

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2021

*Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom.

Board Present:

President - Elliot Seibert

Vice President – Sarah Bishop

Treasurer - Danielle Lopez-Lezama

Parliamentarian – Richard Myers

Safety Chair - Dina Lewis

Elliott announced that the Public Safety Committee was reforming. Chair Dina Lewis discussed the goals of taking a collaborative, open communication approach with other neighborhood community groups, using available DC agency services for youth engagement and crime prevention, and inviting community involvement based on how neighbors want to engage. Complete this form to get involved: <https://forms.gle/aiGu9tAHuBH2Rjj78>

Captain David Augustine, MPD reported more detail on incidents from the past weekend:

- Phone robbery: a person declined to lend their phone to the suspect to make a call.
- People were lounging on a closed business's stoop, turned into an assault because an approaching suspect did not like one of the porch loungers, arguments ensued, a jacket was stolen by the suspect from a lounge.
- Person walking with a pizza, suspect attempted robbery of said pizza, this resulted in an assault between pizza haver and the suspect, suspect escaped sans pizza.

He encouraged residents to take advantage of the home camera rebate program (<https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/private-security-camera-rebate-program>), acknowledged ongoing ATV vehicle issues in the neighborhood, and mentioned both road rage incidents and thefts from auto were on an uptick across the city.

Elliott asked if MPD is stepping up to address the road rage/ red light running/ stop sign running/ speeding, apparently there are very limited number of officers who are dedicated to traffic.

Our new Ward 1 community engagement DDOT Rep Cynthis Turcios (202--3590-284) presents a powerpoint to tell us:

- DDOT has a new interim director Everett Lott

- In Ward 1, DC Paved 16 miles of roadway, 7 miles of sidewalks, 86 alleys since the inception of Alley Palooza circa 2015
- Completed Frederick Douglass Memorial bridge arches
- The default speed is **20** mph
- **15** mph for neighborhood slow streets to support social distancing
- 311 Service App (Apple/Android) promotion, or calling 311
- **Traffic Safety Assessment** division works for stop sign reqs, speed humps, cam enforcement, etc

Discussion about streetearies re: LeDroit Park loves the Royal.

Someone living at Florida Ave asked about the traffic cops using whistles to direct traffic 6hrs a day: it is a nuisance, also noise pollution.

Bloomingtondale folks join the North Capitol Deck Over Project via the Bloomingtondale Village Initiative of 2014.

Aiyana Efram got the grant for the oral history of The Mott School. Request contributions and help from the community.

ANC Larry Handerhan discusses:

2 pedestrians were killed at Hains Point, traffic violence advocates working with DDOT on pedestrian safety.

Bloomingtondale farmers market promoted by Scott Roberts of Bloomingtondale.



BLOOMINGDALE VILLAGE SQUARE INITIATIVE

Executive Summary: **Overview of the North Capitol Deck Over Effort**

- The DC Office of Planning's *Mid-City East Small Area Plan* recommended that Bloomingtondale seek to increase its community identity and sense of 'place'. The Bloomingtondale Village Square (BVS) Initiative was established by the Bloomingtondale Civic Association (BCA) to address this challenge and encourage our demographically changing neighborhood to intentionally pursue increased stability, diversity, and inclusiveness. BVS' primary tools for doing so are neighborhood history ("honoring the past; embracing the future"), architecture and design, and civic engagement.
- In 2015, BVS proposed a single long-term recommendation based on its neighborhood architecture and design assessment efforts: Design and construction of a park decked over the North Capitol Street underpasses that will feature a neighborhood history theme, re-connect neighborhoods on the east and west sides of the street, and catalyze small business development and growth along mid-city east North Capitol Street.
- In 2019, BCA entered into a pro bono contract with ZGF Architects, LLP for preliminary engineering and design of a North Capitol Deck Over Park. Chris Somma (architect and Bloomingtondale resident) was the lead ZGF project architect.
- Four related community forums were conducted during 2018 – 2020: a) the first forum, focused on ensuring BCA members' approval of the Deck Over effort and its multi-community engagement emphasis; b) the second forum, which was held prior to ZGF initiating design efforts, focused on residents' visions of how such a Deck Over might function, be used, and its desired amenities; c) the third forum, conducted after ZGF had completed engineering studies and initial drafts of Deck Over conceptual and design plans, featured presentation of these plans and related considerations, and residents' associated questions and their positive and negative feedback on the plans; d) the fourth forum showcased ZGF's final concepts, designs, and renderings, followed by small group round-table discussions where residents charted related implications/ considerations/concerns on the topics of environmental issues, park amenities, design elements, and ensuring diversity and inclusion in the park's welcomeness and use. The issues raised during these discussions will be incorporated in future design Deck Over discussions with DDOT.
- In 2019, Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan McDuffie lent his support to the Deck Over effort and placed \$40 million for the Deck Over in his Ward 5 FY20 budget recommendations, and supported the Deck Over again in his FY21 budget recommendations. His FY22 recommendations include \$10 million for "feasibility analysis, concept planning, and initial capital expenses related to the construction" of a

North Capitol Deck Over.

- Deck Over community civic engagement and advocacy efforts emphasize the strengthening of relationships and collaboration among the civic associations of a cluster of neighborhoods abutting the proposed Deck Over/Streetscape areas (Bates/Truxton Circle, Bloomingdale, Eckington, Edgewood, Hanover Area, and Stronghold). BVS representatives requested and were placed on agendas of meeting(s) of most of these civic associations to discuss visions for a Deck Over Park and the need for multi-neighborhood collaboration—and the North Capitol Deck Over & Streetscape Steering Committee will continue to conduct such discussions. Residents of all of these neighborhoods were invited to, and in attendance at all of the BVS Deck Over community forums.
- The Deck-Over Steering Committee is comprised by BVS and BCA members, persons designated by the collaborating civic associations, and other volunteers. In addition, to further strengthen civic engagement and advocacy capacity and capability, the Steering Committee is also recruiting other neighborhood volunteers and developing materials for their use in an advocacy campaign targeted to DC Councilmembers, relevant appointed DC department/agency officials, appropriate DC government senior staff, residents of the collaborating neighborhoods and others. The advocacy campaign is focused on: benefits of, and limited capital funding approval for a Deck Over/Streetscape Feasibility Study, as recommended in Ward 5 CM McDuffie's FY 22 budget submission.
- The recently added Streetscape aspect of the project, in part, will be guided by recommendations of the *BVS Architectural & Design Recommendations Report, 2020 Update* (available at www.bloomingdalecivicassociation.org/villagecenter). The goals of the Streetscape effort are to: (a) create connected streetscape and deck over areas with a contiguous 'look and feel' that will serve to ensure visible tangible benefits on both sides of a significantly architecturally and functionally improved North Capitol Street; and (b) attract increased numbers of residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs to an expanded and catalyzed mid-city east North Capitol Street small business corridor. We suggest the streetscape target area be bordered by (north to south) V Street to Florida Avenue, and (east to west) by Lincoln Road NE to 1st or 2nd Street NW.
- The BVS Deck Over effort is distinguished by its intentional focus on community-led, multi-neighborhood collaboration, benefits, and civic engagement and advocacy activities. We are especially pleased that the excellence of the results to date of such efforts are increasingly recognized city-wide. For example, the *Urban Turf* identified the BVS/ZGF North Capitol Deck Over as "The 2020 Best Plan to Deck Over a Street in DC".

As of March 2021, the BCA/BVS Deck Over & Streetscape Steering Committee consists of the following persons representing three neighborhoods:

- **BVS/Bloomingdale:** **Paul Cerruti** (Co-Chair Steering Committee), **Bertha Holliday** (1st VP BCA, Co-Director BVS, Commissioner ANC 5E07), **Teri Janine Quinn** (President BCA), **Thaddeus Thaler** (Steering Committee Director of Government Affairs), **Zach Sherif** (Co-Chair Steering Committee, Co-Director, BVS), **Alex Schaefer** (Chief Lobbyist at The Public Land Trust & formerly Legislative Director of Natural Resources, National Governors Association)

- **Eckington: Sandrine Boukerche** (*Steering Committee Director of Community Outreach & Engagement*),
Mark Galvan (*Vice President, Eckington Parks & Arts*); **Sylvia Pinkney** (*Commissioner, ANC 5E04*)
- **Stronghold: Kirby Vining** (*Past President Stronghold Civic Association, Chair McMillan Advisory Group*)