

**Minutes of the Woodley Park Community Association  
Fall Membership Meeting  
November 29, 2021  
Via zoom**

Present: Approximately 28 people were in attendance, with the meeting held on a virtual basis using Zoom. A quorum of more than 12 WPCA members present was established.

WPCA President Courtney Tolbert called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM. She thanked everyone for coming and introduced the other Board members that were present – Carolyn Abbey, Nicole Field, John Goodman, Warren Gorlick, Barbara Ioanes, Melissa Maxman, and Stephanie Zobay.

- WPCA board nominations and elections
  - Courtney described the voting procedures and those running. Two at-large nominees, Nicole Field and Melissa Maxman, as well as Courtney Tolbert for President, John Goodman for Vice President, Warren Gorlick for Secretary, and Stephanie Zobay for Treasurer, all were running for their respective positions unopposed. Courtney further described the type of issues that the Board faces and how the Board operates, and requested additional nominations from the floor for the at-large and Officer positions. Hearing none, a voice vote was taken, and the membership voted to approve this slate for these positions.
- MPD 2D Commander Duncan Bedlion – Commander Bedlion noted his appreciation that Glenn Marcus had attended the recent MPD award banquet. Bedlion then discussed various crime issues, including a shooting outside the Shoreham Hotel, his concern that local citizens were leaving their cars running unattended when conducting short errands that was contributing to the rise in auto thefts, and a reward program for gun tips. Some questions that were raised include the following:
  - Surveillance cameras – Bedlion stated that residential cameras are helpful to the MPD, as they can record crimes in the vicinity. He noted that there is an incentive program for such cameras and that the camera footage is not accessible by the police, but rather, the camera location is noted in the police file, so the police can ask for footage should a crime occur in the vicinity of the camera.
  - Crime in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Bedlion noted that in comparison to three years ago, car thefts are on the increase in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. They have had success in recent weeks in arresting some of the major perpetrators. Armed robberies are also up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. The number of recovered guns is also on the increase. Bedlion credited that both to good police work to recover these guns, but also suggested a general increase in the number of guns on the streets. In response to a further question, Bedlion noted his concern with the ease with which guns are available.
  - Private cameras – Bedlion stated that the MPD does not assist individuals who wish to set up a private security camera at their homes, but he noted that individuals who do so could monitor a wide area in front of their houses.
- Woodley Park Main Street Manager De'Andre Anderson – Manager Anderson discussed the work of the Main Street program. New businesses have opened up recently and

others are coming, resulting in a reduction of the overall number of vacancies in the business area. However, Anderson noted that there are still 10 storefront vacancies, and that he is working with prospective businesses interested in opening up in these vacant spaces. Some of the vacant spaces have challenges, including one storefront that would require patrons to navigate a stairway, and other landlords that may be charging too much rent. Anderson then discussed the sale of the Marriott Hotel and the possibility that the site may be devoted to affordable housing. Anderson stated that the business community has grown increasingly accepting of the prospect that the site may be devoted to affordable housing, and in response to another question, Anderson stated that he did not know why there is such a focus on affordable housing at this site as opposed to other similar sites that are being developed in other parts of Ward 3 near the Metro. ANC Commissioner Pagats then noted that earlier plans for the District to purchase the site for 100% affordable housing appear not to be moving forward, but that there was still a push for a much higher affordable housing percentage rate than the usual 10-15% for private sector development. In response to a separate question, Anderson discussed that local businesses have taken over a significant amount of the public sidewalk space for their private use, particularly in the case of Hot N' Juicy restaurant. Anderson noted the impact of the pandemic and that businesses needed to adjust their seating policies, but he agreed to reach out to the restaurant to discuss ways that the establishment may revise its usage of the sidewalk so as not to impede pedestrian traffic flow. In response to a separate question, Anderson noted some business concerns about a proposed bike lane that would run through the Woodley Park business district, and Com. Pagats discussed ongoing construction on the Connecticut Ave. thoroughfare, particularly in the Cleveland Park business district, and noted the complexity of underground utilities.

- Questions or concerns from members – Roger White noted the contributions of Barbara Ioanes, who is stepping down from the Board after many years of service. Courtney and other Board members seconded Roger White's commendation of Barbara.
- Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm. Next meeting of the Board on Dec. 7 at 7:30pm.