**Tuesday, October 23, 2018 LDPCA Meeting Minutes**

**-Safety report and update**

**-LeDroit Park House and Garden Tour**

-October 28, 2018

-Tickets at ledroitparkhousetour.org

-**Dionne Reeder: candidate for at-large position on D.C. Council**

-Spent most of career working in public service, including for Mayor Williams as CFO and neighborhood services coordinator for Ward 8.

-Most recently, helped broker deal to bring Busboys and Poets to Anacostia, and has opened her own restaurant to address the food desert in Ward 8.

-Philosophy is that a public servant’s role is to understand how policy changes impact the community, and looking at root causes of problems and understanding how policy may be able to address those causes.

-4 things she believes are critically important as you consider who to vote for:

-Responsibility to do a better job providing quality of life and care to senior members of our communities

-College doesn’t work for everyone – need to create opportunities to infiltrate high school system with not just industrial but also IT trades

-Affordable housing

-Small business owners – opening up a restaurant has been a very challenging thing; have to create opportunities for people to become entrepreneurs and business owners. Small business community is 4th larger employer of DC residents

-Q and As:

-Government-owned United Medical Center in Ward 8 – issue of whether current leadership’s contract should have been renewed. Ms. Reeder did not believe it should have been renewed given failure to provide services to the community, including shutting down OB/GYN ward. Sees how many families are disconnected from health services.

-Potential repeal of Initiative 77 – before taking a stance on 77, she met with the workers in her government and asked what their views were, and they were strongly against it. Never thought that it should have been on the primary ballot; should have been on the general ballot, particularly as an independent candidate. Think the education on the front end was disingenuous and miseducated. Quite frankly, this is a difficult issue, and never want to override the will of the people, but think initiative was in pursuit of a national rather than a local agenda.

-Who do you look up and admire as a politician or leader? Many of us in the city saw the good work of Marion Barry before he had personal troubles. Really admire what Anthony Williams was able to do and watch him transition this city, which a lot of people didn’t like. Respect and admire most of our elected officials after her experience this last year as a candidate. Even though she and Mayor Bowser may not agree on everything, do admire that she’s trying to move the city forward and bring people together. Should also recognize the work that Eleanor Norton Holmes has done to move us forward as a city.

-Came here 15 years ago and when got here thought Metro was the coolest thing, but has gotten to point now, almost impossible to use? Part of issue is how we have to split the cost with MD and VA. Don’t know a quick answer to give, but that’s problem number one. Also, it is antiquated – need to build in a budget that constantly doing repairs and need to plan to repair on an ongoing basis.

-**McMillian Update from McMillan Advisory Group** (non-profit, not to be confused with separate advocacy group Friends of McMillan)

-MAG meetings currently happening every other month

-Elections for MAG leadership are coming up

-MAG and Friends have appealed city positions on zoning/historic

-City is going to own the park and the above ground structures no matter what; a community center is planned for the southernmost third of the property. DC budget appears to have taken money budgeted for the development piece of plan and gave it to St. Elizabeth. MAG has submitted a FOIA exploring what happened.

-MAG meetings are open to everyone.

-**Community Updates**

-Falloween event on Saturday at the park – also looking for volunteers

-Tom Fazzoni from Councilwoman Nadeau’s office present, flagged upcoming Brianne on your Block event at Colony Club on Thursday (10/25) morning

-**Civic Association Updates**

-Pay membership dues!