

ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

MEETING MINUTES - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

23 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE

PRESIDENT'S AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No officer updates
- Shelley is working on Foulger Pratt CBA – contact her or Mike Aiello if you want to share input
- Introductions

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

CYRIL ON BEHALF OF COUNCILMEMBER MCDUFFIE

- Several upcoming events
- Legislation – hearings coming up
- Charles Hamilton Commemorative Works day – lots of statues in the city, few have to do w/ local people, women, and minorities. Proposing that statues be erected in each of 8 wards to 1 local significant contributor to DC (female and/or minority)
- Mows Act – Managing Outdoor Work for Seniors day – helping aging DC residents w/ outdoor work (e.g., snow removal, leaves, etc.), would make office of aging responsible for coming up with a plan for private contractors to help w/ this work.
- Hearings are in October – Oct 5. To testify, write testimony down in advance, bring 15 copies, and give to Committee Clerk when you walk in.
 - If you cannot attend in person, submit testimony in writing; it will get put in the record.
- Questions – there is a program for snow removal for seniors, right?
 - There are some pieces of this available, but not all
- Ward 5 day, this Saturday – great family activity, weather looks good.
 - Langdon off RIA, where Chuck Brown Memorial is, between 20th & 22nd.

ANC UPDATES

ANC COMMISSIONER SYLVIA PINCKNEY

- Foulger Pratt, and 70 FL Ave
 - Has had hearing, at the hearing, FP agreed to the self-storage establishment not being open 24-7; something like 7am to 7pm instead. Also agreed to not have mural on front of building since that doesn't gel w/ what we have on FL ave; would instead have windows. Time would depend on who gets contract for self-storage – if Cube Smart, that will tell us what time they will open and close. But it won't be 24-7.
 - Q – Shelly had submitted comment about wanting retail on 1st floor – any movement?
 - No, didn't hear about that
- 101 Q st NE – purchased by DC Safe, will be new housing for women and children that need a place to stay. 5 story building. Currently only group there is Pathways to Housing; want Pth to move out while they rebuild, then move back in.
- Church on U st – 134, 136 U st; there is a contract on the property in progress; hearing that the new people want to raze the church, build 3 homes that will be 2 separate condos in each home; there's a parking lot in back of the church; it's been a problem – the community has been allowed to park there for years. There's been some problems in the parking lot; sent around fliers saying that they would get ticketed and towed, then cars were ticketed and towed. Making clear that lot is not community parking. Lot will be sold for \$200k – can be an artist studio, a legal parking lot, or a single-family home.
 - Some confusion – the purchaser told an ECA member that they are purchasing church and lot
- 61 RIA (corner of RIA & Lincoln Rd) – in the basement, the owners have tried to do retail but it hasn't worked out. Now what they want to do is add 2 apartments in the basement unit. 2 1-br apartments; that should come before us in October.
- Super Liquors – July 12, had meeting w/ Fire & EMS, and DCRA, and 5B(?), and rep from Mayor's office. Fire Dept and DCRA went into the building where liquor store is housed, as well as building where flea market was housed; couldn't get into other buildings. What happened as a result is, a whole host of violations in these buildings – anywhere from electrical to basement being unstable, and other code violations. Each of owners were contacted and told of violations; if they are not corrected, they stand good chance of building being closed down. Haven't been able to get into other buildings. Also 5 more addresses on the Lincoln Rd sign – unclear which buildings are which. Have to resolve violations or building will be closed down. Unclear what time line is.
 - Q – After 45 days, who does follow-up?
 - DCRA and fire department
 - In Superliquors – that's the basement held up on 2 beams. There's large freezers all the way around space; become very heavy, so is a real problem.
 - Liquor store owner does not own building – owner lives upstairs.
 - Q – Liquor store stays open while they're fixing it?
 - Yes, until they start doing work to fix it.
 - It is a safety issue right now, but floor collapse is not imminent – but it is a violation and has to be fixed.

ANC COMMISSIONER HANNAH POWELL

- Been working on fall festival/Eckington Day

- Foulger Pratt project on Harry Thomas Way north of new park, their zoning hearing is December; so development committee will come back to ECA next month about CBA.
- Everything is delayed at the moment – Eckington yards, MRP project (Foreman Mills), haven't broken ground yet.
- ABBRA – Everyone has to go through ABBRA liquor license renewal – March for liquor stores, now for restaurants & others selling alcohol. If you have any concerns, they all have to present at ANC; please come weigh in or provide comments to Comm Pinkney or Comm Powell
 - ANC meetings are 3rd Tuesday of every month
- How is FedEx suit against Foulger Pratt going?
 - Hannah Powell has meeting tomorrow. FedEx is protesting the Foulger Pratt development on Harry Thomas Way – there's another project that's further along (JBG project where old state farm 7 flower market, and new NoMa park) – all zoned light industrial, not residential. Not uncommon for zoning to change. FedEx has lodged a formal expression of concern about change in zoning, FedEx wants to keep industrial zoning; expect to hear more from FP tomorrow. For this group and in general, gets to broader discussion from past year about the direction of the neighborhood, commercial space. City has 2 competing priorities – increase residential housing (especially when close to metro) but also preserve industrial space in city (which often provides higher-paying blue-collar jobs).
 - WaPo article about FedEx complaint – interesting to hear FedEx perspective that our neighborhood is purely industrial.
 - Comm Pinkney – FedEx may feel that since they were the first here, they have some rights.
 - VP Katrina – some of us wish FedEx were better community partners
 - Q – Will raze permit for JBG site expire soon?
 - Hannah Powell – don't know, everything's been delayed.
 - Church at 3rd and Seaton – developer applied for raze permit, nothing's happened.
 - Sounds like excavations have started

ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

Positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary

For more information, see our Bylaws here: <https://eckingtoncivicassociation.org/about/bylaws/>

Or email Hannah Putman at hjputman@gmail.com

LETTER TO SUPER LIQUORS

- At July meeting, had in-depth discussion about Super Liquors. In 2015, ECA and ANC created settlement agreement w/ Super Liquors to address concerns – loitering, selling individual bottles, etc. Since 2015, there's still loitering, still sales to people who are intoxicated. Sylvia has been proactive in advocating, as have other neighbors, pushing licensing people to look at violations. Two months ago, ABBRA came back to SL w/ violations from settle agreement, gave warning on some issues.
- As ECA, we wanted to take action to pressure them to abide by settlement agreement. We want to make community better, want them to be part of that process. Want to send them a letter as a “warning shot” asking them to comply with

settlement agreement. If they don't, we can file multiple complaints, take other actions.

- Shares letter.
- Sylvia – if you sent it to me, I would not consider it a friendly letter. You are telling me that if I don't do A, you're going to do B. That appears to be a threat to me. I don't think it's as friendly as it could be. Would cut last paragraph. ABBRA enforces everything; warns them, etc. I would not add last paragraph. I would change it to be friendlier. Instead, "this is what we'd like to see you do, how can we as a civic association help you"?
 - Q – But didn't they already sign an agreement to do this? We've already told them to do this and they've agreed. The tone is not overly harsh; we need to tell them we're going to take action. We've given them so much slack.
 - Sylvia – I talked to chairman of ANC today; he is a lawyer. I read it to him, he said, "I think you right on this one. You are threatening this store." I think there's a better way to do this.
 - We want to let them know they're serious
 - Want this to be a warning shot, want to set a timeframe
- Resident – walks by at 6:30am, sees loitering, people chase her down the street. Want to emphasize the loitering. These liquor stores destroy property value.
- Note that there's no anti-loitering law in DC. There is no law against it. You can call the police, they will talk with the people to encourage them to move, but they can't arrest them. At 6:30am, those people have been there overnight.
 - Liquor store doesn't open til 10. There's a homeless problem in the community.
- Resident – walk past the store several times a day, every day – who is responsible for folks outside who are intoxicated; people are passed out and no one helps them. Also see fights, saw someone get stabbed there once. Everything can be attributed to drinking.
 - Katrina – Police came in July, it's up to the store to call about loitering.
- Resident – has some concerns –
 - Used to have inspector check grass, when it was unsightly, gave them citation. Some places on 3rd street are overgrown, called 311 and had inspector come out; 2110 4th st NE, grass is too high.
 - 2 clubs – 1 at rear of 2100 block 4th st, 1 at 5th and V; no one notified residents that 2 clubs were in the area. Not saying clubs are disorderly, but as a taxpayer, want to know or have a vote whether clubs are there.
 - Loitering – had supermarket break in at 4th & RIA last week, broke in and took Atm machine; then guy got stabbed at 4 & RIA gas station. Thinks there is something we can do to encourage owners to make people keep moving – people can't go in to buy stuff when people are around loitering at establishments. Police used to be more proactive, walking down the street, hanging around. Don't need to arrest them, but need to be around.
 - To get people in his area involved, make some fliers, encourage other people so we can get more input and participation; this is our community. Most people who were doing it before me, they're getting older.
 - Lyndsi Sitcov wants to talk more about how to do more outreach
 - Would be good to get a mailbox closer – nearest one is 4th & Channing or 10th & RIA.
 - Sylvia: Can put it in your front door and postman will take it

- People agree – they often don't take it. They give wrong mail, leave mail that we leave out. Sometimes they don't come every day.
- Vote on letter as is
- Motion to send letter
 - In favor - 8
 - Opposed – 5
 - Abstention - 0

ECKINGTON DAY PLANNING

- Day will be Oct 28; want to make Halloween/fall tie-in. Want to use time to focus on planning.
- Location – Hannah Powell has been helpful pinning down locations. Tried to work with McKinley Tech, haven't been able to finalize, so looking to have block party instead. Several blocks are possible. Need 51% of residents on block need to sign off; also no alcohol or food sales, no alcohol consumption. We could do an "event" with alcohol, but it becomes much more expensive and complicated.
- Hannah Powell will apply for ANC for grant for community events. A not-for-profit like ECA can petition ANC for funds.
 - Would need to apply for grant asap. Max to request is \$2000. It would have its first look at meeting this month, could vote in 3rd week in Oct, would have \$ available by Oct 28 for event.
 - Comm Pinkney – have to be sure of items that ANC will pay for – food is not one of them; have to have invoice for everything you need to show to ANC. We don't give ECA money, need invoices, so would need to reimburse ECA.
- Break up into groups

Next Eckington Civic Association Meeting: Monday, October 2, 2017

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