

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Date:

June 23, 2009

Meeting Location:

Florida Avenue Baptist Church

Distribution:

Website: www.ledroitparkdc.org

7:10 PM

1. Reading of May 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes by Ms. Kathy Haines.

Motion:

- To approve.

Vote:

- Unanimous, Yes.

Motion Passed by Unanimous Vote.

2. **Public Safety:**

Report by Ms. Kathy Haines:

- Provided an overview of the ongoing pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of 6th St. and Florida Ave., NW.

3. **Anna J. Cooper Circle Park:**

Report by Ms. Cleo Belmar, LeDroit Park Resident and Park Caretaker:

- Ms. Belmar prepared a written statement to the civic association to request approximately \$1,650 for plants and materials to maintain the park in 2009-10. She also respectfully requests reimbursement for the plants planted in the circle two weeks ago.
- Volunteers are needed to maintain the Anna J. Cooper Circle Park (watering, weeding, trash removal, etc.). Only 2-3 individuals currently care for the park. We may be able to borrow weekend volunteers from the Common Good City Farm site.
- Proposed the need for a plaque/sign to identify the name of the park and to describe the significance of Ms. Cooper's life and contributions. A bronze plaque was suggested. Another suggestion was to follow the National Park Service standard sign design (as in Logan Circle).
- Joel requested a \$35 reimbursement for the stain used to treat the park benches.

4. **Updates regarding the renovations at Kelly Miller:**

Report by Mr. Nathan Bovelle, Regional Administrator for DCHA:

- General renovations are underway for all 40 townhouses (5 rows of 8 townhouses each), an 8 million dollar project under the stimulus package.
- Renovations will include gutting the houses, replacing roofs and windows, removing fencing, installing new drywall, updated plumbing and electric infrastructure (including individual electrical units-unusual for public housing), more landscaping, addition of air conditioning.
- The first two rows of townhouses have already been vacated and construction will begin soon; the goal for completion is March 2010.
- Yvette Lee is the property manager at Kelly Miller and has been with the Department of Housing for several years; can be contacted at 202-673-7492.
- The goal is to keep these houses as public housing by having a mix of low-income residents and working families.
- The old lease was only 4 pages and contained many loopholes that allowed unfit tenants to remain. The new property lease was expanded to 18 pages and contains provisions to remove persons that commit certain crimes on the first offense, but also entitles them to due process to contest the offense.
- The senior building has already been renovated (efficient stoves, fridges, HVAC overhaul, low-flow water fixtures).
- A suggestion came from the floor to include LeDroit Park on a cultural tourism tour. Mr. Bovelle will explore this idea.

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- Concern was raised about speeding cars in the alley at 3rd and W, but the city will not provide speed bumps in an alley.
- Contact information: nbovelle@dchousing.org office 202-727-2531

5. **Gage Eckington Park- Project Status**

Report by Ms. Jackie Glover:

- Hazardous material removal is 60% complete and should finish in the next two weeks. Signage is present on the site to inform the public.
- The Request for Proposals for demolition contractors is out and the selection should be completed by mid-July to allow for a demolition start date of August 1st. Demolition will last for 10-12 weeks. Construction of the park is sighted for October 2009 and the park is scheduled to open in June 2010.
- The deputy mayor will provide a sign in July/August to introduce the park site to the community.
- All vehicles are housed on site; no equipment is in the street thus no parking is blocked.
- The current fenced area may expand when demolition begins.
- The site is considered secure, but there is some concern about individuals squeezing through the fence near the mural and rubbing against the paint. Jackie will investigate.
- Residents expressed concern about the need for better signs to inform seniors of how they can most easily circumvent the site.
- Lee & Papa Associates has been selected as the architectural firm to proceed with the park construction.
- Residents requested a letter from the mayor to certify that the money for the park is committed in writing.

6. **Announcements:**

- The next Public Safety Walk will take place on Tuesday, July 14, 2009. All are welcome to attend.
- The Common Good City Farm is in full swing at the old Gage-Eckington School site. All are welcome to volunteer. The farm is open T, W, R from 4-7pm and Sat 10am-1pm. The "Green Tomorrows" program allows persons within a certain income level to work 2 hours a week in exchange for a bag of produce from the farm. Applications for this program are available and can be returned to Dana at 239 Elm St. (the house with the mural).
- The LeDroit Park announcements phone line is still active, please call 202-742-2800 for updates on upcoming meetings.

7. **The next general membership meeting is Tuesday, September 22, 2009.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 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,

Kathy Haines, Secretary
LeDroit Park Civic Association