

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 2023**

Present: (via videoconference/phone) Susan Volman, Joe Caruso, Lance Salonia, Susan Valaskovic, Rebecca Martin, Marcy Logan, Ed Hanlon, Patty Zweibel

Not present: John Hassell, Diane Quinn, Justin Thornton

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

President's Report

Susan reported that for the Little Goblins event on 10/28, Susan Valaskovic and Rebecca have volunteered to assist Susan Volman at the outreach table. Joe said he would too. For the Mitchell Park event on 10/29, Susan Volman will be there. She may recruit others.

Susan reported that we received some new memberships after the September and October member meetings. She said we need to have a membership checkoff at the November 6 membership meeting because there will be a vote. Susan Valaskovic said she would check members in.

Susan Volman next updated the board on the public restrooms issue. She said that while DCCA had advocated for public restrooms to be in the DC Council budget, to date there has been no action. The person who has been spearheading the effort, Marcia Birnbaum, lets Susan know when the public restroom advocacy groups need DCCA's help. However, she has not heard anything recently from the groups.

Treasurer's Report

Lance circulated the financial report before the meeting. He went over funds coming in and expenditures.

He asked Susan Volman about the \$250 contribution to the Congressional Club, which he has not seen go through the checking account. Susan said she would make the contribution to the Club. Ed has already sent a thank-you note to the Club.

Action item: Susan Volman to reach out to contact at Congressional Club to make the contribution.

ABCA

Susan said there was nothing to report. She said there has been no order on Rosemarino yet.

She added that she had attended the most recent ANC meeting, and there was nothing of note except just in general, the commissioners seem more engaged in ABCA matters than some of them had been previously.

Program

Susan Valaskovic and Justin's business partner went to the DC Federation of Civic Associations luncheon on behalf of DCCA. Susan Valaskovic reported that Rep. Clyburn made a very interesting speech, but there were not many younger attendees. She suggested getting an intern to do social media for DCCA to try to attract young people, and Marcy agreed. There was additional board discussion about how to interest people of all ages in the neighborhood in coming to DCCA meetings and in becoming members of DCCA, whether through social media, DCCA's Facebook page, paper signs and flyers, in-person neighborhood events for outreach, etc. The board further discussed what sorts of issues to highlight at membership meetings, and DCCA's position on issues and how to determine that position.

Susan Volman raised the meeting topic survey that the Program committee had recently sent out to members. She noted that Erica had done an analysis, and one of the topics of most interest to respondents was crime and safety. Rebecca said that there were a fair number of interesting takeaways from the survey, and other topics that members are interested in, but she agreed that crime and safety are one of the top concerns of the respondents.

Action items: (1) Susan Volman to discuss with John George at the Foggy Bottom Association how to attract younger members and engage interns.

(2): Susan Volman and Susan Valaskovic will form a membership committee. They will brainstorm and come up with some ideas for attracting membership.

(3) Going forward, the back of postcards advertising member meetings will include the information about DCCA and the QR code for the website, as the September postcard did.

(4) For the Nov 6 meeting on 1617 U St, Ed is preparing a draft resolution that the board will approve via email to then be presented to the membership at the meeting.

(5) The Program committee will confirm National League of American Pen Women as the location of the December member meeting, and also come up with a topic/speaker.

(6) Susan Volman will reach out to Brian Schwalb's office to try to arrange for him to speak at a member meeting sometime in the spring.

(7) Rebecca will send to the board the membership meeting topic survey results and survey comments.

(8) Marcy and Ed will solicit help as needed to put up signs for the November member meeting.

(9) After the November member meeting, Susan Volman will place an item in the E-blast about the 100th anniversary brochures—any member who has not received one and who wants one should let us know and we can mail it if needed.

Parks and Garden

Marcy said that there are no updates except she is still working to obtain free fencing from the Masonic Temple. She noted that we may have to hire someone to get it, or solicit volunteers to do so.

Regulatory

The sole topic was the November 20th hearing on the zoning of 1617 U St. There was a lengthy discussion of what would happen and the steps we should take. Ed advised that DCCA ask for party status, which he said we need to do at least 15 days before the hearing. He also explained the difference between a contested and uncontested hearing. The board discussed the procedures and the posture DCCA should take, which will be presented to DCCA members at the November member meeting.

Action items:

- (1) Susan Volman will ask the chair of ANC 2B whether it is going to take a position on the issue.
- (2) Ed will send Susan Volman materials on how to sign up for party status.
- (3) Marcy and Ed will sort out who will attend the hearing.
- (4) Ed and Marcy will draft something for Susan to submit with materials asking for party status.

Membership

Rebecca said it would be great if Membership would organize the January membership renewal event. Susan Volman said it has never been a Program committee event. Marcy suggested reinstating membership cards. Susan Volman said that is in the works, but rather than hard copy they will be downloadable.

Upcoming membership meetings:

November: Monday, November 6th

December: Monday, December 4th

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.

*Next Board Meeting will be – **Thursday November 30th at 7:00 p.m.***