

Woodley Park Community Association Executive Committee
December 3, 2014
7:30PM
Stanford University in Washington, D.C.

Present:

Executive Committee Members:

Peter Brusoe, President

Barbara Ioanes, Vice-President

Dan Dembkowski

Bill Kummings

Gasper Martinez

Rob Meisnere

Sarah Taber

Stephanie Zobay

Community Members:

Megan Brown, Mary Cheh's Office

John Goodman

Lee Brian Reba, ANC Commissioner

Penny Weaver

Roger White

Meeting:

Peter Brusoe gaveled the meeting open at 7:30PM.

Peter thanked everyone for attending and taking the time out of their evening to be present.

Minutes:

The committee discussed the minutes.

Peter is going to re-circulate the September and October executive committee meetings, anyone who has changes should get them to him soon and we will approve them in January.

The Executive Committee discussed the November Executive Committee minutes, Barbara moved approval, seconded by Bill Kummings. The committee approved them unanimously.

The Executive Committee discussed the November general minutes. It was moved by Rob and seconded by Dan that they be approved. The committee approved the minutes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer is on travel and no report was available.

ANC Updates:

Peter shared that Gwen Bole, The ANC Commissioner for ANC3C02, had sent a communication to the Woodley Park Community Association. He summarized that she urges the WPCA to not to testify at the BZA meeting because if Nando's doesn't get the variance a 7-11 or a mattress store may move in. John

sent a copy around to everyone. A copy of the email is appended to these minutes.

Membership Update:

Dan brought out that we skipped the membership update in the agenda, Peter went back to it in the agenda. Peter announced that Dan has agreed to take on the membership coordinator position. Dan reported that he has begun to look at the database program from Armen and has begun to de-dupe the data and clean up our information records. Right now we're looking at XXX unique records.

ANC Update:

Lee Brian Reba reported that he heard back from Director Dennis Kelly of the National Zoo about security and safety and that a meeting with the zoo with he, Dan and Peter would be forthcoming.

City Council Member's Office:

Peter thanked Megan Brown from Mary Cheh's Office for attending, asked if she had any comments, the group reviewed the email from Anthony Cassillo. (appended)

There was a clarification that the issue with Rock Creek Park was about the addition of the Woodley Park Playground into the Rock Creek Historic District. The group agreed that there was nothing additional that they needed to be done by the Council Member's office or the Executive Committee.

The issue of changes to the 90 bus was also discussed. One concern was if it was changes to the 96 bus route as well. Dr. Zobay shared that one of her concerns was if the bus was terminating at U street and not going all the way to Union Station. The 96 is the only cross town bus route. The committee voted that if the Metro Change were to take place that the WPCA would vote to oppose it. The motion was made by Stephanie Zobay, and seconded by Bill Kummings. It was approved unanimously.

Rob Meisner asked if this was an issue that the ANC would support the community on. Lee Brian Reba said the WPCA could request it but they should give a reason in their statement.

There were some general questions raised about the parking rules on Cleveland Avenue. Rob will be following up with Gwen Bole about those issues.

Rob Meisner also asked if we could send a Thank You Letter to Council Member Cheh for supporting the WPCA on the zoning issues.

Mayor's Representative:

No one from the Mayor's office was present.

Zoo Safety Update:

Peter reported that they touched base with the zoo and they are looking at doing a controlled access for upcoming events. He also reported that zoo lights has been happening and so far has been outstanding without any public safety issues.

Holiday Party Update:

There is no update yet on the Holiday Party. Rob Meisnere is going to follow up with the Omni, if we don't hear anything by the end of the week Peter is going to follow up with the Marriott again. Plan C would be to do it at a neighborhood restaurant.

Mural Committee:

The Committee is looking at meeting up in January to move on the project.

Public Safety:

Dan reported that there was no news, which was good news.

Stephanie asked about finding out more details about crimes. Rob was going to send around the police list serve to everyone that gives some additional details. It was shared that a lot of times the police do not share details when a case is under investigation.

Oyster School Liaison.

Rob Meisnere was appointed the Oyster School Liaison. He reminded everyone about the Christmas Tree sale going on this weekend at Oyster Elementary School.

The Acorn:

The Acorn went to press last month, we have extras in case anyone is interested. Peter thanked Stephanie, Barbara, Bill and Sarah for writing content and thanked John Goodman for his hard work and dedication outlining it.

Library Update:

Roger shared that there were no new updates about the library. However, he remains concerned about temporary space and ensuring we have services for children and meeting room space.

Historic Preservation:

Barbara reported on the historic preservation committee report. Two alleyways have been selected for the Committee to begin their review process. She indicated that we may need to pay for some fliers to be created and mailed.

Recap of the General Membership meeting:

The general membership meeting went very well. Mary Cheh was an amazing speaker and took the time to listen and to hear all of our concerns.

Nando's:

The WPCA based on the majority vote of our membership is moving forward with the hearing before BZA.

New Business.

None appearing

Closing Comments:

Penny Weaver shared that she really wants to have Nandos in the community, and that it would be better than having a 7-11 or a mattress store.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Subject: special exception for Nando's
Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2014 16:28:09 -0500
From: Bole, Gwen (ANC 3C02) <3C02@anc.dc.gov>
To: John Goodman <goodman@verizon.net>
CC: Reba, Lee Brian (ANC 3C01) <3C01@anc.dc.gov>

John: Here is the email I received from the principal of the realty company re: renting the 2631 Conn av space. If the special exception for Nando's is not granted, a 7-Eleven is almost certain to rent and soon, and I believe a majority of the community would prefer Nando's. I do not think the WPCA position is representative of the community, and wonder if you would have had 15 votes had all the facts been known.

I urge WPCA to not testify at the BZA meeting against the special exception. Let's not have a 7-Eleven and possibly put Manhattan Market out of business.

I'm really sorry I can't come tonight, but would be glad to discuss this further. Gwen

Hello Gwen. Thanks for your email.

To answer your question, no we did not only look at chains for this space. Grosvenor welcomes local tenants in their portfolio. There were no small business tenants that we rejected for this space.

One of the reasons may be the size. The space is 3,400 SF and most of the Mom & Pop tenants typically take smaller spaces in the 1,000 - 2,000 SF range. I do recall speaking to a few mom and pop tenants who were looking for much smaller space.

There are many local tenants and Mom & Pop type tenants in the Grosvenor portfolio. Here are just a few examples in Cleveland Park & Woodley Park:

Medium Rare
Café Sorriso
Ubreakifix
Indique
Custom Cleaners
Eddie's Cafe

Regarding the former Bank of America space, 7-11 and Sleepy's were the only non-food tenants that stepped up to the plate and were willing to move forward at terms that were acceptable to the landlord.

Nando's was obviously the 3rd candidate. As I said at the last meeting, Perry from Grosvenor really put a lot of thought into choosing Nando's as the final choice to move forward with. Nando's is much more

upscale and is just a better fit for the neighborhood. Perry could have done a lease with 7-11 six months ago. 7-11 was willing to pay more rent than Nando's and if he chose them, they would probably be already open by now and paying rent. Perry was willing to forego approximately 6- 9 months of rent to get a better tenant for the neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Thanks.

Steve

Stephen C. Combs

Principal

KLNBretail

There was allegation that National Park Service is planning to take over Woodley Park Playground; we have not been able to find any evidence on the Cleveland Park Listserv or anywhere else about this plan. If the resident would like to point us to where this information can be found please feel free to email me at acassillo@dccouncil.us or call at 202-724-8062

- On the potential for some elementary schools to feed into Hardy MS rather than Deal and the request for transit service to the school, the request must be initiated by the school itself by submitting this application

http://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/school_transit_service_request_form.pdf. This application should be submitted once school boundaries are finalized. When the time comes we're more than happy to feed this completed application to DDOT and facilitate the needed meetings between DDOT, WMATA, and the school.

- The reroute of the 90 busses will go into effect in June 2015 PENDING the Board of Director's vote on the 2014 proposal which will take place in January. The proposal can be found here (PDF Pg 27), http://wmata.com/community_outreach/B13-02_landing/DC%20bus%20service%20changes.pdf

- o NOTE: PDF Pg 35 includes a potential expansion of the H8 Route to run from Woodley Park to Tenleytown.

- Regarding the lack of public outreach and alert system to forewarn drivers of road closures through Rock Creek Park, the majority of the time, NPS closes roads on nights and weekends, more typically on Weekdays.

- o NPS Road Closure Alerts: <http://www.nps.gov/rocr/index.htm>.

- o The Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC). They have a variety of links for travel information in the DMV area.

- o TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/MATOC>

- o FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Metropolitan-Area-Transportation-Operations-Coordination/147448925301561>

- § LIVE CAMERA: https://www.trafficview.org/live_traffic#x=-8571225.3715383&y=4708725.657288145&scale=7

- o Lastly, there is alert dc, which is an emergency alert and notification system for traffic but also closures, safety and weather. This is run by the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency so it might be overkill but it's probably useful.

- § <http://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>

- Regarding the request to make parking restrictions on both sides of Cleveland Ave the same, DDOT's rationale for ending RPP enforcement hours at 4:00 on the East side of Cleveland Ave is that allowing parking quells outbound evening rush hour traffic. Gwen Bole, the commissioner who

represents the SMD, agrees that an extension RPP hours on the block is a local issue and is best driven by the residents. She'll contact the residents on the block, again, with the petition to extend the hours.