

ECA February Meeting, 2015

Randy Nolan, ECA President, welcomed the group (28 attendees)

- All residents went around and introduced themselves and said how long they had been in the neighborhood
- Randy and Charlene, ECA Treasurer, went to the RI Avenue Main Street outreach meeting for the civic associations.
 - An idea was to have large planters with plants at key intersections, including 4th and Rhode Island. Funding will need to be obtained for the project.
- Council members at upcoming ECA meetings
 - David Grosso, at large council member, will attend the March meeting
 - Anita Bonds, at large council member, will attend the April meeting

Sergeant Ellis gave the MPD update

- Not a whole lot to report--a good thing
- Theft from auto has happened a few times
- Also, do not leave your car running while occupied; it's technically illegal
- Officer Miles--usually one of the mountain bikers--recommended not having cell phones out
- **Question:** The North Cap/RI intersection is very dangerous. What can be done?
 - We've gotten that complaint by email; we have written 60 tickets there in the last few months
- If any residents are interested in a ride-along--for an hour or two or more--let Sergeant Ellis know.

Beautification committee--Nes Robinson

- There will be a planning meeting tomorrow at 7:00PM (will go on the Listserv)
- Typically cleanups occur during the odd months, but will decide at the planning meeting
- March 21st will likely be the first one

Tommie Jones, from Mayor Bowser's office

- Wanted to introduce himself
- Malik Williams is a co-liaison for the neighborhood; they both live in the area
- Any constituent concerns can come through them and they will try to solve any issues
- Mayor has some budget engagement forums coming up
- tommie.jones@dc.gov ;202-664-7512 or 202-535-1937; will try to get back to people within 24 hours, though email is probably fastest!
- **Flyer:** [[photo](#)]

Trilogy Amenities Package check-in

- **Provisions**
 - **Affordable housing**
 - They are required to have 8% of gross floor dedicated to affordable housing; it goes to people who make 80% of area median income)
 - The affordable units were all rented as of Nov 2013. Studio \$1,350 (market rate of \$1,600); 1BRs \$1,490 (market \$1,700-\$2,200); 2BR \$1,600 (market \$2,600-\$3,200).
 - **Pedestrian bike trail**
 - Trilogy contributed \$65,000 to DDOT.
 - Liability issues and cost of land seem to be holding it up
 - If there is a stalemate, can we intervene?
 - It would be nice to open up the space to the trail
 - **Community office space**
 - Requirement of 1,200 square feet of office space and 1,000 square feet of retail. Neither has happened
 - We should ask the ANC 5E03 Commissioner if she would look into it.
 - **Funds for a signalized intersection at the corner of RI and 3rd**
 - Trilogy contributed \$25,000 to DDOT
 - However, DDOT has apparently said it will not put a light there. We should follow-up with them and petition to reallocate the funds
 - **Commissioner Pinkney:** That will require a zoning commission action
 - **Donations:** Harry Thomas Rec, North Cap Main St, McKinley, Regional Addiction, City Year, Eckington Civic Association, Edgewood Civic Association, etc.

ECA's Trilogy Amenities money

- It was pegged for updates, senior safety grants program (small items that make seniors at risk), and historical signage.
- Already allocated \$9,000 to new sign at Lincoln Road and North Capitol Street
 - Commissioner Pinkney is working on getting solar-powered lighting on it soon
- For the remainder of the funds, we propose to put up Eckington banners
- Kim Mosely talked about the banners
 - Five or six years ago, Eckington banners were put up, but they are run down. [**Locations here:** [photo](#)]
 - Kim Mosely has obtained a quote to replace the banners for about \$6,000. Her colleague at work mocked up some potential designs. [**see design here:** [photo](#)]
 - Residents should feel free to comment on the use of funds for this and the designs.

- The current Eckington signs only go as far East as 2nd Street NE, even though Eckington's official borders go past 4th Street NE to the train tracks. This is because years ago when the signs went up, a different ANC commissioner put up signs with a different design. There was discussion about the Eckington Civic Association funding signs throughout all of Eckington.
 - It was advised that we should talk to the new ANC commissioner to solicit her input.
 - Vice President Sean LeSane will contact Renee Lewis.
- One resident who is a graphic designer, Mike Aiello, said he would mock up some additional designs.
- Randy: after we decide what to do, we will need to talk to DDOT about getting permission to make the changes
- It was suggested that signs could go all the way onto the bike trail.

Adam Duffy, Events Committee chair

- Will be coordinating events in Eckington
- Happy hour quarterly at neighborhood establishments
 - **Wednesday, March 11--6:30-8:30**--The first one will likely be at the Firehouse (confirmation will be on the listserv).
- Other events may include:
 - Family events
 - Having street specific events so that neighbors get to know one another
 - Block party annually
 - Working with other civic associations across Ward 5
 - Outing to a McKinley football game
 - Community yard sale--same day where everyone puts stuff out--and a designated place for people who live in apartments (Michael Bjornstein will help)
 - **Please let Adam or others on the board know if you have other suggestions!**
- Adam will email the listserv and get feedback
 - Commissioner Pinkney said that she intends to do an annual block party as well, so it will need to be determined whether co-hosting or other partnerships are possible.

Commissioner Sylvia Pinkney

- **New development coming to Eckington**
 - The space on Eckington Place between Trilogy and R Street, including Washington Wholesale Flowers and State Farm building, plus 1 acre will be developed as mixed-use housing and retail

- Storage building has not been sold, but there will be an offer put onto it
- We may be able to request a dog park
- **McMillan**
 - A historical preservation review board meeting
 - Sylvia noted some dissention between MAG and Friends of MacMillan
 - A resident reported that it did not seem quite as contentious -- and that a big concern is traffic
 - The MacMillan developers can start this year if they want to since the land has been “surplussed”

ANC is “fine tuning” its bylaws

- There are a few proposed changes; currently it states:
 - Commissioners **shall convene at least two single member district meetings each year**
 - Commissioners **shall participate in monthly civic assn meetings**
 - Commissioners **shall seek input of civic association meetings prior to developer support of a major development**
- Sylvia noted that there has been a proposal to change the rules such that the ANC should no longer be required to seek input from the civic associations, but that it would be merely recommended.
 - She suggested that this is more representative, because a civic association only represents a small percentage of the community.
 - “Why should the ANC take heed of 30 people when there are 1970 out there.” (It was pointed out that almost 800 people are on the ECA’s listserv.)
- There was significant input from those present that this would not be a welcome change.
 - Sylvia said that she has not seen the final language and so has not determined how she will vote.
 - The final language will be released at an ANC meeting on Thursday and voted upon at the February 17 meeting.
 - It was noted by a resident that the incorrect language (with the change already made) is currently on the ANC website; Sylvia said it is an error that will be changed.
 - A resident asked how Commissioners will gather input on this issue and Sylvia said that there doesn’t need to be community input as long as the changes are publicly reported.
- Beautification--instead of setting aside \$6000 to buy flowers, each Commissioner will have \$1,000 for them to use in the community

- **Pop-ups**--ANC forwarded a resolution to planning that it is not in favor of pop-ups
 - The Department of Planning is changing the pop-up rules, but it won't stop them
 - The only way to stop it is to make Eckington a historic district
 - Question: What about developers working after hours?
 - That is illegal.
- **MidCity Small Area Plan**
 - Last Dec the city council voted in favor of the plan recommendations
 - This week the MCE implementation task force will kick off to prioritize the implementation of the plan
- **Community Enhancements**
 - Sylvia has plotted out where trees are missing or dying--or lamp posts that need to be replaced, cleaned; they will be called in
- **New resident pamphlet**--information that we can send to people who move in
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- **Block captains on every block except for maybe 3**--they will assist Sylvia on a weekly basis what needs to be done--what's good and bad--and passing out pamphlets.
 - Can we have a list of the block captains? Yes, when it's compiled
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N Cap Main Street

- Sylvia is chair of economic restructuring committee
- Sylvia will be looking for volunteers
- There are three other chairs--design, organization, and promotion committees
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- **John from Councilmember McDuffie's office** yielded his time to Sylvia, since the meeting was running long, but he passed out flyers!