

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

May, 2021

*Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom.

Board Present:

President - Elliot Seibert

Vice President – Sarah Bishop

Financial Secretary - Elizabeth (Zeba) Floyd

Secretary - Becky Reina

Parliamentarian – Richard Myers

Safety Chair - Dina Lewis

Motions:

Motion to pay for DC Peace Team for Non-Violent Intervention Training for interested LeDroit Park residents.

- Motion passes: 14 yays, no absentions, no nays.
- Conducted via zoom chat.
- Discussion below.

Motion to support \$1,000 matching funds for Uniting Our Youth summer program.

- Motion passes: 13 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstention.
- Conducted via zoom chat.
- Discussion below.

Motion to send letter to Abdullahi Mohamed of DDOT with neighborhood's traffic requests for 4th and U, 6th and FL, and potential statue in closed S St Triangle area.

- Motion passes: 10 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstention.
- Conducted via zoom chat.
- Discussion below.

Announcements:

Future LeDroit Park Civic Association Meetings – June’s virtual meeting will take place on June 24, 7-8 PM.

June 5th, 11:00am-3:00pm party at Park at LeDroit to celebrate spring and our new splash pad. With Friends of the Park and Uniting Our Youth.

Aiyana Eham call box painting project is complete!

Agenda:

LPCA Safety Committee Update – Dina Lewis

Meet our new MPD Captain Ryan Small. New Commander is Han Kim. Lt. Dae also joined meeting.

Lewis requests volunteers for the Safety Committee.

Training session with DC Peace Team for Non-Violent Intervention Training for interested LeDroit Park residents. Training will be 2 days, 2 hours each.

<http://bit.ly/LPCASafetyVolunteer>

<http://bit.ly/DCPeaceTeamflyer>

Requests \$495 from LPCA to pay for the training. 10-25 residents can participate. Matt Fay asks what funds LPCA has on hand = ~\$13k. Cindy Paladines motions to support. Matt Fay seconds.

Motion passes: 14 yays, no absentions, no nays.

MPD Safety Report – Sgt. Keirn, MPD

Captain Ryan Small gives update on burglaries in LeDroit Park. MPD has increased active patrols. There was an arrest today for a burglary near LeDroit Park and that case is closed. It may be related, but not much publicly available info at this time.

Small says some folks have requested a police car be parked on the 400 block of U, but studies show that usually just displaces the crime a few blocks without deterring.

Elliot asks if we know if this is a crew, one person, very bad luck, etc. Cpt Small says we don't know at this time. Encourages people to make sure windows and doors are locked, consider security cameras.

Sarah Bishop points out these are almost all forced entry, not open windows and doors. Small says it's not just about open windows, but also darkness, overgrown trees, belief that no one will call MPD.

More questions from the community about how those are not the case here. Small believes the best deterrent are security cameras.

Questions about whether there are similar crimes in other parts of the city.

Lewis asks about lack of notification to the neighborhood regarding these burglaries. Small said the crime stats are updated daily with raw numbers. Crime cards are updated daily as well. Lewis says some of these were not included in emails/text daily updates. Commander Kim says burglaries are not necessarily included in crime alerts as they are not considered emergent enough to alert public. Community member points out that if we are not aware of past burglaries, citizens can't increase their awareness.

Questions about coordination with HU police force. One of the burglaries happened right in front of HU police, who told resident they could not assist. HU Police and MPD do not use the same radio system. HU Police can intervene in a violent crime occurring. HU Police would have to call in a crime to MPD the same as a citizen. If a property is owned by HU, HU Police would be primary responder. MPD requests that HU Police share info with MPD, but Small says that process is imperfect.

Cpt Small says MPD is getting ready to pass out info to the neighborhood, including camera incentive program. Small cautions that residents always take a moment before calling the police to assess whether something is actually suspicious and not merely a person you haven't met.

Small says there is a 20% decrease in burglaries throughout the city over the last year.

Neighbor says they have had multiple break-ins, even after changing locks, adding cameras, etc. Asks how to get more foot patrols and faster MPD response. Small says it's a tension to provide appropriate coverage for the whole city.

Q about the seemingly lack of MPD sense or urgency, since these are burglaries while

people are in their homes asleep. Lewis asks if there is a better way to share info between community members and MPD. Small encourages civic associations to bring in more residents.

Supporting Access to Summer Camp in LeDroit Park – Larry Handerhan (1B01 ANC); Clarence Miles, Uniting Our Youth (and in coalition with the LeDroit Park Civic Association, Friends of the Park at LeDroit, and Common Good City Farm)

ANC Handerhan says a group of people has been working with Clarence Miles of Uniting Our Youth after incidents with problematic behavior in the Park at LeDroit and community desire to support positive interactions between community members. Miles put together a 3-day a week summer camp starting with a cultural food-based program, including a community garden element. They have submitted a proposal for funding to DPR.

Uniting Our Youth has been operating out of Kelly Miller for a decade, doing outreach including afterschool programming.

LeDroit Park Youth Program Coalition proposal is an idea to fundraise between LPCA, Common Good City Farm, and Friends of the Park at LeDroit for summer program for Uniting Our Youth.

Request to authorize \$1000 of LPCA funds for matching contribution.

Community member suggests considering a way to invite community members to any potentially parts of the summer program, e.g. skits or presentations, etc.

Seibert stresses the Coalition is making an effort to always include all organization logos and widely advertise to raise awareness and knowledge of all the group to all community members to building neighborhood cohesion.

Motion to support \$1000 in matching funds. Motion passes: 13 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstention.

Link to donate:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/common-good-city-farm/ledroit-park-youth-programming-coalition>

S Street Revitalization 65% Design – Abdullahi Mohamed, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

In past meeting LPCA supported “Option 2” to close the triangle of thruway connecting 4th St NW and S St NW. Mohamed gives a presentation with design update. Contractor

Laura Mehiel gives an overview of design details: planting strips, well-striped crosswalk, thinking vehicle travel lanes, getting rid of painted median lane between vehicle travel lanes, reclaiming that space for sidewalk and planting. In coordination with Historic Preservation Office re view shed in the triangle, including a wide path in “Triangle” shared between cyclist and pedestrians. Sidewalk on Rhode Island Ave will be widened. At least one tree will be added. Adding currently missing crosswalk across Florida Ave. At the bottom of 4th St at Florida will change from a traffic light to stop sign. There will be no left turn from 4th St southbound onto Florida.

New Jersey will not be narrowed, because there is a bus route from NJ to FL and there is a study to perhaps put a bike lane on NJ Ave in the future.

5th Street just about FL will be one-way, to the alley.

The project has recommended that T St NW - 400, 500, and 600 blocks - will add speed humps. Request from the community for adding 4-way stop at 4th and U. Mohammed says DDOT can only study current conditions, which admittedly will be different after closing the triangle.

Discussion of potential changes to make 6th and FL NW safer for pedestrians. Potential to make crosswalk perpendicular to FL Ave, slightly change light timing to allow longer pedestrian crossing.

Seibert brings up the possibility of a historical statue in the new Triangle Park. Mohamed says DDOT would need to know specifics of request.

Comment period for S St project ends June 4th. Seibert has drafted a letter capturing neighborhood traffic concerns at 4th and U, 6th and FL, and S St closure based on discussion.

Motion to approve the letter by Matt Fey, seconded by Sarah Bishop. Motion passes with 10 yay, 1 abstention, 0 nays.

Other community announcements and updates:

Splash Pad Party @ LeDroit Park: June 5, 11 AM – 3 PM

ANC1B Meeting: June 3, 2021 6:30 – 8:30 pm

LeDroit Civic Association Meeting: Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 7–8 pm

ANC Handerhan announces new restaurant on 7th Street NW:

<https://www.popville.com/2021/03/stop-smackn-restaurant-and-lounge-coming-dc-shaw/>



Abdullahi Mohamed

District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

May 25, 2021

RE: **S Street Revitalization**

Dear Mr. Mohamed,

Thank you for your team's presentation on the S Street Revitalization's 65% plans during the LeDroit Park Civic Association's regularly scheduled meeting on May 25, 2021. As you know, the civic association ultimately supported Alternative 2, with the proviso that safety improvements would be required in several locations where the project will lead to increased traffic volume and new patterns like increased turns.

While we appreciate the addition of speed bumps on T Street to reduce potential for speeding, several safety issues are not yet addressed. We offer the following comments on the 65% plans:

- **4th & U Stop Sign:** The project team has presented maps showing that U and T Streets, among others, will form a network that connects two arterial roads (4th St and New Jersey Ave). In effect, this project will make these streets "part of the street or highway system that serves as the principal roadway network for through traffic flow."¹ Therefore, a four-way stop at 4th and U Streets NW should be added under Warrant 8 (Roadway Network) of the MUTCD.
- **6th and Florida/T Pedestrian Safety:** No meaningful safety improvements to this dangerous intersection have been included to offset the additional vehicular volume projected at this already dangerous intersection. This intersection has unique geometry that puts a high volume of turning vehicles in direct conflict with the most-used crosswalk. DDOT is aware of the dangerous conditions of this intersection because they employ traffic guards here every day during rush hour. The safety issues would be better addressed by fixing the permanent infrastructure. We request a longer dedicated pedestrian crossing phase ("leading pedestrian interval"), no-turn-on-red from Florida to 6th, relocation of "Do Not Block" signs that block pedestrian field of view, restriping of crosswalks particularly on the north side of the intersection, and wider trapezoid-shaped crosswalks.
- **Statue at Triangle Park:** Finally, we recommend that the new plaza created at the 'triangle' include a statue to recognize a Civil Rights leader. If this is not within the scope of the project, a space could be reserved for a future addition. LeDroit Park has many historical figures to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Seibee", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

¹ Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 2012 (MUTCD)

Elliot Seibert

President, LeDroit Park Civic Association