



**Dupont Circle Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 27, 2020**

Present: (via videoconference/phone) Glenn Engelmann, Susan Volman, Karol Stanley, Kerry Kemp, Lance Salonia, Phil Carney, Charlie Ellis, Tom Reiter, Marcy Logan, Tim Norman, Nick Manning

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Kerry moved to approve the July 2020 minutes. Marcy seconded the motion, all members in favor.

Review of Action Items from July Minutes

- *DCCA's Comments on 17th Street were sent to DDOT and distributed to members and the listserv.*
- *Riggs development letter was sent. Brooke Pinto's office acknowledged receipt. AG office expressed confusion on initial issue letter submission. That issue was straightened but no further contact has been received.*
- *A follow up to the Historic Preservation Letter to zoning commission was sent- no word heard back on that.*

President's Report

- There is a discussion about merging the Civic and Citizens associations. DCCA is supporting their task force's work to explore the options.
 - Susan reminds that there is some resistance to the merger from members of the Civic Associations, because of the racist history of there being two separate types of associations.
- In a call with Brooke Pinto's office, Glenn spoke to her CoS and let him/her know DCCA wants to be at the table at the homelessness discussions/meetings that are happening with the ANCs.
 - September 17th is the tentative date for that meeting. Homelessness Committee Chair, Nick Manning and Glenn Engelmann will plan to participate.
- Daniel Warwick will be asking ANC2B to adopt a resolution calling on the city to extend the Streateries past the October 9th closing date. Board discussed and Glenn will tell Daniel that DCCA supports Streateries and expanded sidewalks extension. Glenn will make clear that this support is contingent on both being continued and excludes support for bike lane.
- ANC: Glenn also spoke to Warwick about Marcy's concerns about the 18th Street restaurants and the deli dumpsters not being adequate and creating a tremendous rat problem for houses that back up to the alley. Based on conversation, Glenn suggests Marcy ask ANC candidates their position on it because ABRA is not likely to request a compactor under the current agreements.

Treasurer's Report

- Susan distributed the report prior to the meeting.
- DCCA does not currently have a lot of cash on hand in the TD Account; any major spending will require a transfer from the investment account.
- Ongoing monthly expenses are now averaging \$68.00
- Karol thinks house tour work can be covered in-house without big spending.
- Board agrees to continue policy of granting new members sign ups in Q4 extended membership through end of 2021.
- Susan reported that DCCA had at least 202 members (an increase over previous years).

17th Street NOI (bike lane)

- Comments were submitted.
- We received some feedback from members and public.
- We will continue to follow the news and information and keep on top of ANC on the details.

Comp Plan

- The timeline has been changed and the Council hearings on the Comp Plan on Nov. 12th and 13th. The deadline for submitting written testimony is December 3rd.
- Susan distributed the set of principles from the [DC Grassroots Planning Coalition](#). Kerry Kemp and Susan have attended meetings and there was a request for DCCA to endorse their principles.
 - *Board members want more time to review the materials and determine if they want to endorse.*

ACTION ITEM: *Susan will recirculate the principles and will reach out to DCGPC to determine if there is deadline for endorsements.*

Board will need to make a decision on whether DCCA will want to testify on Comp Plan.

- Multiple board members expressed strong interest in DCCA testifying.

ACTION ITEM: *This will be placed on agenda for September and October. Written comments are due November 2nd.*

Programming

- **Mem Meeting October:** Cong. Eleanor Holmes Norton is tentative for October (but may be pushed to Dec). Decision was made to also invite Councilmember Pinto to speak to members.
- **Mem Meeting November:** Charlie is waiting to hear back from Attorney General Karl Racine for a re- confirm.
- **Mem Meeting December:** TBD

ACTION ITEM: *Charlie will look into ideas for December. Board discussed inviting elected at-large member and/or Norton may move to December if not confirmed for October.*

- **September 14 Online Social Hour:** Nick has organized a presentation by Mara Cherkasky on topic of *Racial injustice in the Dupont Circle neighborhood – the story of one block, and more* Upcoming Social hour. Discussion outline is here: <https://dupont-circle.wildapricot.org/Items-of-Interest>

ACTION ITEM: *Nick will ask Mara if we can record the presentation and with her approval possibly use it as part of our Dupont History House Tour site. Erica will continue to promote event and send members a sign up form.*

- **September ANC Forum:** DCCA will host online forum for all candidates

ACTION ITEM: *Glenn will contact candidates to determine availability in late September and send potential schedule around to the Board. Erica will look into webinar needs.*

- **Membership Poll:** Erica will send Glenn the topline to review survey topline.

House Tour

- 2020 House Tour will be a simple online display featuring a series of homes and buildings in the neighborhood. Exterior thumbnail photos will be displayed alongside a story about its architecture, owner, previous owner or history of the neighborhood. Over half of the identified sites include stories about the lives of African American residents who lived in house or neighborhood.
- We will have between 11-20 featured sites. Current status is:
 - 9 house tour site descriptions have been written
 - 2 house tour sites in the works
 - 4 others are TBD
 - 3 videos will be loaned from the History Hat
- Launch is the 3rd week of October on the traditional House Tour week.
- Board determines that the tour should be free of charge this year but will include request for donations.
 - Glenn suggests messaging that acknowledges how this has historically been our main fundraiser we use for advocacy activity and that we ask that they consider a special donation.
 - Board members agree and suggest adding the pop up at the beginning and end of the tour.
 - Glenn also mentioned approaching restaurants to offer a discount to pass on to tourgoers and push people to local biz. Idea was tabled for now due to logistical challenges.
- Author Stephen Hansen is allowing us to use a portion for research he did on a building in Dupont Circle, was the President of the Committee of 100 – idea was proposed to reach out to him as a featured speaker at a social hour or a membership meeting.

ACTION ITEM: *9 stories will be posted to the google drive for edit/review – Karol will be communicating their post to HT committee. Karol will work on website and Erica will help as needed.*

Homelessness Committee:

- Nick reports that the committee formed to address homelessness has had a number of people sign up. Next meeting is next Wed. about 8 people on committee include board members, Tim, Nick and Glenn. Nick has been a leader and is actively working to get it organized.
- The committee has considered the ways that DCCA can have impact on this huge citywide issue. At this time there is a proposal in front of committee to work out at 12-month online education program (monthly sessions). With three components:
 - Empathy and togetherness: who are the homeless?
 - The system: What is the process?
 - The fiscal challenge – if DC were to take the affordable housing problem seriously, what is the true the financial impact?
- Idea is that the year-long course will be create an outcome where people would be better informed, empowered and in a better place to act (lobby, organize, plan, etc.)
- Lance recommends the ODCA Alice Carter case study as helpful reading on the topic http://zd4l62ki6k620lqb52h9ldm1.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Alice.Carter.Case_.Study_.8.25.20.pdf
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Board Meeting Schedules

- Board decides to move Nov and Dec meeting to avoid holidays. The new dates:
 - November meeting Thursday 19
 - December meeting Thursday 17

*Next meeting, online Thursday September 24
Meeting ends at 8:52*