

# ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017

ATTENDEES: 48

## PRESIDENT'S AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

---

- Vernon opens meeting, group does introductions

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Still looking for head of public safety committee – if interested, contact Vernon
- Public Safety Town hall meeting tomorrow – due to Ward 5 increase in gun violence – 1251 Saratoga Ave NE, with mayor and new police chief.

## EVENTS

- Adam – North Capitol Main street is having an event – run at DC Brau – run is free, taking donations to go to North Cap Main Street – on Sunday, March 12, at 11am at DC Brau headquarters – 3178 B Bladensburg Rd NE.

## BEAUTIFICATION

- Trash cleanup will be March 18 from 10-12pm

## DEVELOPMENT

- Shelly –
  - Ned is no longer co-chair due to time constraints.
  - Shelly is exploring new ways to engage with the neighborhood, including updates about hearings, will seek feedback from people in the next month.

## PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

---

### SARGENT LAKOMEC

- Good news – 100% decrease in Assault with a Dangerous Weapon
- 20% decrease violent crime, 50% decrease motor vehicle theft
- Up – theft from autos. Note – everything stolen from vehicles was left in plain view, largely along North Capitol & Florida Ave.
- Over the weekend – 3 citizen robberies within 20 minutes, off North Capitol st; all three robberies closed – was same person doing it. Person was juvenile.
- 41 arrests in this area, largely drugs cases.

- Katrina asks: gunshots on Saturday, between 2-4 pm, someone posted on NextDoor – around U & V st, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> St. He doesn't have recent shot spotter info, but followed up with Katrina to send the following information:
  - *Here is a cut and paste of the public narrative in reference to 2001 2nd St NE*

*"MPD officers responded to the 2000 block of 2nd St in reference to a sounds of gunshots assignment. Upon canvass, V1 stated that the listed vehicle had several bullet holes (one bullet entered through the rear windshield, striking the passenger's side head rest and exiting through the front windshield, another striking the driver's side mirror). W1 stated that she was in front of her residence and she observed a green sedan traveling S/B on the 2000 block of 2nd street stop in front of the 100 block of U St Ne at fire several shots towards a black SUV".*

*This case is currently being investigated by the 5th District Detectives Office. I will provide you with any future updates. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions you may have.*
  - Shot Spotter – is an app for police officers. He demonstrates app – gives precise location of gun shots. Officers respond and take report.
- Vernon asks about public safety town hall meeting. Tomorrow, 7pm.

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

---

##### COUNCILMEMBER MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE

- Representative mentions town hall meeting
- Vernon notes that people in the community are interested in the AirBnB Bill

##### REP FROM ANITA BONDS' OFFICE – DAVID MEADOWS

- Passes around flier

##### ANC COMMISSIONER SYLVIA PINKNEY

- GSA is doing a scoping for an environmental impact statement for proposed Dept of Labor consolidation – has chosen 3 sites; one is in NoMa in 5EO4 (Comm Pinkney's district). Site must be very large, could potentially fit at North Cap & NY Ave NE, across from the Hyatt. Also considering SW Waterfront, or Poplar Point.
  - No meeting for this plan yet.
  - Comm Pinkney will post on Google and NextDoor.
- Office of the People's Council has put out alert about gas bills. If they're exceptionally higher this month, call a number – 202-727-3071 – it may indicate a problem.
- Capitol Bikeshare sent development plan for 2016-18 bike share areas. Plan includes 2

sites in our area – one at 2<sup>nd</sup> at T st by McKinley and one at Harry Thomas Rec Center.

- Proposal for Harry Thomas is to remove a section of the fencing, use some of the green space to build area for bike share. Comm Pinkney is against that, called DPR, they knew nothing about it. For it to happen, they have to approve sharing space with DDOT.
- Q – Timing for bike stations? It sounds like they're almost ready to do the 2016 bike stations.
- Q – If people have opinions, are you taking opinions on that?
  - DPR/DDOT is taking opinions. Website:  
<http://ddot.dc.gov/capitalbikeshare>
- Street sweeping started March 1. So far only giving warnings, after March 10 giving tickets – now \$45.
- Need a new residential parking permit? Apply online
- Stolen packages are a big issue
- Councilmember budget request –
  - \$250k for programming, staff, and equipment at Harry Thomas Rec Center. Tell Comm Pinkney what kind of classes you want – e.g., strength training, Zumba, aerobics etc., contact her.
  - \$150k for black wrought iron landscape tree boxes
- McMillan – not much to say since tied up with hearings. If you're interested, there is a hearing on March 10 with the mayor's agent, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with the zoning commission.

#### **ANC COMMISSIONER HANNAH POWELL**

- There was some discussion on Nextdoor on intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> & V st NE – people have been arguing we need full way stop. Comm Powell has been in touch with DDOT – they've denied the request before, she's asking again. Will keep everyone updated.
- Also on Eckington ListServ – former Art & Drama Therapy institute site – old Nabisco Cookie factory between Randolph & S sts – one half of the development team, Foulger Pratt, is working on another development team; and the other half of the team is Boundary Companies, which is partnered with JBG on the Eckington Yards site. So the developers who won the site are already involved in the neighborhood. Heard that F-P not planning to start site in the next few years, plan to finish other site first before planning to determine how to use site. Considering what to do with space in the meantime.
- Office of Planning will be at Comm Powell's first single member district meeting to

discuss comprehensive plan. It underpins all land-use decisions for the city.

- Large section of Eckington has already gone under “land change use” since last update of plan (largely from light industrial to mixed residential).
- City has 2 competing priorities – to increase housing, especially close to metros, and to preserve the little light industrial space DC has – often high-paying blue-collar jobs, which city wants to preserve/increase.
- Big opportunity to weigh in through comprehensive plan process for what we want for Eckington moving forward.
- Meeting will be March 12 from 10-11:30 – details to follow.
- Q – Does ANC have great weight in this?
  - No, not sure functionally how that works. Not asking for formal ANC resolution to weigh in. Kicked off process last fall. Ultimately go to council for a vote. Looking for input.
  - Comm Pinkney – ANC Doesn’t know if they have to weigh in – we don’t meet on plan til April 23<sup>rd</sup> – at that point they will tell us what part we play.
- Q – Have you heard anything from Foulger Pratt about plans for current project – heard that PUD process would start in March.

#### HARMONY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PRESENTATION

---

##### EVREN CULHA

- Wanted to introduce selves. Opened in 2014, serve from K-4<sup>th</sup> grade, have a little more than 100 students. Focus is STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). About 10 days ago, had signature event – STEM Festival – with 200 stakeholders from around DC. Had more than 30 students participate. Also invited neighboring schools, both charters and Howard University.
- Shares short video from STEM Fest 2017.
- Vernon asks – any ways that the ECA or neighborhood could be involved?
  - Partners with Reading Partners – people come to school to read with kids.
  - Would love to see more from neighborhood.
  - Received grant from KaBoom playground to build playground in May 24<sup>th</sup>, recruiting volunteers.
- Is this your only school in DC
  - Yes. Harmony DC originated in TX, and have been invited by DC Charter School Board in 2013, approved in 2014.
- Still growing in enrollment?

- Plan to go to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but need site for middle school.
- Comm Pinkney – Harmony is a great community partner.
- Late enrollment?
  - March 1 was enrollment for the lottery, but if any student missed the application we still have spots, so they can apply anytime until the start of the school year.

#### DDOT PRESENTATION ON TACTICAL URBANISM AT LINCOLN ROAD AND NORTH CAPITOL STREET

Evelyn J. Israel (Policy & Planning) & Emily Delphie (transportation engineer for safety & operations – deals with traffic, congestion, safety)

*Note from Recording Secretary Hannah Putman – these notes are a little unclear; please see the letter from DDOT and pictures on the ECA website here under the March 6 meeting info here:  
<https://eckingtoncivicassociation.org/meetings-agendas/>*

- Arising from concerns about safety, vagrancy, as well as mid-city-East livability study from 3-4 years ago. Received a grant to look at places throughout the city for places that could benefit from tactical urbanism
- Tactical Urbanism – looking at any individual place, looking at what could be done to improve safety and other characteristics – “guerrilla urbanism” – putting in something temporary, the point is to “do it’ without studying something to death beforehand – look at whether it works, and if so, potentially make into a long-term solution.
- Looked at park in October with community, ANC, council, NoMa Bid, Knight Foundation, started to look at what the problems were with the intersections. The triangle park on the east side – the slip lane from Quincy to North Cap, to see how it could be redesigned. Would mean changes to signals, closing median at North Cap.
- If you didn’t get a copy, will give ECA an electronic copy, and you can contact Colleen Hawkinson with questions – [colleen.hawkinson@dc.gov](mailto:colleen.hawkinson@dc.gov)
- First pic – existing layout. Center – proposed ideal plan. Closing Lincoln Ave slip lane, adding bike plan – multi-million dollar plan, involves a lot of construction.
- Left pic – reflects what we could do now – shows North cap at Lincoln Road, where it meets North Cap until Quincy. Proposing to lose where southbound Lincoln ave comes into North Cap and turn left – instead, people will turn onto Quincy. Will have some signal changes, all approaches will have full traffic signal. Some of the benefit – to pedestrian and vehicular circulation. Will prevent illegal U-turns – Will close median break with “quick curb” – plastic curb. Will improve efficiency of North Cap – fewer closely spaced intersections, so less likely to “block the box.”
- For slip-lane on west side around triangle park, putting in 4’ fence.
- Questions

- North Cap – will this be more of a highway now? Will it take away from the pedestrian sense?
  - It should help. Downtown – a grid network makes sense since it distributes traffic. Here, because of the way the signal currently operates, leads to a lot of speeding. So having operation where people have to stop at Quincy and turn, should slow people down. Looking at other improvements in very near turn to slow people coming north.
  - Studies show that when there's short distances between signals and stop signs, people are more likely to blow through stop signs/signals to make it to the next one. Actually encourages people to slow down more.
- Thinks this is great – thanks for sharing. Biggest concern – our neighborhood is surrounded by wide, fast streets that feel unpleasant and dangerous – to the extent that this improves this is commendable.
  - As of last August, finally signalized crosswalk on north side by old Firehouse. Vehicles coming south – if they want to go north on North Cap, have to turn on R st – can't make a U-turn.
- Preventing people from turning right – how does that work?
  - Signage – and some wayfinding signage.
- Timeline?
  - Another round of community input through April, and then allowing time for signal configuration, open date sometime in July or August.
- Will traffic southbound on North Cap be able to make left turn on Quincy NE?
  - Don't know offhand – I don't think we're making any changes. If there are suggestions to peak restrict or restrict entirely, we can look into it.
  - Quincy will be 2-way (now one-way but people often use as 2-way).
- From long-term plan, looks like the intention is to close Lincoln Road entirely – what is the reasoning behind that?
  - That's from the mid-city study, reasoning was primarily because – it essentially functions like a ramp – very dangerous for pedestrians, great for moving cars – trying to tighten up the intersection so people are making lower-speed turns.
  - Would need to be additional traffic studies.
  - Plan is done from a livability study, was done several years ago. Still need to go through engineering analysis, traffic study, design process – so that's why we're just doing the small area for now – won't have a big impact for now.
  - Study will involve property owners who are adjacent.
  - North Capitol would be really backed up.

- Light – if you're going on north cap north – it's set back pretty far – concerned that pedestrians will be hit.
  - Signal plan will move some lights around. Stop is all the way down at Lincoln road – no stop bar on north side. Now the stop bar will get moved up to Quincy Place intersection – all this will be done at once with one contractor (with exception of flexi-posts).
  - Would like to use planters or green barriers, or paint and make community art project – would be looking for ECA or ANC or community help with maintenance.
  - Also looking at bikeshare station there.
  - Potential to close down part of Lincoln Road on weekends, to create community pop-up space, at the behest of ECA or ANC.
- Q – Planters westbound on NY just past North Cap – at some point was blocked off with really ugly planters – large concrete, not kept up. Example of what we wouldn't want. If you could give pictures of what options are that you're considering.
  - Example – planters on 6<sup>th</sup> st NE next to Union Market – owned by DDOT, maintained by JBG.
- Given that long-term mid-city project isn't funded – where's DDOT's planning on putting permanent stuff in the queue to go forward?
  - It is in the queue, but where it goes from there and how long it takes, not sure. Has to go into capital improvements program, takes a lot of time and political will. Has been IDd as a priority by mayor Bowser, so trying to move forward. Something Colleen Hawkinson is working on.
  - From a "temporary standpoint" could be 2-month to multiple years, for this installation.
- Does your technical team have oversight, or are you in the process of studying over "Dave Thomas Circle"
  - There is a separate project in our infrastructure project group. They're working on studying – the plan that was implemented is not working well. We're painfully aware (DDOT used to be located nearby). They're working on a new study and project design. Should have community meetings beginning in March. There is the funding. Can share contact info. Will start with public engagement.
- Is there anyone here that was living in Eckington when there wasn't a virtual circle?
  - Multiple hands go up, people say it worked fine.
- Comm Pinkney – working with contractor that works with NoMa, going to take

care of 3 small pocket parks on North Cap, they will plant, weed, water, I'm sure I can get them to do the planters also.

- Request for 'Don't Block the Box' sign at Dave Thomas Circle,
  - Submit to 311, give # to Vernon, he will share w/ Emily
- U st – traffic goes fast down 2<sup>nd</sup> street, running down R st, U St. Can you put “no entry from 7-10” sign?
  - Trying not to do that. District has been growing, adding many new residents. Hear lots of concerns about traffic and parking. Especially around people coming from MD. Have a specific traffic calming process that we use to evaluate responses. Can talk briefly or provide contact info. Generally look at volume, speed. Can start with submitting 311 request.
- R st – had a lot of issues – it's a street where you have FedEx- but also designated bike lane and bus lane and cut through traffic – mornings and evening are kind of crazy. Lots of accidents w/ buses & FedEx. Even worse now that Pepco doing work, resurfaced speed bumps to make them smoother. Kids in the neighborhood play in the street, have almost gotten hit. Large trucks are also cutting through. Have submitted requests to DDOT, but what else can we do?
  - Can provide contact info to ECA. Have a planner who works on truck routing issues and working on routing system for trucks that use positive routing. Moving toward, giving trucks roads they are allowed to drive on. Can provide her contact info.
  - It's not just the trucks – it's the combination of buses, trucks, bike lanes, parking.
  - If there are buses, should be speed tables – can look into that, work with Laura (truck planner), can send out inspectors.
- Comm Powell – really need neighborhood-wide study. Heard that DDOT has created a way for neighborhood to request neighborhood-wide study.
  - Emily can engage w/ ANC on neighborhood and corridor study. Talking w/ her group and Laura's group – way to get initial feedback. Trying to bridge the gap between huge mid-city east study, and traffic study which only looks at a couple of blocks to look at neighborhood. Would want to engage ANC – would want ANC resolution. Need to work w/ ANC to determine scope so it's manageable. Want to define contract study area – sounds like it's truck-routing and circulation issues. Would be about a 6-month timeline. Develop in 2 phases – first phase is 2 months, data collection, come to community meetings, share initial thoughts. Then delve deeper into analysis about what to change, do more detailed



analysis.

- Comm Powell – had spoken to someone in September were waiting until next PUD drops. We're seeing a huge influx of residents and businesses. DO want to take advantage of opportunity – didn't want to start too early, given everything else happening.
- Evelyn: Potentially capitalizing on next PUD may be a good route. May require various mitigations, and may get something through amenities package. That said any DDOT improvements would require some sort of study. Would be conditional approval based on DDOT study.
- Comm Pinkney – R st is federal street, which is why trucks and buses can run up and down. Some time ago, suggestion was to take bus off R st – lots of people depend on that bus. Other suggestion – make Eckington Place one-way, makes a traffic flow problem. Would suggest looking at Harry Thomas Way, consider making 2-way again.
- Fence around triangle park on west side – just to discourage people from standing there?
  - It was a request by the mayor. Not just because of the loitering – there were some crime issues and some public safety issues. It was a reduction in the loitering to address public safety.

#### UPDATE ON JBG ECKINGTON YARDS PROJECT

---

JOHN CLARKSON, MARK, MIKE- NEW PROJECT TEAM ON THE PROJECT.

- Want to share design, next steps on project.
- PUD approved on January 8<sup>th</sup>, now into schematic design. Hope to finish design by end of summer, hope to have building permit in hand by late September.
- Q – Comm Pinkney – when will you break ground
  - Estimate October 2017 – could be later; October is the earliest. Starts with demolition
- Q – do you have traffic plan for construction trucks
  - Hasn't been designed yet but will have to put together. Will present when it's prepared.
- Q – Could you remind me what's going to change?
  - Since May of 2016, completed PUD submission, was subsequently approved. Took project through schematic design. Have plan for 700 residential units, 60k sq. ft. of commercial, 400 parking spaces, 4 buildings.
- Phased or all built at same time?

- Have ability to phase but currently plan to build all at once.
- Construction management agreement w/ R st residents – IDs some streets that trucks won't use, can't use street parking – may be good to repost what we have.
- Where are entrances and exits to your property? Will residents enter and exit on Eckington and Harry Thomas Way
  - Don't believe there's any entrances on Harry Thomas. Alley "woonerf" down the middle is 1-way; traffic will go down Eckington Place – one off the alleyway, one shares same entrance w/ Gale.
  - No curb cuts on Eckington other than alley – most parking is through Trilogy parking garage on Q St.
- Any idea what type of retail you hope to lease?
  - At least 10k sq. ft. of "maker retail" – making product on premise. Exciting retail we're pursuing right now. One tenant at 20k sq. ft., will provide service, hope neighborhood will be excited. It is unique – provides multitude of uses – refreshments as well as work space – only other of its type is in NY.
- Is there going to be retail on Eckington Place side only?
  - Woonerf is where retail will be – almost all on interior, some on east facing park, some on west side.
- When will Flower Mart be closing?
  - Still up in the air but anticipate happening this year.
- When do you anticipate being done?
  - At least 24 months, probably 2020.
- Have you been in talks with Foulger Pratt about extending "woonerf" into their property to have some continuity?
  - Had a conversation with them a few weeks ago. Recognize the park to the east – want to interact with that. We should have something that could connect with that – but they don't physically connect. With the park design, if it embraced the woonerf, it could connect the properties – but as park is designed, would be a wonderful idea to think about.
- What proportion of people have cars at the Gale right now – could predict how many cars to anticipate at your property.
  - I think 1 parking spot per 3 units (that's what we're providing in new building) – not sure how many are being used in Gale. As part of traffic study, had to have plan to mitigate traffic, minimize parking, and minimize street parking.
  - Mike – will share some parking in gale since not using all of it.
- Do you anticipate retail will cause additional parking issues?
  - Not technically "destination retail" – meant to be neighborhood serving. Won't have parking for retail in project.

- What is “woonerf” made of?
  - Pavers, and have ability to block off, and bends back and forth to make uncomfortable to use as through-street.
- Vernon – we worked with JBG to put together a CBA, which included an implementation committee. Are you familiar with the plan?
  - Meeting quarterly through certificate of occupancy. I’ll need to look at CBA to see when that starts, will reach out when we’re ready to start, meet at least quarterly, including on project, banners, design of park, and work on safety on MBT. Want to make sure we make good on CBA and make sure everyone’s happy with how the project turns out.
- Comm Pinkney – any plans to buy storage space?
  - I think we tried – a lot – and that didn’t happen.
- The flower markets – are they going to be in the neighborhood?
  - Don’t know
- Retail – it’s tough being in a business – especially as a small business, you said your places will be places residents will be attracted to?
  - One of the things our company takes pride in is “place-making” – if retail doesn’t function well, project won’t function well. Sensitive to retail that will be successful, reflect the community.
- Are the aesthetics essentially the same as the original drawings?
  - Yes – haven’t changed since the original PUD
- Are you offering street landscaping around the area?
  - Will coordinate with the park. But mostly landscaping is right around the property.
  - We will contribute to banners in the Eckington neighborhood.
  - Also landscaping planned for the woonerf, with a little plaza in the middle.
- When will you next be here?
  - Good question.
  - Now that we’re into design, we can come next quarter – certainly before we finish design – sometime this summer – June or July?
- Mike – one item on the CA about possible light at 3<sup>rd</sup> and RI – if not for that, then donated to midcity livability elements. (Not sure about details)
- Any idea of timeline for announcing retail?
  - The tenant we’re at lease with, don’t think they have any issues with announcing. Definitely at next meeting, hopefully within the next few months.

**Next Eckington Civic Association Meeting: Monday, April 3, 2017**

**Follow us on Twitter @Eckingtoncivic | Email us at EckingtonCivic@gmail.com**

**Look us up on <https://eckingtoncivicassociation.org/> | Find us on Facebook: Eckington Civic Association**