LeDroit Park Community Association Meeting Minutes

11/27/18

* **Fourth Street and Oakdale Development, Amy Phillips**
  + Site is 2021 4th Street, currently vacant.
  + Plan is for retail on the ground floor and two units, 1000 square feet per unit.
  + The historic projection on top of one side will remain, the other side with the one story portion would be raised to a second story and rebuilt. A roof deck will be added.
  + The bottom floor will be extended out 3 feet, with windows that open to the street. Retail potentially will be a coffee house.
  + Looking for a variance with zoning to include:
    - first floor commercial use,
    - change building footprint to extend the front, and
    - extend lot occupancy related to decks.
  + Application will be submitted next month, hope to finish construction in two years.
* **Introduction of Ethan Wapole, new LPCA Safety Chair**
  + Contact Ethan W. with any safety concerns.
* **LPCA Holiday Party @ the Royal, Sunday, December 16, 3 to 6 p.m.**
  + Come enjoy appetizers and your neighbors!
* **House Tour Update**
  + Success! Hoping to have the tour as a biannual event, in years opposite Bloomingdale’s house tour.
  + Next tour 2020 – start thinking about your house!
* **513 Florida Ave. NW Development, Scott Steri, architect, Minh Trinh, owner**
  + Add residential units to create three condos.
  + Addition to the back of the property, extending into the alley, and an addition to the roof.
  + Front of the property will stay the same, the addition will not be visible from the street.
  + Property previously renovated in 2008.
  + Owner will continue to reside in property.
  + Have tried to contact neighbors without success.
  + Anita Norman, ANC representative, asked about the plan for drainage and public trash. Responded that they do not have answers yet.
  + Asked for LPCA objections to the project – none raised.
* **Discussion on Shaw Middle School**
  + **Alex Padro ANC 6E and Becky Rainer**
    - Currently local students go to Cardozo, which functions as a high school and middle school. This is an issue because Cardozo is far for local students and younger children mix with the high school population.
    - Object to the Mayor’s plan of constructing Banneker High School on the site of the closed Shaw Junior High School at 925 Rhode Island Ave.
    - Instead, Banneker High School should be renovated and extended where it is today.
    - Shaw Junior High School should remain a middle school and be renovated.
    - The Mayor failed to engage with the community.
    - The money allocated currently to move Banneker would cover both a renovation of Banneker where it is and the renovation of the Shaw property as middle school.
    - Requesting that the LPCA (1) join with other ANCs and Civic Associations to retain Shaw Junior High School for a new middle school and support renovation of Banneker in its current location, (2) request that a letter be sent to the Committee on Education in support of the “Save Shaw Middle School”, and (3) sign the “Save Shaw Middle School” petition.
  + **Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor of Education**
    - The Mayor has decided on a new building for Banneker High School, which is a feeder school for the community, majority minority and female population from Wards 6 and 7, with 800 students.
    - Will continue to seek engagement on if a middle school is necessary. Will need to see if there is a population that supports the expense of an additional middle school and if so, where should the school be and how to fund it.
  + **Open Discussion**
    - Q: What are the variables deciding if there is going to be a middle school?
      * A: Looking at population and where do families want to send students to school. Many do not want to send children to Cardozo, so would look at what school would parents would send their students to. Want to discuss the matter further.
    - Q: Are you looking at the out of bounds population when determining a potential middle school?
      * A: Yes.
    - Q: Is it set in stone that Banneker is moving to the Shaw site?
      * A: Yes.
    - Q: Does the Deputy Mayor of Education dispute that there was no community outreach and the facts outlined by the Save Shaw Middle School?
      * A: does not dispute the history of the middle school, understands there was a discussion process with the Banneker community, but the plan was not discussed with Shaw.
    - Q: What is the plan for projecting needs of a middle school?
      * A: It’s a question about how many students are in the neighborhood and need a school, would need to discuss further.
    - Q: Has there been engagement with Howard about the move?
      * A: Yes
    - Q: Is there any consideration of both a high school and middle school at the Shaw site?
      * A: This seems unlikely given the recreation space already in use with the dog and skate park, but open for discussion.
      * Mr. Padro: The Mayor’s current plan for the Shaw site involves a large open air parking lot.
    - Q: Is there anything the community can do since the Mayor has already made the decision?
      * A: The budget still needs to be approved.
    - Comments:
      * What about Banneker’s location near Howard – Banneker is a magnet school so could be anywhere, community need a feeder middle school near elementary schools such as Cleveland and Garrison.
      * Why can’t the discussion about moving Banneker have happened at the same time as the middle school discussion.
      * No path forward for elementary school students, also a population that needs attention.
      * Mayor is in a second term and is not considering voters.
* **Motions**:
  + Motion on the floor to sign the “Save Shaw Middle School” petition
    - Seconded.
    - Motion passes.
  + Motion to send a letter to the DC Counsel that the LPCA heard discussion about the middle school and agreed to sign the “Save Shaw Middle School” petition.
    - Seconded.
    - Motion passes.
  + Motion to send a letter to the DC Counsel on Education stating that the LPCA head discussion about the middle school and agreed to sign the “Save Shaw Middle School” petition.
    - Seconded.
    - Motion passes.
* **Community Announcements**
  + Reuven is the Mayor’s new Ward 1 representative
  + Chris Wagner, Friends of LeDroit Park – thanked community for support on herb garden, come to the clean up LeDroit Park event on December 10!
  + Anita Norman, ANC1B – avoid theft, have your packages delivered when you are home, to your work, or to LeDroit Market for $1. Avoid leaving exposed items in cars.

This memorandum represents our understanding of the events that transpired and the actions that 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 on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 by Sarah A. Bishop.