

ECKINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 5, 2015

PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEES REPORTS (RANDY NOLAN)

- **A round of introductions** (27 people)
- **Elections will be in December**
 - If you'd like to run, be on a committee, or just have suggestions, please let us know (email David Soo at davidtsoo@gmail.com)
- **Beautification committee** (Vernon Preston): next cleanup will be Oct 17 at Harry Thomas Rec Center at 10:00am
- **Events committee** (Adam Duffy):
 - Fall happy hour next Thursday from 6-8 at El Camino
 - Also working with Jen for a progressive party on December 19--5 neighbors will host
- **Historic Preservation** (Walt)
 - The civic association put out a request for proposals for historic preservation companies
 - The committee interviewed two groups and identified QED Associates as the preferred partner
 - They have done neighborhoods and individual sites
 - They do the sites, but also the neighborhood, engagement
 - Price: \$17,500; other group was \$25,000
 - The motion passed 12 votes in favor none opposed, two abstentions.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

- **Commissioner Lewis**
 - 3rd Tues of each month, ANC meeting at Trinity
 - This month, the development of 3rd street (just south of RI) will be presenting; they want an exemption to reduce the amount of affordable housing.
 - Robert, a neighbor, is concerned that the developer has broken the law but is going to present at the meeting.
 - Commissioner Lewis will be voting against.
- **Commissioner Pinkney (reported by Charlene)**
 - Rodent abatement will be Oct 20-21 (Tues/Wed)
 - If you signed up last time, you'll get it this time.
 - At 1613 Lincoln Road, the garage was boarded up
 - Neighbor: There is illegal parking in front of the garage and the fire hydrant and they are using the bathroom down the alley.
 - Final single member district meeting of the year will be on illegal construction and landlord/tenant issues - and further info will be on the listserv
 - Five alleys will be repaved next year

LT. WRIGHT

- Lots of juveniles (McKinley, middle school), so lots of juvenile crimes--robbery, burglary (phones, breaking in houses to take laptops and computer games)
- Burglaries increase around holidays, especially during the daytime. If you see kids knocking on doors or in alleys, call police and the truancy unit will investigate. Robberies go up when it gets dark earlier; be mindful, especially when walking with earbuds.
 - They try to increase patrols and pay attention to high-traffic areas. And encourage residents to be vigilant and not walk around unaware.
 - Officers keep moving--and to keep people moving.
- Question: What about ordering online?
 - Don't have your delivery person leave a big package in the open.
 - Don't leave boxes from large TVs or Tiffany's in the trash; cut it up.
- Question: S and Lincoln seems unsafe (robberies, someone shot, feeling unsafe)
 - We have a quick response time; we have foot-beats, bicycles, scout cars
 - If citizens feel that something isn't right, call the police and provide a description (for example: 10 guys on the corner and I don't feel comfortable).
 - Don't be walking around at 9:00 or 11:00pm with your purse.
 - Resident: It seems as if residents shouldn't have to fear for their safety coming home after work.
 - Call Lt. Wright when there are regular concerns; call the dispatch officers when there is a crime in progress.
- Question: what percentage of burglaries/robberies have guns?
 - Small percentage of burglaries have guns. There are generally not assaults with burglaries.
 - Robberies--snatch, or strong-arm robberies or handgun. Grab, push down; people generally aren't shot.
 - Home invasions--give them what they want, get out of the house.
- When you interact with an officer, if you don't feel like you're getting good service, ask for the Sargent. If you still don't get service, ask for the Watch Commander.
- Email: ronald.wrightjr@dc.gov
- Cell: 202-425-2012 (don't leave a voicemail; send a text)

FLOWER MARKET DEVELOPMENT (VERNON AND R STREET RESIDENTS)

- Large development: 700 units where the State Farm property and flower market on Eckington Place. Seven stories on street; 10 in the middle. Planning to go to zoning in January.
- Trying to get community benefits together now.
 - Increased affordable housing
 - Security cameras
 - Reviews of how it will affect neighbors
 - Where things will be staged
 - Suggestion: bikeshare on location (the Eckington and Q bike station is pretty small)

- Suggestion: parking impact study
 - Suggestion: contribution of an effort to buy land or make parks nicer
- The residents of the 200 block of R Street have met the developer and have a 6-page document of requests (e.g., not using alley for parking and deliveries). The developer seems willing to consider requests. They plan to make the Gale (Trilogy) lot available for the public to park (for a fee). Asking developers to buy open space to build a park. Crossover to Union Market. Maker stores--encourage them to have them be useful to the neighborhood. Lighting, construction concerns, fund to pay for the damage to the homes.
- Encourage people to come and testify. Eckington Civic Association and members of the community to register and make comments.
- ANC will ask for vote of support of the project.