

## ECA April Meeting, 2015

Thanks to Vice President Sean LeSane for taking notes in David Soo's absence!

- Attendees introduced themselves

### **Safety Report:**

- Sgt. Ellis gave update on MBT robberies....4 in a week and 3 in the same day.
- 3 female victims were joggers with ear buds in and the male was just a walker
- 2 juveniles were apprehended within the week
- robberies were on the southern end near R st and one near the northern section
- 4 mountain bike officers are on in the evenings (2:30-11pm); power shift comes on from 3-4pm to support changes during shift changes
- Will start disseminating pamphlets on cars for those who use the McKinley Tech field to warn about robbery prevention
- Gave suggestion of groups of 2 or 3 when using the MBT
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and Todd St. resident mentioned March 14<sup>th</sup> incident
- Resident also mentioned patrols to walk thru HT Rec Center
- For ATV and motorbikes try to find out where they're being parked or get a license tag to locate them since MPD has a no pursuit policy for off road vehicles
- Resident mentioned an abandoned car that has been called into the city during the last 6 months with no response. Sgt. Ellis said it will be investigated

### **Committee Updates:**

- **Beautification:** April 18, 2015 at 10 am at HTRC and have a collaboration with Global Youth Service Day.
- **Safety:** Safety walks will resume once a month in front of HTRC joined by MPD officers to patrol the community. Gives neighbors an opportunity to meet and to talk to officers who patrol the area.
  - o Discussion about when to hold the walk and how often. Tentative date is April 22, 2015 at 7pm at the HTRC. Brooke will contact MPD to coordinate a representative and will post the event to the listserv. Residents suggested once a month.
- **Membership:** Lana spoke about current membership (30 out of 2000) and a desire to increase this number. The need is there to increase revenue to support some ECA initiatives and print needs. This would support outreach to potential members who have no Internet access.
- **Events:** Adam was not present but Randy spoke about the Fall Festival/Block Party. There was a call for volunteers to start planning this event. Also asked for help with copywriting and editing for the website.
- Resident commented on the helpfulness of personal messages on listservs and positive experiences.

### **Jon Mandel from Councilmember McDuffie's office:**

- Passed out 2014 Year in Review for the office

- Discussed revised law on shackling juveniles in custody in courtrooms where judge can make determination on the use of shackles
- 2 new bills introduced:
  - o 1- raising tobacco purchasing age to 21 y.o.;
  - o 2- banning of powdered alcohol.
- Offered help on the abandoned car issue.
- Resident commented on blocking of intersection at N. Cap. and R St. during morning and evening rush hours and what support can come from the Councilmember's office. Also traffic blocks at Florida and N. Cap.
- Resident asked about the Councilmember's position on a reduction in the drinking age
- Resident asked about street light safety and replacement in Eckington as part of the Mid-City East Planning
- Jon gave suggestion for the creation of a list of priorities in the community
- Resident raised issue of responsiveness for graffiti removal requests. Jon provided his card for follow-up

**Commissioner Update:****Commissioner Pinckney-**

- Been working to create schedule for rodent abatement and alley sweeping. Collecting names for petition on rodent abatement.
- Working on street light replacement also
- City council has voted to push through McMillan project despite complaints from McMillan Group on lack of a voice in the process
- NCMS committee is working well and looking for committee members
- Working on a dedication of the gateway sign but wants to have landscaping done around that
- Working on graffiti removal and the challenge is getting property owners to provide a waiver so the city can clean them.
- The block between R and Quincy Place is being looked at for clean up
- The Super Liquors Store is up for renewal and she is asking for input from the community on the voluntary agreement they are currently permitted. She will attend the ECA May meeting seeking input from us.
  - o We can ask for changes to the agreement (i.e., hours, items for sale, building issues)
  - o Bradley Thomas is the commissioner for the liquor store at N.Cap., NW.  
Residents can oppose that renewal by contacting him if they have comments.
- Resident asked about signatures for rodent abatement
- Made suggestion that since new developments are coming up so it would be a great time to request new lighting in an amenities package.
- She has turned in parking petitions for her SMD
- April 18, 2015 Beautification Day: She has \$1000 of funding available but waiting to hear release date for this.

**Councilmember Bonds:**

- Discussed FY 2016 budget, in particular the attorney general taking a backseat to her legal counsel department. This is under discussion. Voting will take place in late June.

- The Mayor wants to appoint certain positions that are budgeted for next year.
- Because of reduced income from traffic tickets there may be a change in the budget that will have to be addressed.
- Bonds (as part of the Housing and Urban Development Committee) is making affordable housing a priority. Affordability is at 80% of the median income of \$107,000. \$2,200 is the average monthly cost for housing.
- There are special commissions to address specific populations and their needs. This is within the committee.
- Through HPAP there is up to \$50,000 of assistance available through the government to help those who want to live in the city to be able to afford it.
- Working on assessing the number of rent control units. The majority is West of Connecticut Ave and built before 1976. When an individual leaves that unit the rent can go up. Trying to add to that inventory of rent controlled units.
- There are different mechanisms to address affordable housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing to address homelessness and done so throughout the city not just one area. Housing Production Trust Fund
- David Meadows is CM Bonds Chief of Staff and will address a resident issue with an aide program that was discontinued.
- Resident discussed issue about landlord/tenant rights that may impact the inventory of housing and how to have joint responsibility.
- Resident raised issue of more transparency about affordability options CHDC.gov to get more information.
- Resident raised issue about possible merger of Exelon and Pepco and position on this merger. Discussed safety concerns and how merger may hinder energy efforts of the District.
- Within a half-mile radius of a metro service, 30% of units must be affordable if on district land. Off land is 20%. This applies for new constructions and is a new law.
- Resident raised issue about senior citizen bill providing tax relief. The bill passed but it was not included in the budget.
- Resident raised issue about financial assistance for food service workers
- Resident asked whether her office deals with pop-ups. She said that is handled by Zoning.

**Banner Update**

Mike Aiello passed out design mock up for new banners. Brief discussion about this handouts.