

ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2015

SGT. JAMES ELLIS – SAFETY UPDATE

- Encourage anyone who is interested to look at the **crime stats** on the MPD website
 - They are updated frequently and you can find out where the robberies, burglaries, etc.
 - You can also follow Twitter
- A lot of **burglaries** in Eckington—mostly middle of day, afternoon
 - Kicking in doors to row-homes with in-law suites
 - Get to know your neighbors
 - If there are vacant properties, let the police know; they can get in touch with DCRA
- **Package thefts** are big this time of year, with gifts being delivered
 - Let your neighbor know if you are having packages delivered
 - If you see suspicious people, call them in
 - Also more **theft from auto**; even things you might not think are valuable might be
- **Two MBT robberies**
 - 2 arrests have been made during the evening—on the northern end
 - 1 had minor injuries
 - Many people have Go Pro cameras; there is a Facebook community of people who may have info to help identify people
 - Call the district if you hear there was a robbery and you had video
 - Trying to get the lights fixed; many pole numbers are out
 - More cameras would be helpful
 - There is a private school at R Street; the National Geographic building has a camera
 - Contacting other business owners and seeing if they would want cameras could be helpful
- **Others**
 - There are more officers on the beat
 - Homicide in Edgewood from several months ago not resolved
 - There was a shooting in Edgewood that suggests it will be soon
 - Many complaints on Lincoln Road, so there are lots of patrols, pending officer availability

- Call it in so that he can request more officers
- Synthetic marijuana is a particular concern—gets people hospitalized, which can take an officer away from the street for 1.5 hours
 - If you see a store selling synthetic marijuana, report it; it is illegal to sell and several stores have been shut down across the city
- **Feel free to email Sgt. Ellis or Lt. Wright**
 - Or text: 50411 with tips

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **Beautification committee**
 - Sat Nov 21; 10am Rec Center
 - Would like a cookout after
 - If you would like to bring something, email Vernon or Kimon
 - We were going to do some planting of bulbs November 7, though we're not sure if there is going to be money
 - Commissioner Pinkney has not yet heard
 - Considering different locations for bulbs
 - 4th and S Street, near the MBT
 - Eckington Sign at Lincoln and North Capitol
 - If people have thoughts, email Vernon
 - Resident: you might contact the schools
- **Events**
 - Fall happy hour had 30 people
 - Progressive Holiday Party
 - Jenn, one of our neighbors, had the idea
 - We've had lots of interest
 - Last two hours for the big party at Gearing Up
 - Looking for 2 more hosts
 - Will donate toys to children's national hospital
- **President's report**
 - **Website:** www.eckingtoncivicassociation.org is now live!
 - We will start using that to coordinate
 - **Historic Preservation**
 - Actively working with consultants
 - Community forum, Monday Jan 11

- Bloomingdale is also considering historic designation and they are having a panel discussion this Thursday
 - St. George's Church, 160 U St. NW, 6:30-8:30pm
- Elections
 - o Looking for people looking to run for office
 - o Recording Secretary will be open; please contact David Soo (davidtsoo@gmail.com)

COMMISSIONER PINKNEY

- Eckington for 2016, a schedule for alley cleaning, rodent abatement, and tree trimming
 - o 6 alleys have been forwarded for consideration
 - o 1939 1st Street – They finished repaving the alley
- Crime
 - o Lincoln/Florida—1613 with a garage –it has been closed up and now there is no one outside the house
 - o There are other vacant homes—we're working to get them boarded up
 - The fear is that people will go in and light fires to keep warm
 - o Harry Thomas
 - Young guys hanging out for hours on end and families cannot access the space
 - Smoking marijuana
 - There is a hole in one of the fence openings
 - DPR, DPW, MPD will do more
 - o MAG—MacMillan Advisory Group
 - Slowing down because the project is slowing down
 - Nov 12 there will be a meeting that will discuss a transportation study, 7pm, no location yet
 - o North Cap Main Street
 - Arts All Night was on MSNBC
 - New offices have been chosen
 - 6 new board members have been selected—all local residents or business owners
 - o 50 Florida Avenue
 - Not starting yet; their permit application has not yet been approved—many reviews have been approved, but not all
 - DCRA would not give a status of the building permit
 - o 1710 1st Street
 - 31 units in the alley (presented several months ago)

- No new information
- o 8 P Street NE
 - Commission voted to oppose 13 units
 - Mr. Youseffi had not come to the civic association and so nothing was known about it.
 - Youseffi says he tried to contact Commissioner Pinkney
 - 10 emails and no reply
 - Came to her house and submitted information
 - Commissioner Pinkney:
 - I will be downtown on the 10th to oppose it
 - Zoning informed him that he should have started with the civic association, then the ANC
 - When Youseff contacted her, it was October 8
- o Question: U and Summit there are some vacant properties
 - MPD will ride through
 - 130-132-134—a church and two houses
- o Question:
 - Rec Center, is there a plan for remodeling? Adding an indoor pool?
 - Last year, Commissioner Pinkey said that she wanted to do more renovation—and to have classes that the public can participate in.

RONAN GULSTONE, COUNCILMEMBER MCDUFFIE'S CHIEF OF STAFF

202-257-4129 rgulstone@dccouncil.us @rgulstone

- Now is a good time to think about next year's budget, so start thinking about requests
 - o The mayor will be doing feedback sessions
 - o Get commissioners requests
- More community events around the ward
 - o Cleanups (next week, location TBD), coffees, etc.
- Tomorrow: legislative meeting
 - o Mayor's homelessness proposal; general support, but some discussion
 - o Close DC general, but have smaller emergency shelters throughout the city
- Crime Bill will hopefully be out in the next month or so
- Policy and regulations around body cameras should be done soon as well
 - o Contract to purchase them should be approved this month
- **Question:** What is HechtTown? It's another phase of Douglas Development—across NY Avenue from the Hecht development—small and emerging businesses

- o Article in WaPo about Ivy City that talks about general area
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/style/2015/11/02/the-next-cool-d-c-neighborhood-you-have-never-heard-of/>
- Question
 - o MacMillan
 - There is a bill to extend the land disposition agreement. Hearing a week ago; emergency bill to close to streets going through the plot
 - Auditor's letter: she had concerns about the process
 - The Councilmember is comfortable with the process
 - Will not bid it out to another developer
 - ANC 5E voted to support through 2021 and the closing of the streets
- **Question:** started a process—2 street lights leaning
 - o 2100 block of 3rd street NE
 - o Was going to scrape rust and replace leaning light
- **Question:** 4th and U Street—RAP (Regional Addition Program)—any update?
 - o Ronan will get back to him

TOMMY JONES—MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- o 5 community meetings today
- o Very accessible by email
- o Try to solve issues on a proactive and reactive way
 - o Trying to find issues, elevate certain ones
 - o In partnership with Councilman's office
- o Mayor has been in office 11 months
- o Need residents' help: DC resident snow team
 - o When streets, alleys, etc. need help
 - o When individuals can't shovel snow, call 311
 - o Snow team needs volunteers—500 people
 - 5, 7, 8 are the wards that have the most challenges
- o Tommie.jones@dc.gov, 202-664-7512, @dctommiejones [email is easiest]
- o Mayor's 6 month report, community issues
- o Mayor.dc.gov
- o **Question:** Can blighted homes be turned into housing for homeless people?
 - o *Answer:* That's not the primary way of ending homelessness; we work with DCRA to board them up and address them.

- o **Question:** DDOT, DCRA seem overstaffed and behind schedule. Can we hire more staff?
 - o *Answer:* It's a challenge and we have to bring these back to the mayor and councilmember, plus the heads of the agencies.
 - o It may have been that there are new DCRA inspectors as of Oct 1, but Ronan will double check that.
- o **Question:** Is there a budget 101 tutorial? How, when to ask.
 - o *Answer:* ask now! But also, there's a document that Ronan can send.
 - o *Commissioner Pinkney:* The key is that you need to testify and show that you are invested.
 - o Performance oversight is the first set of issues; then budget
 - o Dccouncil.us – schedule will be on there
- o **Question:**
 - o PEPCO park: Stacy West from NoMa Parks Foundation says they are in negotiation to buy the tract.
 - o There has been no movement on right-of-way to bike trail; that will require PEPCO to transfer the rights to the land.
 - o There should be a meeting coming up on Nov 19

8 P ST NE

- o Almost impossible to put in parking—area is too small and would require unsafe backing up
- o Mr. Youseffi works in the neighborhood and wants to develop the property
- o Only variance that they want is parking.
- o Steven Vargas at zoning says that zoning told him after he applied the steps he would have to take in the community
 - o Mr. Youseffi did not take the time he had to do that
- o The other condos being built nearby don't have parking

FLOWER MARKET

- o Vernon has been looking into the possibilities for the amenities package
- o Residents of 200 R Street has a list that is similar
 - o Mature trees on the site—can they be replanted elsewhere in Eckington?
 - o MBT safety improvements
- o **More ideas:** Vernon.preston@gmail.com