

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

July 28th, 2020

*Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom.

Board Present:

President - Francesca Blanco

1st Vice President - Sarah Bishop

2nd Vice President - Alison Welcher

Secretary - Elliot Seibert

Treasurer - Danielle Lopez-Lezama

Financial Secretary - Elizabeth (Zeba) Floyd

President - Richard Myers

Motions:

- Table Driveway Curb Cut Request 501 T St - Passes by unanimous vote.
- Motion to elect slate of officers (see below) by acclamation - Passes by unanimous vote.

Announcements:

Future LeDroit Park Civic Association Meetings - Note there will be no meeting August, 2020. September's virtual meeting will be on September 22nd, 7-8 PM.

Agenda:

Howard University Campus Entitlement Plan Update - *Derrek Niece-Williams, Howard University*

- Considerations: More urban layout. Align with city planning. Academic and campus life.
- Academic: provide center for Arts and Communications. Also for STEM. Also: new replacement urban teaching hospital and medical office building.
- Campus life: new apartment style housing. Wellness and recreation at HU Union. New Intercollegiate athletics annex.

- Campus has many local and national historic landmark buildings. Also, iconic open green space. DC goal is to enhance campuses and campus landscape. Assessing buildings for preservation vs. not.
- Health Sciences and STEM would maintain historic facade of Freedman's hospital (currently CB Powel site).
- Parking: previously had 2200 spaces in plan. Reduced spaces over time - currently 2,050. Plus 1,661 for hospital (separate calculation from campus). Will redistribute parking to existing lots, built new lots to include some increase in demand. Parking particularly on buildings adjacent to reservoir.

Questions:

- How to keep ambulances on Georgia, off 5th? And what about W street one-way? Bryant is one-way going eastbound, W is one-way going west. But HU will bring up to DDOT and provide more details in the future.
- What issue of new vs. old hospital? Patient capacity was built for 400, but operating at ~200. New to be built at ~220 beds.
- What is plan for existing hospital site? Commercial development, but will need its own planning process. Timeline: new hospital by 2025-2026. Then need to remediate.
- Scattered properties: childcare center, CVS on 7th? Not included in campus plan? Will address the next time that we meet. Position on CVS site is to redevelop once CVS' lease is up. Potential hospitality site with retail on ground floor. Same for HRB-1 building (across from Shaw metro).
- Update on Washington and Terrel house: working with historic preservation office and national park service. Lots of procurement red tape. Taking longer than expected. Projects are funded and moving forward.
- Proposed graduate housing at F1 and F2 are not contiguous to the rest of campus. Does Howard have an interest in obtaining the land? No - that is park and HU is not in discussions for purchasing.

Safety Report and Update - Cpt. Augustine, Metropolitan Police Department

- Know of traffic issues in LeDroit Park. Keep Cpt. Augustine up to speed via email.
- Overall crime is down.
- Email: David.Augustine@dc.gov. Cell phone: 202-671-6777
- Always available to do a neighborhood walk through.

DC Council At-Large Candidate - Marcus Goodwin, Candidate

- Former LeDroit Park resident. DC native. 5th of 8 children.
- Focused on three issues: expanding homeownership opportunities. Closing achievement gap. Encouraging small business including support women-owned business.
- Only candidate from housing and development background. Knows about affordable housing. Wants to bridge racial wealth gap.
- Community concerns: trash along alley behind Bohrer. Parking from U St. Development concerns with renovations.

Questions:

- Rat problem? Sterilization pellets, but concern regarding pets eating them.
- Ideas re: affordable housing: Need strict legislation re: 30 and 50% units. Our income definitions don't match with Wards's need. Should be a ward-based definition. Need more green space, but not just on rooftops. Should be communal.
- New ideas for revenue crisis: Delay non-essential infrastructure. Dispose of vacant property (sell ground-lease).
- New ideas for crime: Violent crime has gone down, homicides have gone up. Lack of human services, childcare, violence interrupters around the city, community policing. If your bike gets stolen, you just want your bike back - not to lock someone up. Summer jobs and activities.
- Doesn't want to see McMillan completely built over. Needs to be better community engagement. Need to get to the point that broader community feels invested in.

Driveway Curb Cut Request 501 T St - Nico Costanzo, 501 T St. Homeowner's Son

- No representatives present at meeting.

LeDroit Park Civic Association Nominations - Richard Myers, Nominating Committee Chair

The nominating committee's slate is:

- President: Elliot Seibert (current Secretary)
- Vice President: Sarah Bishop (continuing)
- Treasurer: Danielle Lopez-Lezama (continuing)

- Secretary: Becky Reina
- Financial Secretary: Elizabeth (Zeba) Floyd (continuing)
- Parliamentarian: Richard Myers (continuing)

There were no nominations on the floor.