

ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

MEETING MINUTES - MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

40 attendees

PRESIDENT'S REPORT & COMMITTEE UPDATES

VERNON – NO UPDATES

EVENTS – THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO SPRING HAPPY HOUR.

- North Capitol Main St – Taste of North Capitol – June 1 – NPR building - \$75 in advance, \$100 at the door

PLANNING

- Will discuss comprehensive plan later
- April 10 – DDOT held Dave Thomas Circle hearing, announced 5 options for fixing the circle. Held 18 day public comment period; still accepting comments. FloridaAvenueProject website – see listserv for details.
 - No data to back up options
 - Unclear how Eckintonians will be affected
 - DDOT will be at next ANC5E meeting

KATRINA, VP – COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE HOLDING COMMUNITY CLOTHING SWAP & DONATION ON MAY 6

- Bring unwanted clothes, anything not taken in the swap will go to SOME
- Rain – in the Summit; Shine in Harry Thomas Rec

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – YARD SIGNS –

- Ask that people put them out the week before each meeting

ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

COUNCILMEMBER MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE

- Family Unit Amendment – from situation at Brookland Manor, families saying they couldn't find affordable housing in DC. Says city needs to study and see what need is.
- MOSE act – for people who want to age in place, keep home in DC, but can't take care of yard, will get assistance from city in maintaining yards
- Housesharing Bill – had hearing, 60 witnesses testify, a lot of very good testimony for and against, people made suggestions. What's going to happen is, all testimony will go into the record. There will be some regulation, but there will be some modifications. The 15 days was brought up again and again, Councilmember McDuffie is very open to increasing that, don't know what it's going to be. Air BnB was there, and another rep of a short-term rental. They presented their side of the issue.
 - Timeline for amendment process?
 - Not sure when the markup will be

- In the middle of budget season – budget oversight hearing is was originally scheduled for May 11, has been moved to May 3 - Wednesday

MAYOR'S OFFICE –

- assisting adults in childcare get certified, creating facilities in several places – Thriveby5@dc.gov
- Mayor will be at groundbreaking tomorrow in Navy Yard for 179 unit building w/ affordable units, part of larger group of 1700 units including 700 affordable units.
- Partnered w/ Howard University – created first inclusive incubator, had Google & Microsoft send people to tech space. Also have Howard U on Google's campus on west coast. Trying to encourage DC residents to get retrained, take advantage of existing opportunities to get trained for STEM careers m3dc.com (??) – has mentoring opportunities
- Handing out seeds for native plants – please plant, take care, post pictures on twitter
- Food and waste drop-off program – take your leftover food, at Brookland's farm markets – Saturday May 13 from 9-1. 716 Monroe St – from mayor's "Support Sustainable DC" to reduce trash and waste.
- Questions
 - Leftover food – banana peels, kale stalks, carrot shavings, etc.
 - Affordable Housing by Navy Yard – what's the AMI?
 - First installment – 20% AMI

PRESENTATION BY JENNIFER NILES, DEPUTY MAYOR OF EDUCATION

- Highlights about Education Budget for the city
- Jenny's responsibility for mayor – one of 5 deputy mayors, oversees DC Public Schools, Charter Schools, OSSE, UDC, Libraries, Parks & Rec
- Seeing tremendous progress with public education, but still have large achievement gaps, still don't have graduation rates and college attendance rates that we want to see. But, we're the fastest improving city.
- There is no reason DC can't be the proof point for how to be an urban school district that delivers for all of our kids
- Budget:
 - Increase from FY 17 to 18 is about 300 million \$ - dedicated to growth in education. Enrollment continues to grow. \$105 million to DCPS and Public Charter Schools – for increase in enrollment. Weighted formula – every student gets a foundational amount, and then extra if has extra needs (e.g., English language learner, special ed) – that weighted formula is increasing by 1.5%.
 - Don't have up-to-date teachers' contract with WTU. Anticipate getting that done; will mean that more funds will go to education for teacher raises, most likely.
 - Put forward suggested 15.3 million \$ for infant and toddler childcare. DC is ahead of the nation for providing Pre-K 3-4, but haven't kept pace for seats for infants and toddlers. Seats are only for about 1/3 of infants and toddlers in DC. Plan to expand seats by 1,300 seats. Childcare space is complicated – want to give grants for facilities to expand, for teacher training, more resources to support increasing requirements. Our country does not pay early childhood teachers the same we do other teachers.
 - Supporting UDC by making amount giving them a recurring amount. The last 2 years, UDC has made some important changes; graduation rate has increased from 16-35% for Bachelor's degrees. Needs to be pathway to middle class, excited to see progress they're making. New student center got Platinum LEED.
 - Modernization of school buildings – part of capital improvement plan. Need all schools to look as beautiful as McKinley – makes students feel respected. Will in the next few years finish 90% of DC schools. For charter schools, increase funding per pupil for facilities by 2.2%.
 - Always important to make sure agencies are spending \$ effectively and
- Questions
 - Balancing costs for daycare – part of money is for adult education for CDAs.
 - CDA – provided through "Teach" – National Black Educators Association
 - Q – Have you done assessment on investment in pipeline – do we know where we're at with the shortage and where we want to be.

- Very complex – not just shortage of teachers, but also pay teachers too little. When we moved to PK 3-4, pay pre-k teachers same as K-12 teachers, but for daycare centers, don't pay as much. SO created grant program for CBOs for funding difference between what school and CBO would get, seeing positive results with that. \$15.3 million doesn't solve it, and is just one-time money.
- Encourages people to come budget engagement hearings for mayor's budget each year. Education is top of most people's lists. People said that we want about 1/3 of DC dollars going to education.
- Commissioner Pinkney – can you tell me what your responsibilities are?
 - Overview of 6 agencies she oversees – 3 report directly (chancellor, DPR, OSSE), and 3 have independent boards (library, UDC, public charters), so is liaison to those boards. Also helping agencies coordinate, and working with other deputy mayors.
 - Q – Does school assessment fall under you?
 - Yes.
 - Interested in talking about Langley, may need to direct to someone within DCPS.
- McKinley Tech – heard that it was only half being used.
 - There used to be a wing that wasn't built out yet – may not have been built yet. Have a full school in the rest of the building.
- Some schools in DC are “first class,” but others are “underperforming” – there's inequities in who comes through the doors, resources – what's being done to address that?
 - We do have exceptions to that – high parent engagement even in schools w/ low socioeconomic status, outstanding performance – we want to look at those bright spots and exceptions, see what's being done there that we can spread. We're the fastest improving in the nation, but is it fast enough? Are the kids who are performing least well growing as fast as – or faster than – our top students? A child's zip code should not be his destination.
- How often are principals addressed and have to reapply?
 - DCPS – annual evaluation, don't have to reapply. Each LEA has own set of standards and expectations.

MPD

- How often do you patrol the rec center – Harry Thomas Rec Center
 - Apparently they're going to put a foot beat at the rec center on Lincoln Road. If they don't do that and you see it's becoming a problem, let them know.
 - Other officer says he patrols this area, he's around there a lot. Always patrolling up and down Lincoln.
 - If you're getting out of class late and it seems like a bad situation, call 911 and they'll send someone nearby.
- You've done a great job on Lincoln road.
- Shooting last Wednesday – 200 block of Florida – victim was shot at 9pm last Wednesday.
- Call Watch Commander who oversees tour with any questions or concerns: 202-327-4392

COMMISSIONER PINKNEY –

- Will have March/April update in people's mail boxes this weekend
- Block meetings start Saturday morning – look for a flier in your mailbox

COMMISSIONER POWELL –

- Dept. of Housing & Community Development – 9th annual DC Housing Expo & Home Show coming in June – vendors there, things related to home maintenance, renovation, etc.
- Development – Foulger Pratt doing a development next to NoMa Park – PUD has started. They have already presented here, thanks to ECA for taking lead in preparing ideas for CDA.
- PUD – project at Rhode Island Ave & 4th st NE, across from metro – went through PUD process but has been sued, which has delayed some things.
 - Same rationale as for suing McMillan Project – delaying many projects including Eckington Yards, Rhode Island project. They're switching from Planned Unit development

to Large Tracts development project. Community Benefits will stay the same; they will reduce number of stories from top of building. Ratio of affordable housing will stay the same, but will be a net decrease in # of all units. Trying to get around lawsuit with PUD process. If they go through this alternate process, they don't have to go through the same steps. Developer can't build as high, but can move forward with project. Will try to get more info for people, will send out on listserv.

- Another development – church at 1818 3rd st NE – 3rd & Seaton – that lot was acquired by developer. Developer has requested to tear down church. Not old – no historic merit. What is more concerning, developer intends to subdivide parcel, put 4 2-unit condo buildings – will not have a parking requirement. Still looking into where the community can weigh in – developer is trying to avoid zoning process that require community engagement.
- Development Committee – this is where we need help- rely on Shelley, ECA for help and input from the community. If you're interested in this work, get in touch w/ Shelley.
- Transportation – 3rd & V st – talking about needing an all-way stop sign. There was a study last year that recommended 2 changes – putting signs saying “cross-traffic does not stop” for people traveling northbound, those signs are in the queue to be installed. Remove 1 parking space on SW corner, which is where visibility is poor, that will take more time for that to happen.
- 4th & U st – sidewalks not there – should be repaired in the next month or two
- Dave Thomas Circle – several people have submitted letters saying process didn't engage w/ community, didn't provide much data. People have requested more in-depth and robust engagement. Want a lot more engagement w/ DDOT.
- Questions
 - Church on 3rd and Seaton – developers want to tear it down?
 - Community moved to another location, lot was sold to a developer. Looking for ways for community to engage in process. It's not historic, so that's not a means to engage. He wants to only do what he can do “by right” to skip over zoning, community engagement.

PRESENTATION ON 72 FLORIDA AVENUE

MARGARET KIMBALL, FOULGER-PRATT DEVELOPMENT

- Brigg Bunker – Foulger Pratt – site is between two Sirius XM buildings
- Proposing to do self-storage. Given constraints of site, sandwiched between 2 buildings. We do a lot of different uses (office, retail, residential), this is the best for this site. We are able to do this by right. We will have public space hearing on May 25 b/c we have 2 curb cuts – one is 60', trying to close curb cut. We want to close 60' curb cut, expand 20' curb cut to 24'. Building is about 160000 sq.' total. From FL Ave it's about 7 stories. Have not yet submitted large track review.
- Questions
 - Self-storage building – isn't there too many there already?
 - What drives self-storage is rooftops – there's many homes going up in the area. Many of them are small spaces. Average apartment size has dropped, which drives self-storage. There's a market demand for it.
 - Explain to the group how each self-storage unit will have its own key
 - Cube Smart – loading is on R St. The way it will be loaded from rear – there will be a gate, you key in a code, and the gate opens and closes behind you. All indoors.
 - Realize FL Ave is very busy, traffic will increase
 - Synchronized intersection. Closing curb cut will improve safety as cars turn in and out.
 - On curb cuts, ANC usually ways in – Comm Pinkney hasn't received anything.
 - On Agenda for 25th for Public Space. On ANC agenda for May 16.
 - Here tonight to do what?
 - Present to ECA. We're required to as part of process. We think it's a benefit to the community to have the curb cut, to have distributed loading on both sides of the building.
 - Are you anticipating that moving trucks will use Q st to access back loading dock?

- Yes
- Is this a 24 hour service?
 - Are choosing an operator – typically not 24 hours, but sometimes it is
- Are you required to give a traffic analysis?
 - We're doing a traffic analysis for the curb cut – they'll look at effect on surrounding area.
- On 2 maps – what is red outline –
 - Footprint of the building. 5 stories from the rear, 7 from FL Ave.
- Trucks coming in on both sides – how does flow work/
 - They have turning ability – they can go front in, turn in parking lot, front out.
- Are storage trucks usually smaller trucks, not the large moving van?
 - We are primarily providing small storage units (5x5, 7x5). Have some larger, but most are smaller, wouldn't require a moving truck.
 - Q – Is there anyway you could have it just one way for people to come and go?
 - The size of site and required turning rate wouldn't allow for us to do that. The distributed loading is better – allows for not as many people in any one space.
- What kind of commercial services are you thinking about renting to?
 - Can't say who will be renting to? Often party rentals, furniture rentals.
 - Other storage rentals aren't in the heart of the community, where people will live. Maybe we need to look at plan for curb cuts.
- How many – how much traffic is using curb cut off Florida now.
 - Right now, selling condos, very little traffic, if any.
- Could use support for telling DDOT that we prefer curb cut on Florida Ave so not all traffic is on Q St.
 - People agree that that's preferable.
- People suggest putting this in conjunction w/ study of Dave Thomas Circle so DDOT is taking all projects into consideration.
- Vote to draft letter to DDOT explaining preference for curb cut
 - In favor to draft letter to give recommendations: 19
 - Opposed: 0
 - Abstain: 3

PRESENTATION ON 1503 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE

Michael Fasanmi

- Not in attendance

CECILIA – RHODE ISLAND MAIN ST –

- 501c3, began in 2011, saw that there was going to be a lot of development along RIA, and wanted to get community input. In 2013, won contract to manage Rhode Island Ave Main St. One of 12 different Main St program – 3 in Ward 5- H st, North Capitol, RIA. Boundary starts at 3rd NE and RI and goes to Maryland line. The big challenge is, lots of different commercial and residential spots intermixed.
- Provide small business grants for façade improvements – coat of paint to new windows to brand new store fronts. Global Print Masters is one of best examples. There's many others as well.
- Also provide educational seminars, one-on-one time with topical experts. We have monthly business meetings – great for small businesses. Host multiple events, including Porch Fest. Had close to 300 people attend this year.
- Coming up – annual meeting at 2204 RIA, 7-9 on May 10.
- June 10 from 12-6, summer arts festival. In various locations along corridor. Juried show.
- Fall fest, Sept 30th from 10-4.
- Procrastinator's holiday market.
- Always actively recruiting volunteers for events and for board. Don't have enough representation from Eckington area. We could use some love up on RIA, we really need your input.

- With developers, we work with them to address needs of residents, and also to make sure small locally owned business are key parts of what they do.
- Really is a community organization, want people to contribute, make your voice heard
- Another success- G9 bus route
- If you want to be on email list, sign up on list in back of room.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- Big thanks to everyone who volunteered time on this
- DC comprehensive plan – is a 20 year plan, updated every 2 years. We're in the 2nd amendment process. The plan affects the whole city. There's 13 city-wide elements, covering everything from transportation to education. We focused on the area elements, specifically mid-city element in which Eckington is a part. Goal is to articulate what it is that we like about Eckington and what we want to preserve or change. Hannah Powell held a meeting, and then we gathered for another meeting to develop recommendations.
- Amendments – right now, comprehensive plan does not have much about Eckington, only 3 recommendations that tangentially relate. Huge opportunity. Only thing DC looks for is that amendments must be in keeping w/ DC comprehensive plan goals. Our recommendations relate to traffic, transportation, MBT, green space, and more.
- If you look at the 2 documents, the most important starts, MC-2.8.
- Want to come up with something that preserves what we think is heart of Eckington – neighborhood feel, diversity, affordability. We do think there are opportunities in the neighborhood for more neighborhood-serving services, especially along MBT, FL Ave, RIA. Wrote that in, and added other recommendations related to improving street infrastructure, making sure development is done in sustainable way.
- Q – Was Adam Duffy working on this? Some of your suggestions for North Capitol st are what NoCap Main Street does.
 - Yes, and some of this is already underway. Since there's not much about Eckington in this right now, want to articulate what we want for this plan – more businesses for east side, more connectivity.
 - We learned, the plan is so important b/c they have to demonstrate that zoning changes are in line w/ comprehensive plan. Very important to get preferences in there.
- Q – How do you meld together – the new businesses coming in, the nightmares of traffic, parking problems?
 - One of the reasons that we said we only want more commercial, retail, high-density along the edges is b/c we agree, that's important, want to preserve low-density heart of Eckington. Recommend that DDOT does neighborhood-wide traffic study. Several other neighborhoods recommended that in the past. DDOT can look at what are traffic patterns, tensions, across neighborhood – hopefully that will help provide recommendation to alleviate tensions.
 - Inevitably you're bringing more traffic into community. Unless there's specific parking carved out, parking will be in neighborhood – there needs to be some parking if they're going to bring new businesses. Effect on neighborhood – I can't park in front of my house.
 - Shelly – one thing we could do, is say as development happens, we encourage development to explore options for on-site parking, underground parking. This is a framework, offers guidelines, not saying "every business has to do this," but by saying "we would prefer development to happen one way vs another," any development that happens, they use this as guideline.
- One big discussion point was MBT. I ride it almost every day and I love it, but a lot of it is, you have big industrial space on both sides. There's some diversity that would be great to have – how do we provide additional benefit to MBT – it's a pass-through, they don't realize they're going through Eckington the neighborhood.
- We're proposing text amendments and map amendments.
- Map – part of recommendation is to diversify the "PDR" light industrial space, allowing commercial, retail, other potential updates.
 - At Eckington Place & R st, new park, will bring a lot as community space and will activate trail.
 - Gives us an opportunity to say what kinds of things we do and don't want (e.g., no more self-storage)

- Opportunity to explore opportunities for more pocket parks, considering creating creative arts district along trail, more connectivity to other parts of neighborhood, better branding for neighborhood (like Eckington sign in south corner).
- Note – anyone can make comments on the comprehensive plan as a citizen. We’re hoping that these recommendations from ECA (and ANC?) will be heard with more weight.
- **Until May 26 to offer amendments: PlanDC.DC.Gov**
- If anyone is interested in citywide elements, Shelly is happy to collaborate
- Thanks to team for putting together document
- Next steps: Vote to support amendment, draft letter as ECA, and bring to ANC for vote also
- Two pieces of feedback –
 - MC2.8.2 – higher density development – add in, RIA from 4th st NE to the MBT
 - Add in – as commercial development occurs, encourage on-site parking, and/or increase public transportation options
- Add:
 - *Action MC-2.8.G As commercial development occurs, encourage on-site parking to accommodate expected traffic or increased bike infrastructure.*
 - *Policy MC-2.8.2 – add in “along Rhode Island Ave from 4th st to the MBT, and from North Capitol st along Florida Ave.*
- Request- don’t default to speed bumps as traffic calming measures
- Tree-lined streets with shaded areas – not all of our streets have that, would be great to add tree boxes or do something else – as part of improved street scape, 2.8.10. or increased green space (add in “tree boxes and tree planting”
- Comm Pinkney – Great job. But I do have to ask, was there a survey? Was the survey placed in everyone’s door? And of those who responded, how many were there?
 - We did not do a survey. We have done several online surveys to see what people care about through CBA process, so have data from that. Went through several rounds of collecting feedback, notified everyone through neighborhood listserves, through Hannah Powell’s comprehensive plan meeting went out on paper. Didn’t have the resources to do more than that, but I feel like we did a good job of engaging the public.
 - Do you have a # of people you engaged?
 - Could probably come up with that – had meetings, were here at ECA, could count. Probably close to 100 if not more in person, and then dozens of people’s online feedback.
 - Hannah Powell – first office w/ Office of Planning, that went out door to door to all buildings, and announced on NextDoor and Listserv.
- Motion to support amendment – seconded
 - In favor: 25
 - Opposed: 0
 - Abstain: 0

EARL WILLIAMS – FEDERATION OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

- Represents civic associations across the city – we testify in front of the council, write letters of support for members’ issues. When you speak with the voice of a choir, you have a lot more power. Here tonight to learn more about Eckington – I’ve been on your website, spoken with your president, did a lot of research. I’ve reached out to see if you’d like to join – DCfederation.org. Eric Shaw, director of office of planning, is our May guest speaker for our federation.
- Comment – we had attempted to join the federation years ago, but we were blocked by Edgewood Civic Association, because of the boundary lines – they usurped a lot of our boundaries. According to your rules at the time, two civic associations could not share the same area.
 - No longer true. If you’d like to apply for a membership, we’d love to have you. I go to a lot of meetings, and I have to say, the people who worked on the amendments to the comprehensive plan, that’s a lot of work. We’re doing the same work that you guys are, and it’s a lot of work. I applaud you all for your work on that.

Project – 3rd & Harry Thomas Way – asking Foulger Pratt to come back and give us an update, start talking about CBA.