

Eckington Civic Association

May 7, 2018

Attendees: 21

Welcome & introductions

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ECA Officers Updates- Budget, Dues, Etc.

- Lana Gowin- ECA Treasury Update, ECA Dues

Balance: \$4,352

50 members are now in the civic association

Committee Report

- None

Elected Officials

- Jonathan on behalf of Councilmember McDuffie
- Submitted for budget: Implemented \$ to improve playground in Truxton Circle; also implemented funds to help small businesses to deal with trash – trash compactors to reduce rodent access to trash. Contributed to increase funding for out-of-school time for young people – after-school and summer activities. Implemented rail and safety amendment act after 2016 railway accident; includes tax credit for children under 3.

ANC5E Updates

- Commissioner Pinckney
 - ANC receives updates on liquor license renewals and incidents at liquor stores. Super Liquors was in closed meeting on May 2nd. They were caught selling liquor or beer to a minor, never asked person's age. They were given a warning (as most stores are). On May 9, Yang's market will be part of a closed meeting. Not sure yet what it's in regard to.
 - Lincoln Market Deli – was over there today, we're going to get a new carry out (not restaurant) that will specialize in barbecue. They're working on the inside. They're going to attempt to get a liquor license (almost sure they will).
 - Church on U st NE – was sold in April; a lot in the back of the church not part of the sale. A new developer will raze the church, build 3 new buildings, each of which will have 2 units. If anyone wants to look into site in alley, you can build a single-family home on the site; right now community is using it as a parking lot.
 - 72 Florida Ave – going to be razed in June. 6 weeks after, the site work will start. They did do some of the things we requested (pushing for a smaller entrance/exit at front of building at FL ave so too many trucks won't be backed up on FL ave. They were going to do 60' wide b/c that's what DDOT said to do; now in negotiations, only going to do 24'. Will have another entrance/exit at the back. They're not going

got include a mural on the front of the building. Under the traffic plan, when it first starts up, the trucks can't all come out FL ave – you have kids coming and going across FL for school. They're going to come out North Cap to Q st to back of building, so people on Q st may not be happy.

- 50 Florida Ave is coming out of the ground. It's going to be a beautiful building, but it's going to be huge. 2/3 is up now.
- Rodent abatement went well, people look forward to them.
- Planning on starting block meetings.
- Harry Thomas has new trees, landscaping.
- Questions: Ned – with 72 Florida, pushed for ground retail or cowork space to activate space. Are they going to do that? Don't know, but don't think so.
- Is there an update on tree boxes? No – the tree boxes are part of the CBA package from 50 Florida Ave. While it's coming along nicely, we don't get to think about tree boxes until they have an occupancy permit. Will also include heritage trail – we have a special company that will do that; developer will pay them to do it.
- Tree boxes will almost all be on Q st. What is left will be split between Quincy Place & R st unit blocks.

DC Safe - Abe

- Nonprofit office space plush shelter w/ short-term housing for victims of domestic crisis. Short-term stay – about 20 days; focused on keeping a low profile. At last meeting, asked for support for zoning variance exception. One was for use of space as shelter. Second is 2 penthouse stairwells. One is facing Sirius XM parking lot, other is only be visible from 72 Florida. Asking for no setback b/c need space to have safe, secure passage to roof, safe for children, give privacy. Having 2 accesses allows for enough space for programming, as well as play space for children. Moving stairwells further in would mean losing units.
- Got feedback that they also need variances for 2 other aspects of design. Asking for support for penthouse as a whole – asking for it be permitted to have 10 foot setback – slightly less than normal setback for penthouse; aiming to maximize rooftop space, but don't want to sacrifice units for a family in need. While neither office space on bottom floors, nor residential on upper floors separately require loading dock; having them both together requires having a loading dock. Asking for that requirement be waived – units are furnished and residents are prevented from bringing more than 3 pieces of luggage. Having loading dock would mean losing parking in the back; it's important to residents nearby that we do not take away from parking. In current design, we'll be adding parking; that won't be the case if we have to put in a loading doc. We think that the loading dock is not necessary, and it would be better to give parking.
- Parapets on roof are only visible from a very few places. Also trying to prevent shadows from darkening neighborhood.
- Already voted to support use and the penthouse stairwells; now asking for support for setbacks.
- Abe reads aloud letter of support that he's asking us to vote on.
- Motion and second
 - Support: 12
 - Oppose: 0

- Abstain: 1
- Participant asks what the shelter does when people need more than 20 days of support

ANC Comm Powell

- Does not plan to oppose any requests for liquor licenses
- Welcomes the Eleanor
- 327 S st – old Nabisco factory – Stable art studio going in. Also Salt and Sundry moving in (that will be their main warehouse). Also a pickle company. And catering company. Most will be open by the end of the year.

Super Liquors – vote to support or oppose license renewal

- Comm Pinkney – Super Liquors is in the process to move next door, but still going through paperwork, space is not ready to move in. All violations at 1633 have not been corrected. Comm Pinkney went w/ DCRA 2 weeks ago to look into it.
- Community member: Super Liquors have been problematic – trash, nuisances, urination in front area to back in Lincoln Rd; back alleys are treated as a giant toilet. There's trash littered everywhere. The public drinking and open containers is nonstop every day.
- Second community member on R st – sees broken glass, public urination. Being pestered by people for change. Unaware of what business owner has done to alleviate concerns; not seeing any movement forward. I am very reluctant to support liquor license because I don't think they represent community. They are continuing with business practice with causes antisocial behavior by selling cheap booze, small sizes, lottery tax and cigarettes. It doesn't feel like a community shop; it's just being used by small group of people out there. I would not be inclined to support unless I saw radical changes. So ask business owner, what can you do to address this?
- Owner: Put lights all around, spray down, pick up trash (but wind blows and everything goes everywhere); picking up trash from everywhere including takeout, McDonalds. Nothing we can do when there's a homeless shelter there. We got a new employee who's more stern, we've barred people, we've called the police. You can tell people to stop urinating and they keep going, and it's not just people who are going to our store.
- Comm Pinkney – anyone in city is entitled to open business. A community cannot just close down a business because they're selling what some of us would not want to eat or drink. Let's keep clear what we can do with this. But I can say that Super Liquors has been trying – that's part of why they're moving, so they're not on the corner. But you also have the flea market – it's the whole block.
- Question – what are you doing to not sell liquor to intoxicated people?
- Owner: We don't sell to them. They have family. If we know they're intoxicated, we don't sell to them. We call the police, we cut them off.
- Response - you can stand there for 15 minutes and see someone who is already drunk, go in, come out with a bottle.
- Comm Pinkney – there are only 4 reasons to protest a liquor license; not sure what they are. Would suggest that if ECA could send those 4 issues what you can protest, if any of those issues. Have until May 14th if you're going to protest renewal of license.
- Com Powell: are you planning on making determination of whether you want to bring this issue before ANC later this month? (No – ANC does not have to protest). ANC is protesting

liquor license of Big Ben? (No – community is protesting it. I think Comm Thomas is going to weigh in on it)

- Reasons: Effect of establishment on real property values; on peace, order, and quiet (including litter and noise); the effect on parking and vehicular and pedestrian safety; that
- Resident: I may have done in there once or twice, as far as selling cheap liquor, they have a variety of products that they sell. Everyone doesn't have a lot of money. If you're selling single alcohol, maybe someone only wants one beer. Maybe someone only has a limited money – maybe they shouldn't drink, but that's not my issue. But as for the area being kept up, selling to intoxicated people; that's not totally your responsibility, it's partly on ours as a community. Maybe we can all the police. People at the flea market, maybe they have nothing else to do. I'm saying, selling cheap alcohol,
- Resident: We need to address it on 4 issues. Is this business having a detrimental impact on one of those four issues? I would say yes. I would be inclined to not support.
- Comm Pinkney – whatever you are going to do will have to be done before May 14th. ANC does not meet until the 15th, and ABBRA does not postpone anything. If you don't show up, that's the end of it.
- Jonathan (Councilmember McDuffie): Do understand that SOME is in that area, so what McDuffie has implemented NEAR act – it's established, funded, now hiring individuals who can engage individuals from behavioral health standpoint. Don't think the answer is to arrest individuals; want to approach from a behavioral health standpoint. NEAR act has staff of 4 right now, increasing it so we can reach the whole city, but want to focus on North Cap corridor – that whole area.
- Question: what about DOES – they could set up something.
- Resident: also, a lot of people pass out, land on street, sidewalk, tree boxes; don't know if they're passed out or dead. 98 percent of people walk around them. Someone needs to call ambulance for them. This happens weekly for the last 2 years; more in summertime.
- 1-888-7We-Help – mobile crisis #
- Motion: Motion to object to renewal of liquor license for super liquors (seconded)
- In favor: 7
- Opposed: 2
- Abstain: 5

North Capitol st - Parking requirements - Thaddeus

- PowerPoint presentation is posted on ECA website. Regarding potential removal of peak parking restrictions of 7-9:30am on 2 blocks of NE side, 3 blocks on NW side around the overpass.
- Since last meeting, Comm Holliday contacted DDOT, who will come to BCA meeting; saw signs of interest. Meeting on May 21st at Church on U st.
- Benefits of removing parking restrictions: Makes streets safer for pedestrians & vehicles; alleviates hardships for residents; prioritizes streets for curbside use over commuters, reduces parking ambiguity; opens up parking spots. Adds 14 parking spaces. Zoned for residential use, but several streets do not have RPP signage. Many blocks do not have peak parking restrictions.

- Stood out there on Wednesday 7-9:30; little traffic – 2.5 cars every minute. Flow was quite consistent. First half-hour – 79 cars went; after that 81, after that 86, 8:30-9, 80, and then 62. Very consistent until 9-9:30. 2 buses come by every 30 minutes.
- Asking for if people would be interested to support idea of removal. If we remove frontage parking restrictions, has multiple benefits (see presentation).
- Questions: Are you looking for the civic association to back the whole thing, or to sign your petition?
- Would be interested to have the civic association vote to support removal of peak parking restrictions on the 2 blocks in NE North Capitol st in overpass (T to Rhode Island Ave).
- Why are you asking ECA for support when you haven't yet gotten BCA support? B/c knew that DDOt would be coming to later meeting, and wanted to get constructive feedback from them at that meeting.
- Comm Pinkney – in talking to commissioners in Bloomingdale; they're waiting for DDOT to give feedback before voting.
- No – wanted to continue to develop case through feedback.
- Comm Powell- I would like a vote tonight or after this meeting w/ DDOT.
- Question: Is the thinking that in order to have parking spaces freed up, it would reduce burden of parking on side streets? Is that the thinking?
- That's one aspect; the other is safety aspect. When you have a 20' wide road, the theory is to open another lane that would be used by a car; that does not happen. Cars go straight down the middle at an accelerated rate b/c there's a road that's wider than normal. You have children walking up the street, and there's heightened danger – already have narrow sidewalks. Parked car offers buffer. Also alleviates parking congestion. Parking there the night before.
- Motion to support proposal to remove peak parking restrictions from NE side of North Capitol st from T st to Rhode Island Ave NE.
- In favor: 13
- Opposed: 0
- Abstain: 2
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Presentation on substance use disorder

- Travis – There are a lot of problems. Tomorrow morning I have a walk on 13th and Brentwood, where they're also having issues with their liquor store. They got together with agencies dealing with dept. of health, others, you can do the same thing. A good place to start is with prevention centers. This is a place you go and strategize when you have an issue. I left the # to the Ombudsman here. The key messages of Department of Behavioral Health – going to get into opioid epidemic.
- Dept. of behavioral health is responsible for helping people live full, healthy lives by providing the right services at the right time in the right amount.
- 1-888-7We-Help – 24 hours a day. Offer emergency services, detox, and assistant treatment. Have clinicians who will go to home, school, community locations, help children and adults in psychiatric crisis. We'll bring a team out there – a policeman is going to be there – CoI police – crisis intervention to make sure things don't get out of hand. Not trying to lock up people w/ substance abuse issues, trying to get them help.

- DC prevention centers throughout city – in 120 neighborhoods and 8 wards. We work to increase understanding of mental illness and fight the stigma. Also have myths about mental health.
- Heroin & opioid crisis; legal and illegal drugs, prescription pain killers. 91 people die each day from opioid misuse; 64k overdose deaths in 2016. Every 25 minutes a baby is born addicted to opioids. Highest rates among middle age rural whites.
- DC profile of opioid user – more than 10 years of use, 22% use more than 40 years. DC opioid deaths – chief medical examiner said, in 2014 there were 83 deaths; 2017 – 264 deaths in DC. And it's rising – 178% increase.
- 692 related deaths in the last 3 years.
- Combatting the epidemic – expanding access to narcan – if you run into someone w/ shallow breathing, call 911, then they will bring narcan with them.
- Promoting prescription drug misuse social media campaign.
- Hard reduction – you can't tell people to go cold turkey
- Educate users about narcan to reverse overdose, connect people to treatment centers
- Emphasis in wards 5, 7, 8 – many are functional users
- Target audience – African American heroin users
- Healthcare and needle exchange providers; trying not stop Hep C (worse than HIV)
- Main findings – people been using heroin for decades; scare tactics don't work
- Campaign is about saving lives; use nostalgic approach – posters from 70s
- Naloxan (Narcan) saves lives.
- New system w/ police department
- Questions?
- Can you explain the change with 911? Change is they're going to have qualified nurses that field calls; if it's non-life-threatening, they'll send cab to take you and get you help rather than tying up ambulances
- Diversion program – we're not trying to lock everyone up – trying to help them. It's 'been going on a long time, trying to educate people and putting them where they need to be, we can't lock that problem up.
- Is this for all ages, or 18 and up (the helpline) – it's for everyone. We have more children's programs than adult programs.
- Comm Powell – thanks, you guys are getting out. Coming to ANC meetings, coming here, thank you.
- Telephone: 202-671-3351; cell 202-295-7718 – Travis Dread-Hughes

The Eleanor – update about new restaurant

- Just swinging by to say hello – we're on the corner of FL & NY Ave – taking old Union Social space. Weeks away from opening – we've got a nice big patio, 2 bowling lanes, ski ball and arcade games, and maintained 20 taps that are there. Excited to have something in the building, providing lunch options for offices nearby. Have people who live in the neighborhood, have worked in the neighborhood, excited to bring great services & food. Super excited, just wanted to stop by and say hello, and wanted to answer any questions.
- Questions; What type of food – eclectic mix – upscale nachos, wings, salads for lunch, entrée section, most stuff in house. Will have vegan and vegetarian options. Lunch and dinner 7 days a week, brunch Saturdays & Sundays.

- Aim to open 1st or 2nd week of June – up to ABRA
- 10-pin bowling to ¾ scale – don't have to rent shoes or anything.
- Parking – we do, we have 120 spaces in the parking garage for retail, and we're the only retail tenant. During the day – can be hairy b/c people park and take the metro, but in evening, free parking for people who spend \$10
- Hours – in application, copied Union Social hours – it was license on file – have some restrictions from building in lease. Asking for 2-3am, but building limits to 10pm for patio. Want to see what building and neighborhood wants; don't anticipate going til 2-3am. Open 11am 7 days/week. Just recently played w/ single menu all day long, 11am-10pm, then late night menu. Happy hour 4-7 M-F; brunch sat/sun 11am-3pmish.
- 2 covered sections on patio – seats 55 along FL Ave
- Comm Powell – if there are any protests, please tell me. Not anticipating doing anything on my end – it's the same as what they had at Union Social.
- How many employees in Eckington? At least 2 (management). They can be from all points in DC; imagine that vast majority of employees will be from DC proper. When you have staff from the area, that helps everything – brings sense of ownership if staff is coming from that point of view. Will advertise for staff, want it to be neighborhood as much as possible.
- Please advertise so we know when you open.