

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 23, 2023**

Present: (via videoconference/phone) Susan Volman, Joe Caruso, Glenn Engelmann, Rebecca Martin, Nick Manning, Tom Reiter, Lance Salonia, Justin Thornton, Patty Zweibel

Not present: Charlie Ellis, Marcy Logan, Diane Quinn

Meeting was called to order at 7:05

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: *Susan moved to approve the January Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Rebecca, all in favor.*

President's Report

Connecticut Avenue Deckover: Susan reported that DDOT had responded to the resolution for a traffic plan for 19th St that study was approved at the February membership meeting. Susan also clarified that the portion of 19th St below Dupont Circle was planned to be open to vehicle traffic in both directions during construction, but that ANC Commissioners and Bill McLeod from the BID were working to change that.

Regarding the Pride Parade on June 10, Susan said that she registered DCCA to be a participant.

Susan also said that she attended the Federation of Civic Associations meeting, and they will have their annual luncheon on October 21st. DCCA board should consider attending, if we don't have a house tour on that date. She noted that the Federation of Community Associations (formerly the Federation of Citizens Associations), is not meeting regular. Susan will follow up with them to determine if we should pay dues again for 2023.

Parks and Gardens: Rebecca reported that the irrigation system is being installed in the T St park. There is a \$4,000 estimate to replace the Freedom Garden fence. Susan suggested asking realtors who traditionally contribute to house tour ads, if they could contribute towards a fence in return for permanent recognition, such as a plaque. There was general agreement this may be a good way to fundraise specifically for this fence. Rebecca said they are going to wait for the city to remove the tree before any further action.

Action Item: Susan will work with Marcy on fundraising for the fence.

Treasurer's Report

Lance sent the Treasurer's report before the meeting. He reported there is currently \$312,000 in the investment account, and the checking account has had no change since last month. We've committed \$50 to reserve the Chastleton co-op for the March member meeting, and we made a

\$340 payment to Capital Pride. He also reported that we are still waiting on an invoice from WNDC Education Foundation for the donation we have pledged to them. Otherwise, we still have around \$2,000 left in the checking account he can draw if needed.

Justin mentioned he had discussed our investments with some acquaintances at Charles Schwab and Chevy Chase Trust. They are looking at our investments and will get back to us with suggestions. Lance said he wants to keep our checking account at TD bank due to having set it up to be able to pay all our bills directly. Susan said if the only advantage to moving to Schwab or Chevy Chase is to be able to speak with an adviser, we can already do that where our investments are currently held (Fidelity).

Budget: Susan presented the proposed 2023 budget. She noted that there will be a deficit, like last year. Additional expenses for 2023 will include the 100th anniversary brochure. There were no corrections or additions for the budget as presented.

ABRA

Rosemarino d'Italia: Glenn reported that negotiations with the owner failed, so we will be preparing our protest for the hearing next month. Doug Melcher is leading the protest as the lawyer for the group of residents.

Barcode: The mediation is scheduled for March 6, and Joe and Susan will attend.

Vagabond: Susan reported that this new restaurant next to Larry's Lounge has asked for substantial change to their license, and that the outside hours they are requesting (12AM all days) are outside the ANC guidelines and the hours in their current Settlement Agreement (11 on weekdays, and 12 on weekends). She hopes that the ANC will require the shorter hours and protest this change. If so, DCCA has no other reason to protest.

Social Activities: Justin confirmed that Royal Sonesta confirmed their bar and restaurant for a DCCA Member Happy Hour on March 15. He will meet with the Royal Sonesta prior to the event date, to finalize particulars. Susan said that she will announce the happy hour at the March 5 membership meeting. Rebecca suggested that some board members stay at the happy hour for dinner.

Action item: Justin to follow up with Royal Sonesta.

100th Anniversary brochure: Nick reported that the text is nearly finished, and that we need to get some photos. Susan had some suggestions for photos, including Phil Carney, Erica, and Marcy. Susan said she would send the text to others for comment prior to publication.

Shredding event: Susan said she still has not heard from Diane whether St. Luke's parking lot would be available for this. She commented that the Dupont Circle Village is very interested in coordinating with DCCA on this. However, unless we can come up with a venue, in particular around tax time, the project will have to be put on hold. Nick suggested Ross School parking

area, and Susan said she will follow up with them. The cost is not in the budget but it would be approximately a \$300 miscellaneous expense.

Action item: Susan to follow up with Ross.

Nominating committee report: Rebecca polled the board, and there 4 openings—Susan, Nick, Charlie, and Tom are not running for re-election. Most pressing, there are openings for President and VP. The board shared ideas regarding individuals who may be interested in running, or who might know others who may be interested. The slate must be presented to the membership at the April membership meeting.

Action item: Susan will contact a person at the Presidential Coop, who she has worked with on Barcode, and two other suggested candidates. Lance and Rebecca volunteered to contact some other suggested candidates about serving on the board..

Membership meeting guest speakers: The board shared ideas for guest speakers for the next several membership meetings.

Action items: Susan will contact Metropolitan Police Department for March 6. Patty will contact the DC Taxpayer Advocate for the April meeting. Nick will reach out to a person who can speak about segregation increasing in DC. Susan will contact Brooke Pinto's office for the May or June meeting.

Regulatory: There was a discussion of the zoning for 1617 U St NW, and the hearing on the Masonic temple development. Lance and Rebecca reported on the hearing regarding the Temple. Lance would like to testify at the March 23 hearing.

Rebecca moved to approve the request Lance sent to provide \$1500 to an expert witness hired by DECAA and authorize Lance to use the report at the March 23 hearing. Susan seconded, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting will be – *Thursday March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.*