



## Dupont Circle Citizens Association Board of Directors Meeting June 25, 2020

**Present:** (via videoconference/phone) Glenn Engelmann, Susan Volman, Karol Stanley, Kerry Kemp, Lance Salonia, Phil Carney, Charlie Ellis, Tim Norman, Nick Manning, Tom Reiter, Marcy Logan (attended some but not all of meeting)

*Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm*

### Approval of Minutes

Kerry moved to approve the May 2020 minutes. Lance seconded the motion, all members in favor.

### President's Report

- Bill McCleod, executive director of **Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets** (“Main Streets”), recently reached out to Glenn asking if DCCA was offering a grant program for local businesses to assist with windows damaged as a result of looting. Glenn replied that if the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID) and Main Streets were to put a grant fund of that type together, DCCA would be willing to contribute, but that DCCA had no fund of its own. So far, no such fund has been launched. Bill McCleod mentioned once he sees how the temporary closure of a stretch of 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Adams Morgan to allow for “streeteries” goes, he may work to have something similar instituted for a few blocks in the commercial zone of 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The DCCA working group on the **park at 18<sup>th</sup> and Q** is continuing its dialogue with other parties and working toward an agreement of the John Cavanaugh statue and other details.
- Glenn reached out to newly elected Ward 2 DC Council Member **Brooke Pinto** and all other **Ward 2 candidates** to wish them well and congratulate them on their efforts. Glenn has been sending Pinto DCCA’s weekly eblast. He also discussed DDOT’s June 5, 2020, Notice of Intent to install protected bike lanes and loading zones on 17<sup>th</sup> Street with her, letting her know that although DCCA did not yet have an official position on the proposal, we were disappointed by the lack of opportunities for public input on the proposal. He also let her know about that members of the DCCA Board had been in discussions with DDOT in recent months about the possibility of funding a study on developing a shared street (“woonerf”) on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Glenn will be inviting her to a future DCCA Board meeting and DCCA membership meeting.
- Glenn sent around **ABRA placards** in advance of the meeting. If DCCA is interested, we can find out more and determine if a protest is necessary for the new request. The Board discussed the request and noted the extended hours requested but determines there is no need for action.

## Treasurer's Report

- Susan Volman distributed the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting.
- The list of organizations that DCCA members approved to receive a charitable donation from DCCA to support their work in response to COVID-19 included 10 organizations rather than 9. The inclusion of an 10<sup>th</sup> group, along with some payment transaction fees, brought the total donation to \$11,100.90.
- Glenn, Susan, and others explained to new DCCA Board members DCCA's revenue sources, which include membership dues and monies raised via DCCA's annual House Tour fundraiser, alongside donations that may have occurred in the past. Although DCCA has considerable money in an investment account with Fidelity, the cancellation of last year's House Tour and the likelihood that limited (if any) funds will be generated for this year's event are going to reduce DCCA's investment account, and for that reason, DCCA is being mindful of spending.

## Committee Reports and Business

### 1. Protected Bike Lanes:

On June 22, 2020, ANC 2B announced that it would host a Zoom public "listening session" on June 30<sup>th</sup> to hear presentations from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and comments from members of the public regarding DDOT's Notices of Intent for the proposed installation of protected bike lanes on 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW (NOI #20-70 PSD) and on 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW between K Street and T Street (NOI #20-69 PSD).

- **20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Street Protected Bike Lanes:** Several months ago, DDOT held at least two well-attended community meetings on their proposal for protected bike lanes on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets. Those meetings allowed for considerable public debate and led to a compromise agreement that was generally accepted by the vast majority of Dupont Circle residents, the ANC, and WABA. Glenn has since sent a note to ANC 2B04 Commissioner Aaron Landry (2B04) expressing concern about Landry's threat to upend the compromise that was reached. Commissioner Landry was not particularly responsive but noted that Daniel Warwick (ANC 2B02) and Mike Silverstein (2B06) disagreed with his position. The DCCA Board reiterated its support of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> street compromise reached several months ago.
- **17<sup>th</sup> Street Protected Bike Lanes:** DDOT issued its Notice of Intent pertaining to the Installation of Protected Bike Lanes on 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW between K Street NW and T Street NW on June 5, 2020. DCCA Board members shared great frustration about the woefully inadequate public process that deprived the community of meaningful input on the proposal. It was decided that DCCA should speak at the ANC's upcoming "listening session" and share a draft of DCCA's principles which will be incorporated into its written comments to DDOT, the D.C. Council, and the Mayor with DCCA's members, so that they can comment on the draft principles if interested (the bike lane issue will be resolved before the next DCCA membership meeting in the Fall).
  - *Broad strokes of DCCA's position are – we have issue with the process employed by the ANC and DDOT in moving forward with this plan. The process must be slowed down. There is more work to be done and one public session is not sufficient. We do not believe it is advisable to take action amid the COVID-19 pandemic while we are still trying to figure out how businesses will work during*

*and after the pandemic. DCCA believes overall that a shared multi-modal street is desirable in the future. If DDOT's protected bike lane proposal for 17th Street goes forward, there must be traffic calming measures, more aesthetically pleasing protection, visible clear signage (in contrast to the confusing signage that now exists); moreover, the loading concerns of businesses adequately addressed.*

**ACTION ITEM:** *Lance* will advise on the due dates for written comments to DDOT.

2. **House Tour:** Karol gave an update on the second virtual house tour meeting held earlier in week. Focus this year will be on an online, virtual tour (likely to be presented on the dupontcirclehousetour.org website) using written text, photos, personal stories – a mixed media presentation that may, if feasible, highlight the rich history of Dupont Circle while fully integrating the history of the Black community. It will include a prologue of the DC history as a whole.
  - There are ideas to partner with a neighborhood Sorority and/or Fraternity to join our planning team. Reached out to Elxel (HT website designer/event planner) to keep on standby for help or assistance for tickets or publishing site.
  - Planning is still in initial/concept stage
  - It was determined that fundraising would be helpful but that the core priority is to keep house tour going and not miss another year without an event.
  - Timeline is the same as House Tour (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Oct)

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Karol:** Email will go out later tonight to community members to wrap up Monday's meeting along with shared document links.
- **Charlie and Kerry:** Will help connect DCCA with some people who can share the history of Dupont.
- **Susan:** Will send Karol map of fireboxes

**3. Programming**

- October: Eleanor Holmes Norton – and possibly Brooke if she is in office.
- DC Attorney General Karl Racine in November
- An “ANC Candidates Forum” will be scheduled for the fall.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Charlie and Glenn** will talk about programming ideas for beyond November
- **Charlie** will reach out to his contact at Women's National Dem Club to determine if they have any forums planned

**4. Other Business**

- **Homelessness:** Nick will be taking a lead on talking through some ideas on how DCCA could contribute to tackling the problem of homelessness in some way that will help move the issues/action beyond its current lock. Tim and Glenn volunteered to help.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

*Susan* will share the grant information for the homelessness orgs we granted money to this year. *Tim, Glenn and Nick* will talk about key ideas/areas and then the Board can work together to determine the connectors in DC gov, orgs, or other leadership to work with on the issue.

- **Dupont Festival** – Glenn reached out to indicate willingness to help out with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2021
- **International Student House** – DCCA would like to use the facility for future membership meetings but determines that at least until end of year we will be using a videoconference format for membership meetings.

***ACTION ITEM:*** *Susan* will talk with the Jen Simpson to let them know we are online for now but when we return to in-person, we'd like to resume using their facility, and determine if they can be flexible with that option.

- **T Street Park Signage** – Marcy is lead on this – but not present for update.
- **Social Hour** – Kerry is going to invite DCCA member Marc Benjamin Langston, who has a History Hat webpage (<https://www.thehistoryhat.com/>) and YouTube channel to participate in a social hour and work with Glenn to get a hard date for a late July session.

*Meeting ends at 8:55 p.m.*