

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Minutes for the Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2011

at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, 623 Florida Avenue NW

Call to order at 7:07 pm

1. **Moment of silence.**
2. **Reading and approval of the previous meeting's minutes.** Mrs. Maybelle Bennett moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Public safety presentation by Officer Wilson, MPD, and Ms. Jana Baldwin, Public Safety Committee.**
 - a. Officer Higgins will be out for a few weeks due to a wrist injury.
 - b. Two women accused of an armed robbery on the 400 block of Elm Street were arrested an hour later at the 7-Eleven on U Street.
 - c. Lt. Jova has assigned two officers to a robbery unit and they were the officers who arrested the accused.
 - d. Ms. Donna Morris reminded residents that the suspect descriptions were critical in the arrests.
 - e. Officer Wilson reminded everyone to call 911, even for the smallest suspicion. He also reminded residents to pay attention when walking through the neighborhood.
 - f. A resident asked if she should call the police for people sleeping in a vacant building.
4. **Communications update by Maria Fyodorova, Vice President.**
 - a. Ms. Fyodorova noted that the the association had tweeted 36% more over the past few months.
 - b. Ms. Fyodorova explained the notion of block captains and their responsibilities.
 - c. Ms. Fyodorova advised residents interested in becoming block captains to contact her or Ms. Jana Baldwin.
5. **Prof. Hill noted that many streets are not being swept as well as they were before. Also, trash collection was not as reliable as it was before.**
6. **Transportation, history and redistricting presentation by Mr. Eric Fidler, Secretary**
 - a. Mr. Fidler explained the Enhanced Residential Parking Permit program proposed for ANC1B. The proposed system would reserve one side of the street exclusively for residents during the hours of RPP while permitting both residents and visitors to park on the other side; visitors would have to leave after two hours, as is the case now. Each home would also receive a visitor's pass to give to guests visiting during the day.
 - b. Mr. Fidler announced the dates of his upcoming historic walking tour of LeDroit Park.
 - c. Mr. Fidler updated the members on the status of the proposed ANC redistricting and noted that the most recent recommendation would change neither LeDroit Park's ANC lines nor its membership in ANC 1B.
7. **Treasurer's report by Ms. Donna Morris, Treasurer**
 - a. Ms. Morris reported that the association had \$3867.39 in the bank as of the August 22 statement.
 - b. Ms. Morris reiterated the membership dues.
8. **Park update by Mr. Marc Morgan, President.**
 - a. Mr. Morgan announced the presence of a corps of park clean-up volunteers who clean the park each Monday at 7pm.
 - b. Mr. Morgan sought a power washer to clean the playground equipment.
 - c. Mr. Morgan announced that an adopt-a-park application had been submitted.
 - d. Ms. Jana Baldwin stated that she saw people fixing the plumbing.
 - e. Mr. Morgan noted that the naming bill passed the DC Council.
 - f. Mr. Morgan said that MPD routinely patrols the park on weekday nights, but not as consistently on weekends, but that the Guardian Angels also patrolled.

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9. Rat Abatement presentation by Mr. Gabriel Curtis, DC Dept. of Health

- a. Mr. Curtis noted that the dry summer increased rat reproduction.
- b. Mr. Curtis said that during its 28-day gestation period, a mother rat can produce 6-10 rats.
- c. Mr. Curtis warned that rats feed on dog feces.
- d. Mr. Curtis suggested aiding elderly neighbors who may not be able to address the rat problems in their own yards.
- e. Mr. Curtis said that vegetable gardens and fruit trees attracted rats depending on the food, adding that rats do not eat beats, peaches, or broccoli.
- f. Mr. Curtis advised residents to harvest ripe food as soon as they can, to repair holes in trashcans, and to clip tall grass.
- g. Mr. Curtis noted that construction that disturbs soil should never begin without rat abatement and that construction materials must always be placed in a dumpster. Violations should be reported to 311.
- h. Mr. Curtis said that leaving trash for collection outside of a proper trashcan is illegal and subjects the owner to a \$75 fine.
- i. Mr. Curtis distributed a petition for a neighborhood-wide rate abatement program.

10. Presentation on the proposed Howard University Campus Plan by Mrs. Maybelle Bennett.

- a. Mrs. Bennett recited the campus plan features and residents' responses, including
 - i. the desire for a construction management plan,
 - ii. the unwillingness to let Slowe and Carver Halls become vacant, and
 - iii. the creation of a positive introduction to the neighborhood to new students.
- b. Mrs. Bennett stated that the university preferred the east-west connection across W Street, not Bryant Street.
- c. Mrs. Bennett announced the date of the Zoning Commission's hearing on the campus plan: December 5th and 8th.
- d. Prof. Hill noted that the Zoning Commission had sent a letter to residents and that it incorrectly included lots that Howard University does not own. Prof. Hill also noted that the same confusion arose before for the previous campus plan.
- e. Ms. Jana Baldwin moved to support the Howard University Campus Plan. The motion was properly seconded and, after some discussion, passed 11-2.
- f. Mr. Eric Fidler moved to amend the association's support to prohibit the vacancy of Slowe or Carver Halls for more than one year. Mrs. Connie Thomas-Razza seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 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 understand, 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 on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, by Mr. Eric Fidler, the secretary of the LeDroit Park Civic Association.