



Feb 2018 ECA Meeting

February 5, 2018 | 7:00PM-8:30PM Location: The Summit at St. Martins

Attendees: ~38

- ECA officer updates
 - Katrina opens & welcomes group
 - Lana – treasury update. Started 2017 with \$3,032.25. Earned membership dues \$646.30 and donations totaling \$6,023.41 and costs of \$5,155.12 for Eckington Day. Ending balance as of February 1st. 2018: \$4,153.03.
 - Dues - \$10, or for seniors \$7.

- Committee reports
 - Reach out to committee chairs if you're interested in joining a committee.
 - Development committee: Austan (co-chair): DC released comprehensive plan amendments submitted by communities/citizens, comments period from last year has closed. DC will now decide which edits to accept and which to reject. Austan will provide updates to group. They have a website where people can see what was submitted, including what came from ECA.
 - Adam – Social committee – no updates. Hearing some ideas, working w/ outreach committee
 - Lyndsi – Outreach committee – invite you to invite your neighbors to help us make sure conversation is inclusive. Eckington Day was a great way to get out info. Looking for more ways to engage people who don't use social media.
 - Andrea – beautification & community service. In the past, have done community cleanups, clothing drive. Same thing, if you want to get involved, contact Andi. Will plan things moving forward once weather is better.
 - Lana – oral history – if anyone knows any neighbors who want to share stories about growing up in the neighborhood, we're looking for people to record.

- Elected officials
 - Councilmember McDuffie
 - June 19 – primary campaign. Councilmember McDuffie is running for re-election, asking for petition for signatures
 - Introduces Timmie (sp?), new staff member
 - Performance Oversight – mayor submits budget on March 21, once we get budget, comes as proposed budget for FY 19, jumps into performance hearings. McDuffie oversees planning & econ development, for-hire vehicles, ABBRA, small businesses – if you want to testify regarding agencies (good & bad), come down, sign up to testify. If you cannot make in person to testify, send written testimony about a specific agency. If it's one Councilmember doesn't chair, he also sits on several – transportation & environment, workforce development, others.
 - Deadline for comments for hearings – contact staff person to find out when deadline for submitting testimony or signing up is – but generally record stays open for 2 weeks after hearing.

- Lyndsi Sitcov – access to grants for small businesses that may fall outside “great streets” boundaries – we understand there are guidelines, but what can we do to open up access, since the program is meant to open up underdeveloped areas.
 - McDuffie – Great Streets was meant to focus on specifically distressed corridor, but there may be other grants you can access outside Great Streets. But when you get to interior of some residential areas, harder to make case that it should be part of Great Streets.
 - Also some companies that are just across the street of the boundaries, would like to expand boundaries.
 - Have done a lot to expand Great Streets –North Cap, RIA – have retail priority areas.
- Stirling – last year you introduced a bill for small businesses that if they had government contracts, to be paid within 15 days. Still have outstanding contract from Oct w/ DDOT. Also, what is the timeline for this bill – “prompt payment” bill?
 - CFO said it would be a bad idea to reduce payment from 30 days to 15 days (also introduced dispute resolution bill regarding contractor payment to subprimes, and bill to create centrally located website for procurement). All within the committee of the whole; would have to check w/ staff member. Chairman is looking at it, may not look the way it originally looked; but want some sort of accountability mechanism. Part of it is addressing accountability issues in chain – software update. Waiting for Chairman Mendelson to introduce 3 bills to see what they look.
 - Stirling – issue isn’t 15 or 30 days, I submit paperwork, I have no idea what the status is – no website for tracking.
- Q – Who chairs for DCRA?
 - Phil Mendelson. Also, just submitted bill to split DCRA into 2 agencies – building & construction, vs permits & licenses.
- ANC Commissioners
 - Commissioner Pinkney
 - Superliquors (owners are here) – Moving from 1633 to 1629 North Capitol St. Have signed a lease. 1633 either has been or is going to be sold. What happened late last year is that they (the building) had lots of violations; can be costly to renovate. Should have info by the next meeting. The difference in the old store and new store, is that you cannot enter from the front of the store – you would have to enter from the back (on Lincoln rd). At some point there will be a doorway on North Cap, but not right away.
 - 101 Q st – going to be razed, becoming a 5 story development w/ 30-32 unit safe-house for women and children who are/have experienced violence. Had meeting w/ Q st residents, but developers can go up 5 stories by right. Only issues – parking, and Pathways to Housing – Pathways causes problems on the block. But prior to the present building being razed, DC will find new location for Pathways to housing. Think that when new building is done, Pathways won’t be able to pay the rent. When women and children come in, they will stay between 2-3 weeks, and then will go home w/ family member, or DC Safe will find them housing.
 - 50 FL ave coming out of the ground; project should be done in 2019. Will be 182 condos, built in phases – first 100 condos; owner has sold 35 of 100, but cannot get financing for 2nd phase until he sells 80 condos.

- 8 P st has been razed – part of land where Exxon sits. At some point, this will be an entire new development – not a PUD, but 8 P st leads to land where Exxon is. Will be large project.
- DDOT has reached 2 scenarios – 1 does not include circle. Gave copy of 2 scenarios, they are scenario 6 & 3 on website. Next time they choose which to go with, they will come to ANC for a vote. One scenario includes Wendy’s, one does not.
 - How much veto power is there for voting phase?
 - Although ANC weighs in, final decision is with Council (DC City Councilmembers).
 - Comm Pinkney thinks they will go w/ the one that removes Wendy’s, or could use eminent domain, but Wendy’s can sue.
 - Katrina notes that we’ll be talking about Dave Thomas Circle opportunities for input
- If you have noticed, Washington Firehouse under new management (same owner), called Sparks at Old Engine 12, they serve American smokehouse & Caribbean cuisine.
- Parking passes – visitor parking passes are not automatically sent, you have to call DDOT and request parking pass (or go to website).
- March 1 –street cleaning begins.
- April – Comm Pinkney starts block meetings.
- Rodent abatements in April, June, Sept.
- Question: At corner of North Cap & Florida, there’s a fence now -
 - Mayor came out in 2016, had concern about people hanging out there, decided city would spend \$250k for fencing, just put it up. Need to put in trees or flowers or something. Hasn’t helped solve the situation it was supposed to solve.
- Great Street grants
 - Office of the deputy mayor – Sybungali Cook (sp?)
 - Initiative to transform 13 emerging corridors here in the district – across all 8 wards. Designed and written up by the Council; goal is to create livable, walkable, shoppable neighborhood experiences. 13 retail priority areas were distressed areas, want to use capital investments to give opportunity to small businesses to bolster corridors. Nearby: North Capital st & Rhode Island Ave.
 - Give competitive grants to small businesses for retail opportunities (not professional services like dentist, tax service).
 - Eligibility: existing or new business, must have site control for at least 2 years – have a lease with your landlord or you own the property. Must be in a corridor. Have to be in good standing – “clean hands” – can’t owe the district or fed gov any money (must pay taxes). Must be in good standing the entire period of performance, not just when you apply. Also have to have proof of property & liability insurance, business license.
 - Great Streets vs Main Streets – GS gives capital improvement dollars; Main Streets is nonprofit that supports businesses in their retail corridor. North Cap Main Street is team that is on the ground supporting businesses – Art All Night, other events, some mini-grants, technical assistance, and signage.
 - Difference between Main Streets & BIDs – Business Improvement Districts- still a nonprofit entity, but requires legislation for BIDs to form, that’s where building owners agree to pay fee.

- Awards on RIA Main Street – invested about \$2million since 2014; North Capitol, probably between 2010- now, a little under \$500k (DCity Smokehouse, Pub & People, Big Bear, catering company). Also can do catalytic investments – example, Howard Theater. Great Streets invested in Howard Theater – about \$3million for buildout and renovation, and that created momentum in Shaw.
 - Email: GreatStreets@DC.gov
 - Is it possible for businesses to get in corridor if outside of the boundaries?
 - Is possible, would have to bring to Council, will have to take a look at businesses.
 - Conversation around eligibility, other issues. Last year, moved from reimbursement model to giving \$ up front, was approved last year and now award grantees in tranches, so get advances. Now, all small businesses get \$ up front. This year, wanted to address situation of eligibility – have long laundry list of businesses that are not eligible (e.g., home offices, online only, liquor stores, nightclubs). Hosting listening tour to hear from all stakeholders.
 - Question – finances - \$2 million on RIA, wondering how much spent overall - \$33 million (roughly). Open data impact dashboard – open.dc.gov/great-streets – will have map & charts of grants.
 - Boundaries defined by streets, but doesn't say on left or right side of street.
 - Does say in legislation. But should talk w/ Sybonge to figure out.
 - RIA ones are more toward Woodridge – but boundary goes down to Studio Elan & Fish King (along Eckington). All along NE RIA.
 - Why is there less investment in North Cap, are you incentivizing people to get grants there?
 - It's a numbers game. If I get 2 applications from North Cap, maybe 50% get awarded. Fewer businesses are out there that apply. RFA is designed to support corridors that need greater activation. Designed to promote new businesses to consider those corridors. Also go door knocking.
 - In drawing boundaries, is it looking for street that is heavy on car traffic, or pedestrian and bike traffic?
 - When you think about the property that s there, is it zoned commercial or not, does it have the ability to change? At the end of the day, it's up to the council to determine whether to extend the corridor.
 - How can we capitalize on MBT that comes through, get more businesses along the trail – happening further north, not here. Is it possible to create a “Great Bike Trail” along MBT?
 - Comm Pinkney – on North Cap, NC Main Street covers both sides of the street; when I was part of the board, found that trying to bring businesses to North Cap was a real challenge, b/c last businesses that came in were Pub & People, Fire House. Rents are part of that challenge – rents are too expensive.
 - Other agencies are looking into that; Great Streets is not the silver bullet. But work w/ North Cap main street, support their goal to support & maintain businesses.
 - Is Union Market part of this? No, they don't get any Great Streets money – Eden is the developer that owns the land, is developing. Union Market cannot qualify for this money.
- SB works – Tom Litkey

- SB Works is a local non-profit that supports, protects, and promotes local character of community w/ small business area. Not as geographically bound, so can go wherever the funding levels are appropriate. SB works has 2 grant pots from Dept. of housing & community development – Small Business Improvement (for your business), and storefront improvements (for your building). Help protect building through incentive program – gov pics up 2/3 of tab. Includes architectural services, permitting, etc. Have helped write people’s grant applications – her eligibility issues become, “How can I help.” I’m a private company guy, so I don’t judge your issues – help w/ trouble-shooting. Helped Health IT 2, other stores on North Cap Street. I tend to ask permission from local main street program first.
- Questions?
 - Did you tell us earlier that SB works can help Super Liquors?
 - Yes
 - Bike Trails – not Santa Claus, but if you’re income eligible (most of Ward 5 from Census Bureau is), also have translation services.
 - If we have a project (e.g., improve storefront or beautify space), in application.
 - Can help w/ public appearances of area. Want to eradicate “blight.”
 - \$ limit – roughly \$20k.
 - What is eligibility criteria – if you are leaving in 6 months, not much point, but generally less strict than great Streets. Service companies (e.g., dentists) are eligible. Gets more into what business can afford on 1/3, and what building owner vs business owner wants.
 - Call if you have any questions.
- Dave Thomas Circle
 - Planning ideas – interim & long-term
 - Common concern for Eckington Residents – Dave Thomas Circle – accidents, traffic, etc. Want to have a bigger conversation w/ ECA and ANC Commissioners, including NoMa ANC commissioners & NoMa Bid to figure out how to move forward and get something done. Want to talk about what the situation is, and what long- and short-term solutions might be. One problem – even if there are options, no money yet – need to work w/ Council Members to get \$ on the table.
 - Austan – 2 plans under consideration. “No build” – Wendy’s stay in middle of “virtual circle,” make some minor improvements around it. Or Option 6 – get land through negotiation or eminent domain, redo how traffic goes through that area. DDOT just released study, will need to be more studies, negotiations, discussions before this moving. There’s an option to go before DDOt hearing to testify as ECA, saying we want actions, clear next steps, timeline, so community can be more engaged & better understand process to move us toward solution.
 - Short term: Will share some ideas, ask people to brainstorm more ideas for next meeting. Types of things that may fit in short-term solutions are things like, having a traffic cop at Eckington, FL, First. Limit number of entrances & exists through Wendy’s – right now, 3 entrances/exits, people go through parking lot to avoid intersection. Adding in better bike lane access from Eckington to 1st st into NoMa.
 - Long-term – if we can agree, testify on Feb 27th before oversight committee to push on need for progress.

- Budget will be most complicated – ANC Officials can help us navigate that – will take getting \$ for study, and then more \$ for next steps. Right now, no \$ in the budget to move forward. Nothing else matters if no money allocated.
- Q – Have there been other intersections that have been changed? E.g., H st & 1st st NW – that was paid for with developer money.
 - Good idea to involve NoMa BID, also put pressure on elected officials via upcoming election.
- Comm Powell – was just in traffic accident in Dave Thomas Circle on Friday. Hit on major points – no budget; much of DDOTs budget for next decade will be focused on South Capitol St Bridge, so very important to get our “wedge” in there. Not familiar w/ work on H st NE, but history of streetcar, that was community & business led effort to get funds for streetcar – was not pushed by DDOT. With this intersection, it’s such a mess, no perfect solution, everyone will have to accept compromise. Hard to get everyone mobilized unless they feel pressure from political leaders.
 - NoMa is very concerned about circle; members are large development corporations – vested interest in having this be livable area; also putting pressure on DDOT. Would be willing to help us. Internally as ECA, need to figure out our priorities so we’re speaking as one voice – what can we live with, so we can advocate for them in a constructive way.
 - Q – So is that a matter of us having an opinion on #3 vs #6?
 - That might help, but immediate help might be using election year to get commitment statements from elected officials to at least fund study. Have to have \$ in budget to do these studies. Need to start budgeting, start moving ball forward. May help to rally around 1 option down the road, but not important now – just need to commit to budgeting for the future.
 - Q – in terms of funding, community crowd funds purchase of property – don’t know how much Wendy’s is valued at
 - ~\$20 million
 - Wendy’s owner does not own plot of land – when it comes to owner of Wendy’s, owner of land would have to wait for Wendy’s lease to be up or kick Wendy’s off land, Wendy’s could sue, but that is privately owned land. Lease is about 10 years left.
 - Can create a google doc to gather ideas for Dave Thomas Circle – email Austan if interested. Gather ideas & priorities.
 - Q- Did DDOT say, these are the safety improvements, and these are the convenience improvements, or did they just lump everything together?
 - Study recommendations – said there’s little they could do in short term (in no build scenario) to improve safety other than what’s been done most recently.
 - Is DDOT saying it’s a safe intersection?
 - Not saying it’s safe, they’re saying it’s a bad intersection, have made some changes already, leading to decrease in accidents/no fatalities,
 - DDOT is open to short-term changes – better timing on lights, red light camera, etc.

- Vision 0 – safety driven plan – work closely on Vision 0, can put pressure on them b/c it's not a safe intersection. Vision 0 has \$ - may be able to get them to reallocate it b/c this is a safety issue, not just a convenience issue. Need to get them to make it a priority. They list 4 primary areas and 30ish subsections under those areas.
- Comm Pinkney – ANC chairman timed himself crossing from Eckington to train – takes 5 minutes to walk through intersection.
- NoMa bid trying to get metro exit on other side of the tracks – what is criteria for requesting new tunnel. Maybe a link with safety, convenience.
 - Comm Powell – there has been talk of doing metro stop closer to Union Market; didn't go through; some members of council were not for it. Tunnels and bridges have been talked about, DDOT doesn't appear to be heading down that road, but good thing for us to keep bring up.
- Question for Comm Pinkney – NoMa bid & DDOT held meeting last April, only presented 5 options – now there are 6. Can you send website around?
- Comment – NoMa tunnel – is in long-range plan for Metro, so is Metro project not DDOT.
- Possible testify at DDOT Agency Reserve
 - Oversight Hearing – would like ECA to testify that we would like to see DDOT process move forward – need community's approval. Would like to vote to give Austin & Katrina permission to testify.
 - Seconded
 - In favor: 22/23
 - Opposed: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - Comm Pinkney – community should look at 2 scenarios, come to conclusion as to which one we would like to see go forward, before we get into it.
 - Katrina – Focus March meeting on this issue, trying to get buy-in. Next Meeting: March 5. Encourage you to participate, think about what would be a good solution, trying to get consensus.
 - Comm Pinkney – be sure that all of community is involved
 - Yes – hoping commissioners can help spread the word.