

ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

JULY 11, 2016

NOTES

- Vernon acting as president, intros
- Announcement: No August meeting;
- Next meeting is September 12th

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Events: Progressive Summer Party – July 30th.
 - Three host houses – 90 minutes each; entry is a donation for Children’s Hospital – board games, summer games, ages 6-13 years old
 - RSVP by Friday
 - Family & friends welcome
- Oral History: Starting to do interviews at the end of the month. Did not win grant, but QED has still agreed to help with the process.
 - If you know of neighbors who would be interesting to interview, let Lana know.
 - Especially interested in senior citizens, people who are older and grew up in neighborhood.
 - Will finish paying QED at end of month, but they will continue helping w oral history project.
 - Are you recording it on – phones? David Soo may be able to help w/ apps for phones that can be used for recording.
 - StoryCorps – NPR – has good questions to get started. NPR has app for interviewing – could archive them there and tag for Eckington.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

- COMMISSIONER LEWIS
 - MRP – updating PUD for Elevation; they will have more residential and less retail space; they were not able to present to ANC (and ECA at prior meeting), will present to ANC in September.
 - Clarification – the lot along MBT with the future bike lobby (currently a dog park). Now part of this SMD after boundaries were redrawn.
 - Question – do you think that’s a good thing or bad thing?

- Comm Lewis – hasn't seen presentation yet, will get feedback from community after seeing presentation
 - Can ask MRP to re-present to ECA prior to ANC so we get the most up-to-date plan, and can share response w/ Comm Lewis.
- COMMISSIONER PINKNEY
 - Places community update on Eckington listserv every month and on NextDoor.
 - Park: David & JC maintaining rectangular area w/ Eckington sign – big thanks!
 - Comm Pinkney working in park near New York Pizza (gets lawnmowing from NoMa, watering from NY Pizza, Comm Pinkney & volunteers weeding) – looks good, and trees are doing well.
 - Development:
 - 8 P St – 13 units, up 5 stories – now selling property; person who is purchasing is part of LLC, wants to go up 7 or 8 stories. Comm Pinkney pointed out ANC out of session until September, so will come in Sept or Oct to discuss plans
 - Hersons Glass – around XM Radio – being sold. Hoping that Andrew Viola (50 Fl Ave developer) will get that property.
 - 50 FL Ave will start drilling on FL Ave side, and then back to Q st side. People nearby – expect construction soon.
 - Had meeting w/ Q st residents, promised to send info and never did.
 - 22 P st – Parking Lot behind Exon Station – will probably be condos
 - Yang Market – 138 U st NE – Owners leaving area, building being sold. Someone suggested café, but Pinkney concerned density wouldn't support it. Expects it will be condos/apartments instead.
 - 1923 Lincoln Road – 1.2-1.4 million – big home plus retail – expects it will be condos
 - 26 (?) Fl Ave – developer called, blighted, been there for years, 450k in taxes, wants to pay taxes but get tax break from ANC. Comm Pinkney said she doesn't do that, doesn't know that any ANC commissioner ever has. Wants to come to Civic Association, gave Randy's info. DCRA has already cut taxes by \$20k based on their regulations.
 - Block meetings – going well.
 - People do come to corner, find out more at block meeting than at formal meeting situation.
 - Will start Rodent Abatement in July
 - R st & Quincy Place Unit Block – will be contacting housing group that manages 11 R st to see if they will agree to fence around trash container to keep people who don't belong in neighborhood to get back there.
 - Block Parties – have 2 blocks talking about block parties. Would be nice to do at same time together, but have to talk to 2 people in charge of planning
 - Trees – have covered every block in Eckington w/ trees. Only block that pops up is Todd Place – unit block near Harmony PCS – all tree boxes have been filled w/ gravel or cement, working on getting tree boxes

- properly prepared so that Urban Forestry can come plant trees on Todd Place.
- Trash – alleys are being cleaned, it would be a big deal if trashcans were in back yards. DPW is doing best w/ trash cans – still clean. They’ve been on R st, will move over.
 - Harry Thomas Rec Center
 - Contacting Parks & Rec, Department of General Services, bringing them in b/c new playground deserves to be landscaped at least quarterly, have everything trimmed and looking good. Everything is overgrown. Problem – everything in government requires a contract, so it’s a long process.
 - Good thing – did walkthrough w/ 5D, pointed out safety problems, set up logbook for officers to go in, walk around every duty period, give greater security.
 - Classes – put their programs on ListServe, and on NextDoor Eckington. If there’s classes you want at Harry Thomas, have to have group of people willing to show up – if you have a group, we can try to get whatever class that might be.
 - Vernon – Had John Stokes (DPR) explain process – recommends working w/ ECA to get community members together to talk about what they’d like to see at rec center – larger groups is more likely response.
 - DPR doesn’t organize activities very well on website – organized by activity, not Rec Center
 - McMillan – moving on along, at same time developers being sued by several groups. As suits go along, they don’t seem to be stopping project. McMillan is moving along.
 - Q – landscaping at playground – rats in baby part during daylight. Not sure what to do.
 - Comm Pinkney also trying to bring department of health/rodent abatement. Dept of Health said contractor said they’d already been out there.
 - Contact Department of General Services re. upkeep of recreation centers.
 - Comm Pinkney – DCRA has given special email address where people can send questions to them –
 - Had sent message about Quincy Place, within 4-5 days they had weeded/cleaned up vacant property
 - Sending owners of set of properties letters about cleaning up properties or will attach lien
 - ANC finally insisted on 14% affordable housing for MRP Rhode Island Ave project, will send to Zoning, waiting to hear back

SHELLEY VINEYARD, DC FAIR ELECTIONS ACT

- Proposal to establish small donor empowerment act – citizens can donate small amount of money, will be matched by multiplier factor.

- Councilman McDuffie is head of committee who is taking bill on, his staff has some things they want to change about it. Vineyard would agree- need hearing to change language of bill. Wants to ask Civic Association to sign onto letter to support bill.
 - Several dozen orgs across city have signed on.
 - Proposed changes:
 - Clarify or change thresholds
 - Question – what’s the maximum for small donation? \$100 or less
- Motion: Vote to support letter as written.
 - Support: 14
 - Opposed: 0
 - Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes

DISCUSSION OF ECA COMMITTEES

- **EXISTING COMMITTEES**
 - Beautification
 - Events
 - Public Safety
 - Shelly’s interested
 - Oral History
- **PROPOSED**
 - Planning & Development
 - Jessie, Jessie’s wife, Shirley
 - Could also look at transportation
 - Youth
 - Outreach & Membership
 - Community Service
- Thoughts/Feedback?
 - Comm Pinkney – would choose 4 of the very top important committees, limit to 4-5 total. Lucky to get a group for each of those that will stick with it.
 - Outreach – could combine w/ Youth – but concern that serving very different audiences
 - Block captains – could help w/ outreach
 - Comm Pinkney – has tried block captains – it works for a while, and then it stops working. (1) we have some of the longest blocks every – passing out fliers takes time.
 - Instead of being on the committee, could look for people to plan just a few events.
 - If you’re interested, let Vernon know, use August to do some planning/formation.
 - Hannah will send google form to gather info, help coordinate/bring people together
 - If you’re holding a meeting, make sure it will disseminate info to people who come out – so don’t people get bored
 - Public Safety – how often do safety walks happen?

- In past, happened once a month, started around March or April, ended in October – would meet w/ someone from MPD, walk through neighborhood and we would point out concern areas, and they point out areas of concern or talk about concerns.
- But, haven't had committee in a while, could change how it's done