

ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

MEETING MINUTES - MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2017

Attendees: 24

PRESIDENT & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Katrina opens the meeting, does a round of introduction

- Intros goal to keep meeting on the shorter side

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

- Wants to do a cleanup day on Saturday, June 17 – 10am in front of rec center – will meet, have bags, do some cleaning

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – NO UPDATES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Had clothing swap – had about 20 bags of clothes to start, about 40 people stopped by, and had 4 bags to donate
- Will try to do again

MPD – SARGENT MCCORMACK

- Violent crime is down 33%, robberies down 40ish percent, burglaries down, motor vehicle theft down, theft from auto up, - District wide
- Our neighborhood: Violent crimes down, burglaries no change, theft from auto down 7%, thefts up 30%
- Sharing theft from auto spreadsheet – every report of theft from auto has in common that someone left something of value in the car in plain view, on passenger seat.
- Be sure to have your phone iCloud password written down – helps police track phone down.
- Be sure to keep valuables hidden (locked in trunk or hidden) if you leave them in the car.
- Shooting over in Truxton Circle area
 - Very active investigation – you'll see more policemen walking on foot, or on Segway or mountain bike. After London attacks, we have officers working overtime on standby, sending them to NoCap area, FL Corridor, metro stations, as a precaution.
 - There's an influx of officers walking the beat, throughout the day and especially into the evening, all along NoCap, NY Ave, FL, Q st area. There's a lot of problems from NY Ave that are brought into this corridor that the detectives and crime suppression units are working on. Our station's lock-ups are full right now, from efforts to suppress crime – it's working well.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILMEMBER MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE

- Budget process- we worked very hard for the last few weeks. The council had its first vote on FY18 budget; 2nd vote will be on 13th of this month. There's a couple things to highlight.
- Adding 2 new building code inspectors to DCRA. They've gotten complaints about people doing things without permits; having 2 additional inspectors will help crack down on that – and will help w/ legal instruction
- Requesting increase of 3% to student funding formal.
- NEAR act – Anti-crime bill – was passed but not funded last year; parts of now been funded. Includes Clean Teams – in NY Ave area
- Saturday – Pride Parade – Councilmember will have group marching; asking every civic association to get at least 10 people to the pride parade.
- Q – update on 2 requests from ANC for budget increases for Harry Thomas Rec & NY Ave playground
 - Not sure, will look into it
- Q – Update on short-term rental act?
 - No – don't know when or if it's been scheduled for markup
 - Ask for quick explanation – If it's your own house, you can have air bnb all year long if you're there; if you're not there, up to 2 weeks you can have air bnb guests. At the hearings, it became clear that people were unhappy w/ 2 weeks. If it's a house that's not your primary residence, you won't have rentals anymore. Lots of people on both sides of the issue came out to testify. Most people's requests to change were based on their personal situation.

HANNAH POWELL, ANC

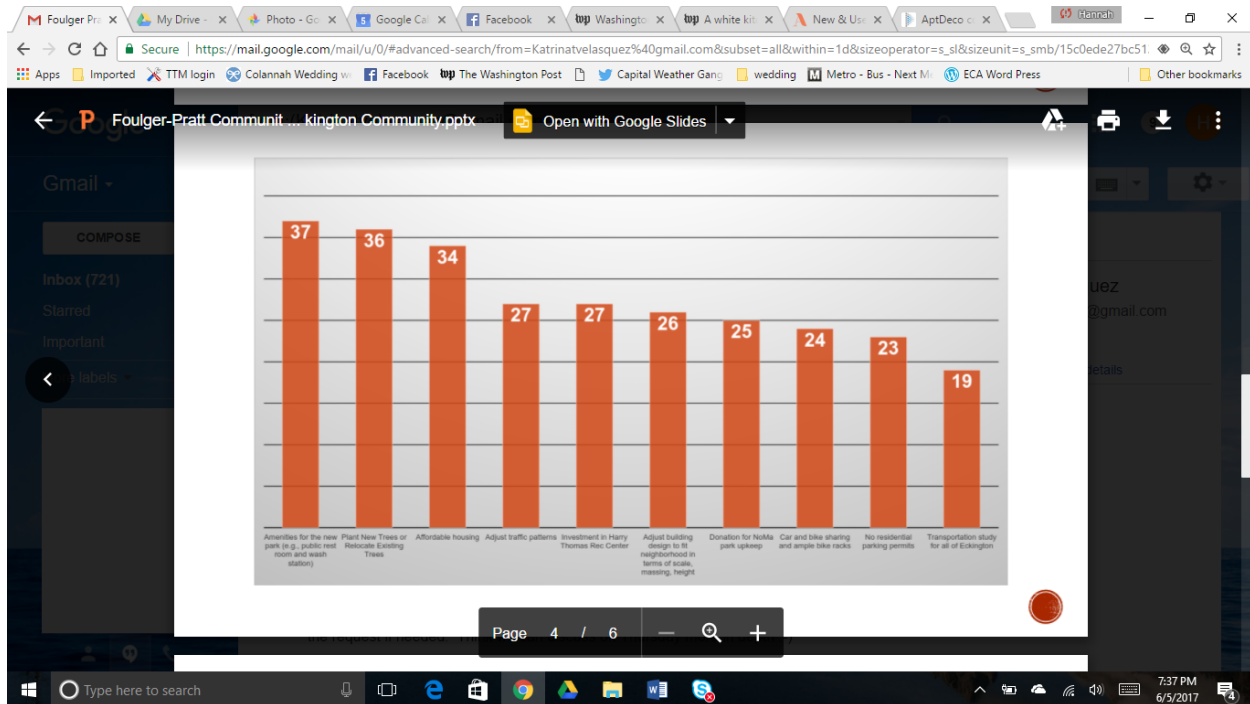
- Big thanks to everyone who worked on comprehensive plan. The ANC voted to support all of Eckington's recommendations. Office of Planning extended the deadline, so Eckington was ready to go by May, but there's more time if anyone individually wants to submit an amendment to the plan. This positions Eckington very well – no other neighborhoods in the area did the work that we did to submit amendments.
- Had the opportunity to sit down with Councilmember McDuffie as part of his visit to new ANC reps. Raised issues of comprehensive plan and concern about "Dave Thomas Circle" traffic, as well as rapid development in the area.
 - Q – Did they extend deadline on comments?
 - No next steps yet from DDOT. They got feedback from WABA, NoMa BID, lots of other groups saying that they need to engage more with the community to determine what the needs are. We need more engagement, and more thinking outside the box. The designs that were presented were variations on what we saw 5-6 years ago.
- Big upcoming meeting – VRE is building new storage facility along NY Ave – Tues Jan 27, 7pm, Holiday Inn 1917 Bladensburg Rd NE. Won't break up existing roads, but will potentially complicate plans for any new bike paths
- Church at 1818 3rd st NE – Developer submitted Raze Permit over a month ago. Can't stop church from being torn down; larger concern is that developer plans to split parcel into 4 lots, and 2 units on each lot;

no requirement for parking if he does that. This can be done by right. Hannah is still asking questions about it, and has asked the developer to come to the ECA and discuss his plans.

- Next few weeks – DDOT will install new sidewalks at corner of 5th & V by Carlos Rosario building (adult charter school – includes culinary school, IT certification, nursing certification – all free).
- ANC is going to hire a part-time staff person for about 25 hours/month, at roughly \$20/hour to keep on top of correspondence, keep up w/ zoning hearings, publish results on ANC website, liaise with district offices, help with reports

DISCUSSING FOULGER PRATT CBA

- 81 people answered the survey, compiled results.
- Hannah Powell gives quick update of project – next to NoMa park, about 3-400 units of residential space, as part of project they need to do a Community Benefits Agreement
- Top themes
 - Helping NoMa park and Harry Thomas Rec Center – donations for amenities
 - Beautification of neighborhood – trees, signs, etc.
 - Traffic and parking in neighborhood
- Gives overview of 19 categories in survey – top 10 items captured in bar graph



1. Amenities for park
2. Trees
3. Affordable housing
4. Adjusting traffic patterns
5. Investing in Harry Thomas Rec
6. Adjusting building dimensions
7. Donation for NoMa park upkeep

8. Car and bikesharing
 9. No RPPs
 10. Transportation study
- Other items that came up
 - Community input in retail – grocery store, coffee shop, gym
 - Updating MBT underpass
 - Water fountain in dog park
 - 24-7 professional security
 - Donations for regular clean-up
 - Features for people with disabilities
 - Least popular categories
 - Mural project
 - Donations for schools
 - Donations for North Cap Main street project
 - Eckington sign
 - Questions and feedback
 - Lana – would be difficult to begin to mention what we want for NoMa park when we don't know what they would provide
 - They've been holding public hearings on preliminary design
 - Minimum affordable housing requirements?
 - Hannah Powell: Hope for change this summer to minimum 8% units at 60% AMI; have talked w/ people at Foulger Pratt – ANC not supporting any project that comes in at bare minimum. Tradeoff is always more affordable units, or same # but deeper AMI. Need to keep ask reasonable, but want more than minimum. It depends on other factors – like if we're asking for the building to be smaller to fit with scale of neighborhood that needs to be factored in.
 - What have we gotten in the past?
 - It varies and depends on who is negotiating, and on how desperate the developers are. For comparison, the Eckington Yards project is just barely above the minimum, so they have 4% units at 80% AMI, 4% 60% AMI
 - Project in Edgewood at around 10-11% affordable, mix of 60 and 80%
 - Washington Gateway project – they're at 9% of units.
 - ANC is looking for more than 8 or 9% - encourage the ECA to come up with what we want. ANC hasn't determined how much.
 - Could consider fund that developers put money into – pool of money held by non-profit that could invest in the community
 - Concern – may not be allowed to set aside \$ that is not tied to specific product or activity – worth looking into further
 - Foulger Pratt will be coming to us with more projects – just bought Art & Drama Therapy building on MBT between Randolph & S st; turning it into artspace – but that's an interim plan; they hope to put more into that location. They keep saying we're here to be part of the community, will manage for ourselves, so thinking about long-term “sticky” things for them to develop are great. Thinking about lasting benefits to the community are great.
 - Note – CBA has to be satisfied for building to get Certificate of Occupancy, so be careful about long-term asks

- Good to hear from the developer themselves as to the responsibilities they want to take care of first – if we put them on the spot to say “what do you plan to do to make your properties attractive,” it’s in their best interest to make them attractive. They may be negotiating w/ NoMa BID to share the resources b/c they’re going to be abutting – what can they commit to, and then the CBA that we had agreed on with JBG and what are the gaps there. I would like to see the design for the building – prefer things to be concrete and not a “stick-build,” since it lasts longer; but important to try to be cognizant of the history of the area. Not take too much design-wise from the Gale, since it doesn’t mesh with the rest of the neighborhood; focus more on what used to be there, how it plays with the park and rail tracks – but that’s a continued conversation with them. So, putting them on the spot for how they’re going to make their property attractive, how they’re going to work with the park, and what the gaps are with JBG.
- Propose have standing committee to meet w/ developer quarterly
- Traffic pattern issues – R st is big entry/exit point from MBT, and for Fort Meyer Trucks, and the entrance to parking garage and loading dock for this development – going to be big mess; already submitted plan for curb cuts and lane changes. Would love to hear from people who bike that route – there needs to be work done on that block – it’s going to be a mess.
 - Paolo – the confines of our neighborhood and traffic patterns are fairly clear in how morning and evening commutes work, R st poses a problem, happy to help. Has some suggestions for bike lanes. May also depend on Eckington Yards
 - Is it possible to get them to move the loading dock somewhere else during construction phase, at least? Have seen many accidents already.
 - The other option is Harr Thomas Way, which may not be an option.
 - May insist that during construction, have someone directing traffic.
- What does Harry Thomas Rec Center need?
 - Needs to be larger. The renovation was “lipstick on a pig” – just painted, made more welcoming, but the building needs to be torn down and rebuilt, and the pool covered (debate about keeping pool open or covered).
 - Lounge chairs by pool.
 - New showers.
 - More rec stuff inside
 - Comm Pinkney has been working to get the staff to have more programs; otherwise have to go out of the neighborhood for any exercise programs.
 - It’s like a HS gym – open space, but not much within the space
 - Not very inviting – it’s gated off, the trees block the view, there’s no windows on the facing side of Lincoln;
 - Would be great to have it repurposed
 - Great example – 7th st in Shaw – have a great community center facing 7th st, very heavily used, have windows – otherwise, very uninviting
 - Agree – seems like it’s a private space. It was years before I knew it was a community space – with a pool!
 - It’s difficult to navigate if you’re disabled – access to the elevator is locked. Make it more open, more inviting – I’ve been to Deanwood, and it’s the prettiest rec center I’ve seen (Turkey Thicket is nice too).

- There's a lot of great examples – Deanwood, Shaw. Question – where does the money go – what funds that, is that even something that is possible. If it's the city that can do that, great. If the developer needs to do it, think about – how feasible for city to totally revamp that vs developers to pool money toward renovating that space. Would require a lot of money. Question is – for other rec centers that were renovated, how did that happen?
- Would be great to see more spots for the kids, more activities –there's unused space now. It can be done – a combination of the city working with the developers, maybe contributing some funds, maybe the city coming up with the other half.
- First step – find out what has been done in other parts of the city and how.
 - Hannah Powell – suggests touching base w/ Sylvia Pinkney, and finding out who the right person in Public Works to get on and up the queue.
 - Idea - \$20k study to lay out concepts for the city as part of CBA – find out what would fit w/in public works process
- Q for Councilmember McDuffie's rep – how did money for arboretum rec center, other things w/ millions of \$?
 - A lot of horse trading among council members, some committees get a lot of money, Councilmember McDuffie does a good job of getting \$ for his district
- Going down T st on 2nd st between 3rd & 2nd toward P6 bus, there's a point where you can't get down in a wheel chair – lights block the sidewalk, so have to go into the street – may be good for CBA to resolve
- U st between Summit & 2nd – 2 large construction trash cans, makes it hard for 2 cars to pass at once. Any regulations that prohibit construction dumpsters? Or limit on how long they can be there?
 - No prohibitions; there is a time limit but they can reapply
 - Have seen a lot of accidents and near-accidents since cars don't have room to pass
- **Note – if you see an accident – report it – statistics matter for requesting traffic study**
- Maybe put up “drive like your kids live here” signs
- This block of T st – very hectic in the morning – even with crossing guard, especially since T st is 1-way but only for part of street and part of day. Have requested making the whole st 1-way; lots of kids crossing the street, not very safe – especially since there's 4 schools on T St. Maybe have police officer to help traffic?