted three buildings in addition to Sedgewick Gardens being in “absolute turmoil” due to the use of vouchers: 2929 Conn. Ave., 3220 Conn. Ave., and 3002 Rodman St.
- Landlord-tenant issues -- Cheh described procedures that tenants can utilize if they believe the Landlord is not keeping up with the terms of the lease and DC regulations.
- Noise – Cheh introduced legislation to prohibit electronic noise that is audible 100' or more in the distance. However, there is political opposition.
- Resident-only parking – Cheh described new DDOT procedures for resident-only parking.
- Maret's use of Jellef field – Cheh indicated the new nine year contract with Maret would unlikely be overturned. Cheh has not been successful in her efforts to find alternative fields.
- Metro – Jack Evans is off the Metro board, but no one has yet been nominated to replace him.
- Soft drink tax – Cheh supports a tax on soft drinks, and desires that the funds raised be spent on nutritional programs.
- Hardy – Cheh doesn't support reinstating the old school boundaries that included Woodley Park within the Alice Deal boundary as that school is overcrowded. She felt parents should focus on improving Hardy, where Woodley Park students are currently assigned for middle school. She will check if a new public bus route can be established to transport students to Hardy, but indicated it was unlikely.
- Hearst Pool – The Hearst Pool is scheduled for completion in May 2020.
- Adams School – Unclear when the renovation date is, but she did not think it has been delayed.

Vote on amendments to Associations bylaws — Was deferred due to time constraints until the next membership meeting.

Adjourn