

# LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Date:	Meeting Location:	Distribution:	Attachments:
May 27, 2008	Florida Avenue Baptist Church	Website: <a href="http://www.ledroitparkdc.org">www.ledroitparkdc.org</a> LeDroit Park Market	Attendee List

7:00 PM

1. Moment of silence.
2. Reading of April 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes by Ms. Andrea Feniak.

**Motion:**

- To approve.

**Vote:**

- Unanimous, Yes.

**Motion Passed by Unanimous Vote.**

**3. Public Safety Report**

**Report by Mr. Robert Sullivan:**

- ABRA will restore the Elks Lodge liquor license and they have agreed to work with the community
- Off-Campus Howard University Housing: The University will be providing guidelines to students regarding campus parties.
- Kelly Miller Housing Community: On May 9, 2008 MPD, FBI, Housing Authority and undercover vice performed a raid on W Street that resulted in 8 arrests of the LDP Crew.

**4. Memorial Trees / Mini-Green Grant Update**

**Report by Ms. Andrea Feniak:**

- On Monday, May 19, 2008, our new trees had been scheduled to be planted at the new LeDroit Park Iron Gate. These trees are part of the Mini-Greening Grant award that we received from Washington Parks and People and Casey Trees.
- On Sunday, May 18, 2008 a group of community members participated in a work date at the site to clean the area and amend the soil. While turning over the beds, it was discovered that they only contain 12 inches of soil on top of a solid concrete base.
- During the design phase of the LeDroit Park Reconstruction Project, the community was lead to believe that the beds would be sufficient to support large street trees.
- With the support of Councilman Graham's Office and the DC Arborist, DDOT has committed to removing the concrete as originally promised. A timeline for the work is not available.
- Unfortunately, because it is so late in the season, the landscape will not be installed until Fall 2008.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

**Report by Ms. Donna Morris:**

- The Civic Association has \$2,531.41 in its account. \$680 of that is additional funds from the crime camera fundraising. An additional check for \$450.00 from Washington Parks and People for the Mini-Greening Grant was received today.
- Last year their were 17 members of the Civic Association. This year there are 70 members!!
- Membership renewal time is in May of each year and is \$15 per household. Payment can be made at a meeting or can be dropped off at 331 U Street NW. All members will receive membership cards for the year.

**6. ANC Report:**

**Report by Commissioner Myla Moss:**

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- The ANC meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the DC Housing Finance Building located at the corners of 9<sup>th</sup> & U Streets NW.
- There was recent stabbing on 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW and it has been determined by MPD that the stabbing is not related to any of the establishments on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- There will be festivities on 9<sup>th</sup> Street between T & U Streets NW as part of the Ethiopian Soccer Tournament at JFK Stadium from June 29 to July 6, 2008. It is estimated that 10,000 to 15,000 people will gather on 9<sup>th</sup> Street during the events. Security will be discussed at the ANC meeting.
- In June, WMATA anticipates that it will make final plans for the development of the parcel at 9<sup>th</sup> & U Streets where the Flea Market is currently located. Three entities are hoping to be awarded the parcel for development.

## 7. Nuisance Property Update

### Report by Mr. Robert Sullivan:

- An update on the status of some of the properties is as follows:
  - 1903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW – In foreclosure
  - 511 U Street NW – A revised permit application is being processed by HRB.
- DCRA maintains an active list. Any updates to the LeDroit Park Nuisance Property List can be forwarded to Robert Sullivan at [rbsll@yahoo.com](mailto:rbsll@yahoo.com).

## 8. LeDroit Park Civic Association Elections

### Presentation by Mr. Richard Myers:

- All dues paying members current to April 2008 are eligible to vote.
- Previously nominated candidates are as follows:
  - President:
    - Ms. Maude Hills
    - Mr. Jeff Herron
  - Vice President:
    - No Nominations
  - Secretary
    - Ms. Andrea Feniak
  - Treasurer:
    - Ms. Donna Morris
- Ms. Maude Hills indicated that she has decided to withdraw her nomination for President.
- New nominations were taken from the floor.
  - Vice President:
    - Ms. Maude Hills
    - Ms. Marilyn Jenkins
    - Both nominations were seconded by members of the Association.
- Voting was by secret ballot for VP and there was a proclamation for the unopposed seats.
- Mr. Myers announced the election results. The Executive Board for the 2008 – 2009 term of the LeDroit Park Civic Association is as follows:
  - President:
    - Mr. Jeff Herron
  - Vice President:
    - Ms. Marilyn Jenkins
  - Secretary
    - Ms. Andrea Feniak
  - Treasurer:
    - Ms. Donna Morris

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## 9. Humanities Council

### Presentation by Ms. Connie Razza-Thomas:

- Ms. Razza-Thomas is made a presentation proposing that the Civic Association donate \$200.00 towards the funding for a positive arts / poetry program for youth in LeDroit Park and the Kelly Miller community. The workshops will be conducted by Quadrangle Productions and will cover a wide range of genres from Shakespeare to Hip-hop. The lyrics are family oriented with a positive message. The final product will result in a PSA (Public Service Announcement).

### Community Questions / Comments:

- Comment by ANC Commissioner Margot Hoerrner: She commends Ms. Razza-Thomas for proposing such a positive program for the youth in our community and offered her support of the program.
- Question: How are students selected?
  - Response by Ms. Razza-Thomas: The first 14 students to apply will be selected.
- Question: What is the age range?
  - Response by Ms. Razza-Thomas: Middle and High School students.
- Comment by ANC Commissioner Myla Moss: She indicated that the ANC is in support of the program. It is an excellent way to engage youth and the ANC has committed \$2,000.00 towards the program.

### Motion:

- To donate \$200.00 in support of the DC Humanities Poetry Program for LeDroit Park Youth.

### Vote:

- Unanimous, Yes.

### Motion Passed by Unanimous Vote.

## 10. Gage-Eckington School Closure:

### Presentation by Ms. Dana Bryson:

- Special Guests: Councilman Jim Graham, Harriet Tregoning, DC Director of Planning, ANC Commissioners Myla Moss, Margot Hoerrner and John Salatti.
- The Mayor was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.
- The Ad-hoc committee has met every week since it was formed. Thanks go out to all.
- A brief historical overview was provided by Ms. Bryson.
  - December 2007: DC announced that 23 schools would be closing.
  - January 2008: The Civic Association formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to address the future of the Gage-Eckington Elementary School.
  - February 2008: "Visions" for the site were presented to Mayor Fenty and Councilman Graham.
  - The committee stated that the community did not want the school to go "dark" and wanted a plan in place by May 15, 2008. As of today we are close to having a plan.
- The Mayor committed his support if the community could propose a plan.
- The Ad-hoc Committee meets weekly – All are invited.
- Various uses have included environmental and sustainable uses.
  - Charter Schools or School function.
  - Community Gardens
- The Ad-Hoc Committee is in favor of an exterior solution that is a Public / Private agreement. Types of uses include the following:
  - Exterior Uses:
    - Community Garden – 7<sup>th</sup> Street Garden
    - Casey Trees – possible "Urban Orchard"
    - The mural is in the final approval stages of moving forward

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- Washington Parks and People (WPP) has offered pro-bono services to assist the community with the design for the exterior site.
- Interior Uses:
  - The building will be preserved for government or school use – the committee would like to “keep it for kids”.
  - KIP Charter School is interested in the site (early child to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade).
  - City Year is interested in using a portion for their offices. City year is a DC “Ameri-corp” non-profit organization for 18 to 24 year olds. Volunteers spend a year working with DC Communities on projects such as HIV Prevention, Literacy, Mentoring, etc

## **Presentation by Ian Tindel, WPP Landscape Architect and Myla Moss, ANC Commissioner:**

- They presented a concept plan for the green space that will be a mutual benefit for the community. WPP is focused on revitalizing spaces in the city.
- For the Gage site, the committee is looking at ways to link the extended LeDroit Park community by proposing to demolish the existing retaining walls and fence at the perimeter and adding trees, shrubs, spaces for green job development and rain gardens.
- The existing playground on the east side of the building will remain a secure area for the school to use.
- Question: If the site becomes a charter school, has the committee considered where parking will be located?
  - Response: It will remain in its current location in the alley behind Elm Street.
- Comment: It would be nice for families to be able to use the playground after hours.
- Comment: A resident of Elm Street indicate that the current parking is located behind her home and this new proposal would place parking against her fence. She reminded everyone that the alley needs to remain clear for residents and can not become a parking lot.
  - Response: The amount of parking needed will vary depending on the use of the building.

## **Presentation by ANC Commissioner John Salatti:**

- The concept plan was developed based on the results of the survey that was distributed to homes in LeDroit Park and Bloomingdale as well as online and door-to-door. A copy of the results were distributed to all attendees at this meeting.

## **Presentation by Councilman Jim Graham:**

- Of the 23 schools closing in the city, LeDroit Park is ahead of other DC neighborhood groups and he mentioned that the city has “shelved” several uses for the building and site based on feedback from our community. He congratulated LeDroit Park on its activism.

## **Presentation by Harriet Tregoning:**

- She congratulated the community for its preparation, organization and thoughtful comments on the future of the Gage School building.
- The city is now prepared to present two “real choices”. The principles of the Mayor’s process for school reuse is a transparent one. The city is hopeful that neighborhood populations will change and schools can be used again. The land will not be sold. Reuses considered include those that serve the community and are self-sustaining financially.
- There are two options for the Gage-Eckington School Building:

### **Option 1: DC Agency Office**

- The Department of the Environment (DOE) with 250 to 350 employees would occupy the building.
- To reduce parking impacts in LeDroit Park, employees will take advantage of the Howard University Shuttles and mass transit (Metro). Additionally, staff will utilize a Zip Car fleet in lieu of a City Fleet.
- This building can become a “demonstration” facility.

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- This would be a permanent option for the building.

## **Option 2: Community based services**

- The existing building has 85,000 Sq. Ft to fill. Some options for multiple tenants are as follows:

Ward One Senior Wellness Center	10,000 Sq. Ft.
DC Department of Aging (21 person Staff)	18,000 Sq. Ft.
Pre-K Program	5,000 Sq. Ft.
City Year	10,000 Sq. Ft.
Hillcrest family Health Center	7,000 Sq. Ft.
Subtotal:	50,000 Sq. Ft.
- All of these uses are not permanent – no one has been promised anything.

## **Community Questions / Comments:**

- Question: Who will renovate the building?
  - Response by Ms. Harriet Tregoning: The Department of the Environment will have an open space plan. For other uses, a full reuse study is needed.
- Question: What happened to the plan to have a Charter School move-in?
  - Response by Councilman Graham: He indicated that he is opposed to a Charter School replacing a closed public school.
- Question by Commissioner Margot Hoerrner: Why are there no other options available for the surplus of 35,000 Sq. Ft?
  - Response by Ms. Harriet Tregoning: Plans may not be able to be implemented until a final use for the building is determined. DOE can be in the building by the end of the year.
- Comment: A resident expressed concern for increased bus traffic and stated that locating a large Government Agency in a residential neighborhood is not appropriate.
- Comment: A resident commented that it is demoralizing that the community went through a lengthy process of gathering survey information and the government has discarded the community's ideas for the building by suggesting that a government agency move in.
  - Response by Councilman Graham: DOE is really not on the table. Using the building for community based uses is the best option. He indicated that no deals have been made.
- Question: What will the cost be per square foot for the renovation?
  - Response by Ms. Harriet Tregoning: That depends on the condition of the building and the type of use. An RFP for a master lease will be issued. The land is free.
- Comment: A resident suggested that DOE come to the community to make a presentation about their proposal for the building.

## **Next Steps:**

- The Ad-Hoc Committee working group will gather specifics on how to move forward. A timeline will be established and an analysis of the compatibility of the proposed options with the community. The next Ad-Hoc meeting is on Wednesday 6/4/08 at 7:00 PM.

**Closing remarks by Ms. Dana Bryson:** The school closes in two weeks and there is no plan in place. The entire community is invited to join the Ad-Hoc Committee to talk to DOE and the City to get a plan implemented this summer. The community needs to remember that if we reject all offers, then we may end up with nothing.

## **11. Citizen Milestones**

### **Report by Ms. Andrea Feniak:**

- No Milestones this month.
- The community is invited to make their announcements during this time or to submit information prior to the next meeting to Andrea Feniak at 1903 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW; Ph: 986.7680; Email: [Feniak-Buchanan@att.net](mailto:Feniak-Buchanan@att.net)

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**12. Announcements:**

- No Announcements this month.

**13. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 24, 2008**

- Volunteers are needed for distributing flyers around the neighborhood in advance of meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM.

This memorandum represents our understanding of the events which transpired and the actions which were taken. If they do not conform to a recipient's understanding, prompt written notice must be communicated to the writer. If no corrections or objections are made, this memorandum will be relied upon as a factual interpretation of this meeting.

Submitted by,

**LeDroit Park Civic Association**  
Andrea Feniak, Secretary