**September 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**House and Garden Tour** – first one that LeDroit Park is trying, scheduled for October 28 from 1-5 pm. 8 homes/gardens on the tour. Working with a number of groups that have been supportive. Asking today for participation – buy a ticket – and also looking for volunteers on the day of (house monitor, serve as a person moving people in/out of the house). Discount available for civic association members. Go to ledroitparkhousetour.org. Flyers will be going up over the next couple of days.

**Howard University Homecoming** – Saturday Oct. 27, start time 10 am. Homecoming week kicks off with community service work, including some landscaping projects in LeDroit Park. Events throughout the week. Friday, Oct. 26 is YardFest on the main part of campus; a number of artists are performing, and it is family friendly. Saturday is the football game and then the YardFest turns into a more traditional event with the Jumbatron showing the game. Parade is that day as well, following same route as last year. Parade takes about 1.5 hours total.

**LeDroit Park Community Garden Proposal** **for a Public Herb Garden** – community garden located in the Park at LeDroit. Chris Wagner is now president of the community garden. Currently 57 raised beds in the garden, with public fruit trees on the side. Garden has a small board of six people. Proposal is to add a public herb garden in corner area where there used to be a compost system that was removed last year. Idea was to provide more public garden space to the community and to commemorate Tricia McCauley, who was murdered last year. She was active in the community and started the herbalist program at the Common Good City Farm, and idea is to have her legacy live on. Garden would include a sign listing the herbs and all of their medicinal uses; sign would be on the chain link fence. Would be surrounded by stone wall that would be at a height natural for sitting, to create a natural gathering space. Architect firm (GreenRoom DC) has agreed to build this at cost. Plan to fundraise through crowdfunding. Hoping to launch campaign last quarter of 2018 and construct it in the off-season, with dedication of the garden at the kick-off in the spring. Next big meeting is to talk to DPR about the plan and have to go through the process with them. ***OUTCOME: Civic Association voted to provide a letter of support for the proposal.***

**Candidate Presentation – Jamie Sycamore –** running for Ward 1 council seat as an independent. LeDroit Park is one of his favorite neighborhoods in DC. Progressive independent candidate. One of biggest issues to him is constituent services and responsiveness – go back to old school constituent services, asking how he can help you today. Next, wants to work on affordable housing and sustainable development. Wants to make sure we are rightsizing for our communities. Wants to make sure providing affordable units for families to stay in Ward 1. Number three is transportation – push to do more with bus lights, which allows the bus to cut in front of the queue of traffic. And four, address homelessness, which means developing trust with homeless community, build personal relationships. Is an interpreter and disabilities advocate.

Questions:

1. What was position on initiative 77? Father was a chef, grandparents restaurant owners, and he worked in restaurants. He did initially vote NO on 77. In general, does not agree with ruling by referendum, if we want to honor the rule of the people, sometimes not being thought through the whole way. What he wants to do is bring both parties together, since neither side feels like it is being listened to right now. Wants to make sure we end up with legislation that impacts the most people positively.
2. What would plan be for bike safety? He is a biker, almost weekly gets hit. Best example he can think of is 15th street, protected bike lanes – a lot of it will have to do with outreach. Need to both respect existing parking and respect bike lanes.
3. Talk about your decision to run in general. Faced a lot of barriers going to the council as a disability advocate/sign language interpreter. Noticed that DC government kept working in silos. Met with cold shoulder by current councilwoman. Election of Donald Trump happened. Started out in the Democratic primary and decided to re-enter race given outcome of the primary.
4. Any debates? No, did have a Q&A session at Kalorama Civic Association. Green building discussion coming up Oct. 23 at Dunbar High School, 7-9.
5. Should following federal regulations for building standards be enough, or should DC have higher standards? In a lot of historic districts, want to make sure people can really age in place by getting waivers for reasonable accommodation work to be done.

**ANC Commissioner Anita Norman**

How to contact 311 – text DC311 (32311); can download app onto smart phone; can do 311 online portal at dc.gov; can do twitter at 311dcgov. Office of Unified Communication handles 311 calls and 911 calls, so can always call them to report something. Telling us this because she needs a service request number to follow up on an issue. First question if you contact her is going to be whether you’ve contacted 311. If she reaches out to MPD about a problem, they are going to look for 311 calls reporting such a problem. If you see something going on in the community, report it. Examples: trash not picked up, potholes, lights out.

There have been a number of incidents going on in an alley in the neighborhood – if you do not have a security camera, please contact the city about the rebate program. $500 maximum rebate for residents. Having video footage is another way we can push the city to do something. Even if you think someone else has reported something, still report it.

Would like civic association to reinstitute the public safety committee if we can find volunteers.

1B01 includes LeDroit Park and Shaw. &pizza wants to open a bar/have a DJ/operate full hours underneath the 7th Street Flats – will impact other businesses in the area, and businesses in the neighborhood will want the same types of things, so important to weigh in. At 8th and Florida, a Korean restaurant wants to open with full hours and a summer garden. Place where Town used to be is being redeveloped into a 132-unit building, with 10 affordable units.

HPRB – placards will be posted if someone wants to do something in the neighborhood. If community doesn’t speak up, HPRB will let them do it. Need to hear objections before the deadline.

Traffic – DDOT repainted some of the intersections, put up a pylon at 4th and Oakdale, put in new pedestrian crossing signs.

Anita is running again for ANC Commissioner, and is running unopposed.

**Community Updates/Announcements**:

Nadeau constituent services rep (Amanda Bonam). Constituent services walk in the neighborhood on Oct. 1 (5:30).

Friends of the Park – back to school event is officially cancelled, so now looking toward doing Fall-o-ween event in October. Stay tuned.

LPCA Membership – in the process of digitizing everything to find better ways of contacting everyone.

~$8000 in the account right now, but a lot of that is coming from sponsorship for the house tour so is already obligated.