

WPCA Executive Committee

Minutes

9/1/2020

7:30PM

Committee Members Present (by videoconference arrangement):

Carolyn Abbey
Peter Brusoe
John Goodman
Warren Gorlick
Barbara Ioanes
Katie MacFarlane
Melissa Maxman
Courtney Tolbert
Stephanie Zobay

1. Establishment of quorum/confirming everyone can hear/see
2. Consent items:
 - a. Acceptance of agenda – The agenda was accepted. It was also agreed to move the November meeting to Thursday, Nov. 5 from the current date of Tuesday, Nov. 3 to avoid conflicting with Election Day.
 - b. Treasurer's Report – Stephanie asked what people wanted in a Treasurer's report. The discussion was deferred until the October meeting.
 - c. Minutes – The minutes from the WPCA's July meeting were approved.
3. Construction Updates with public input:
 - a. 2735 Connecticut Avenue Updates – Jeff Goins, Partner, PGN Architects, provided an update on the construction plans. Jeff explained that the project had been scaled back from its original conception. In response to questions from the attendees, Jeff explained that
 - i. there was approximately 30 feet from the rear façade of the proposed structure to the rear property line.
 - ii. the trash cans can be enclosed to reduce the potential rat problem
 - iii. the court between the proposed addition and 2801 Connecticut is narrower than required by the zoning regs and that they will need a special exception from the BZA.
 - iv. while the additional levels would be visible from across the street, due to setbacks, they would not be visible at ground level immediately outside of the building.
 - v. some residents of the adjacent property expressed concerns because they will lose windows in some of their existing bedrooms, thus rendering their structures as having one less bedroom

- vi. the HPRB hearing is set for the 1st week of October. He anticipates a BZA hearing by December, with a goal to obtaining permit approval in May 2021. In that event, construction could commence in June or July 2021.

Later in the meeting, a question was raised as to whether the Board should take a position on the project. In the interest of time and the need to obtain further information, a decision on the Board position was deferred. However, ANC Com. Reba will ask for a delay of the October HPRB hearing until further information is obtained.

- b. Swiss Embassy Updates – Daniel Chao, a WPCA member, provided an update. Daniel stated that he had sent a letter to the Embassy, on behalf of himself and some of his neighbors, asking for information about the plans, and he received a short, non-substantive response, which was subsequently circulated to the Board.
4. Old business
- a. Comp Plan (John) – John provided an update on the status of amendments to the Comp Plan that have been in the works for the past four years. The key issue for the WPCA is its proposed amendment that would require that redevelopment of the Omni Shoreham or Marriott hotels be performed in accordance with Small Area Plans. John explained this would allow the neighborhood more input on the redevelopment. It was agreed that the WPCA should reach out to CM Cheh at an appropriate time to urge her to seek to amend the proposed Comp Plan language.
 - b. Marilyn Monroe (Barbara) – Barbara provided a status update. Work has been delayed, which threatens the funding of the project, because the funding is only for this fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2020. Funding for the plaque is also in question from the city. It was suggested that the WPCA could help fund the plaque, similarly to the Cleveland Park Library.
 - c. Shred/E-Waste Day (Peter) – Peter reported on the shred day event, which was a great success. This year the event cost \$1,336.5. with tips of \$225. Last year's was at a cost of \$1,558.75, with tips of \$175. This year's event was open to Woodland Normanstone. Peter shared that, once again, David DeSantis, with BOWA Transforming Home and Sotheby's International Realty (Woodleyparkhomes.com), generously sponsored this program.
 - d. Picnic (Board) – It was agreed that there will be no picnic for 2020 due to the pandemic.
 - e. Website (Katie) – Katie provided an update on the website. She has spoken to the developer and discussed comments received from the Board to date. She expects that by end-September, a new mock-up of the website will be available for the Board to review. Later in the year, there can be training for up to two WPCA members who are interested in managing the site, and the site can go live later in 2020.

- f. Holiday Party (Katie) – It was agreed that in light of the pandemic, there will not be a physical holiday party this year. Plans for some type of virtual event will be considered later in the year, possibly with a service or community aspect. Peter, Courtney and Melissa will be take the lead to consider some possibilities.
 - g. Fall Meeting – Warren made a Motion to invite Karl Racine to the Fall meeting. The Motion passed. Melissa will contact Racine’s staff and propose a date for Racine after the November election. One proposed date that appears convenient for all Board members is November 17, but Melissa will discuss other possible dates if that is not a convenient time for Racine’s appearance before the WPCA.
 - h. Social (Jeff) – Deferred.
 - i. Update on Restaurants (Jeff) – Deferred.
 - j. Zoo Updates (Carolyn) – Deferred.
5. New business
- a. Level of interest in hosting an ANC candidate forum? – Deferred.
 - b. Connecticut Avenue study – Deferred.
6. Updates from Mayor’s office, Council, ANC – Deferred.
7. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.