

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Sept 23, 2021**

**Present:** (via videoconference/phone) Susan Volman, Marcy Logan, Rebecca Martin, Lance Salonia, Joe Caruso, Diane Quinn, Glenn Engelmann, Phil Carney, Charlie Ellis (partial time)

Not Present: Tom Reiter, Nick Manning, Britt Bepler

*Meeting was called to order at 7:03*

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Susan moved to approve the August 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Rebecca, five in favor, Lance abstains.

**President's Report**

- Susan updates that this month's focus on issues specific to 17<sup>th</sup> Street and the Temple which will be discussed in-depth during committee updates.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Lance distributed the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting. Lance reports that the money authorized for withdrawal in May (\$2,100) was not withdrawn from the Fidelity account because he has selected to wait for the market to improve before doing so. Lance requests and Board authorized an additional \$3,000 be withdrawn for a total of \$5,100, to be used toward upcoming operating costs. Lance will withdraw that money when the market improves.

**ABRA Report**

- *Signature Lounge:* Signature Lounge final agreement was circulated to board in advance of meeting. Signature is planning to appeal.
- *Fireplace:* Still have not heard back from lawyer, waiting on response.
- *Duffy's:* Duffy's agreement remains in limbo as parties await ANC Rep. (Daniel Warwick) to act.
- *Butter Me Up:* There has been limited dialogue between Kyle and the owner's attorney; there is an agreement around trash and other things but question around hours remain. The mediation between parties is re-scheduled for next week.
- Susan updates that there may be more to licenses to review but they are in the business district – an area DCCA does not typically get involved in because few residents are directly affected. Glenn also mentioned that Surfside is seeking a liquor license and DCCA will monitor developments.

**Transportation Committee: Update on 17<sup>th</sup> Street Issues:**

- Susan states a significant number of parking spaces have now been taken away without a Notice of Intent (NOI). A second NOI, is required by the regulations if there will be an impact on parking. At the Mobility Meeting, Susan raised this with Michael Porcello, Council Member Mary Cheh's CoS and Director of Committee on Transportation & the Environment.

- Susan recommends DCCA submit a letter to Michael Porcello and Councilmembers Mary Cheh and Brooke Pinto to say it was egregious oversight in not allowing for community input and they were obligated to issue a second NOI and did not.

***MOTION: Susan moves for DCCA to submit a letter about the lack of NOI to the Council. Lance seconds the motion all in favor.***

***ACTION ITEM:*** Susan will share it with Board before sending and will make sure to include it in the next e-blast (10/1).

- The Board discusses the recent letter submitted by DCCA regarding the bike lane. Lance wants the letter retracted because it should have emphasized more strongly that extending the bike lane north is putting the cart before the horse. That is, the lane should not be extended until the problems within the business section are dealt with. After lengthy discussion the Board agrees to submit a letter to clarify its position on the bike lane extension.

***ACTION ITEM:*** Lance will draft a letter of clarification and circulate it to Marcy, Rebecca and Susan for input.

### **Regulatory Committee**

- **Masonic Temple development:** Prior to the board meeting, Susan circulated a recap of work completed since the last meeting.
  - Lance determined that the engineering and environmental reports and documents related to permitting are online. Susan has been exploring these documents and found that Perseus did their due diligence and sent letters to neighbors – and now have signed agreements with them on tiebacks.
  - None of the documents mention the tank removal – which is likely because they are currently digging in a different area (tank is under the carriage house).
  - Both lawyers consulted by DCCA said the only way to determine if there is wrongdoing associated with dewatering, tank, or other issues is to get an engineering firm to review the documents and do an independent assessment. The Board discussed potential neutral assessors.

***ACTION ITEM:*** Marcy will be reaching out to an EPA soil engineer and if available, putting her in touch with Susan.

***ACTION ITEM:*** Susan will look into Georgetown University's environmental division to find out if they can get involved.

- **Input on Historic Preservation Plan:** Lance read it and believes it to be a fluff piece that has no relevance to what they do. He states that there is a little in there that concerns him – and that it is information from five years ago that is already approved and on which they are waiting comments. If they follow their own rules he has no problem with it. He is not suggesting any changes be made. If there are any revisions to the document he will look at it again. He did not hear back from DC Preservation League and reports that

Committee of 100 will not act. He is waiting to hear back from Phyllis Klein about whether Dupont Circle Conservancy is submitting comments.

***ACTION ITEM:*** Susan will reach out to Phyllis. And if there are changes and we need to submit something Susan can share that information with board members by email.

## **Membership Programs**

### **Programming –**

**October** – Charlie has scheduled and confirmed Mendelson for the October meeting.

- DCCA will prep some questions in advance which will be asked in addition to attendee questions.

### **To do for rest of the year (membership meeting programming)**

- In past Board Meetings there was a plan established to invite BID and HDCMS to present at a membership meeting. Susan was working to set up a meeting with Colleen Hawkinson prior to that, so DCCA Board Members could talk with her about the BID's plan and approach. Joe, Tom, and Marcy were to meet with Colleen.
  - Marcy does not want to participate and wants to talk to DC about reducing taxes for retail, auto-repair shops, and others.
  - Lance says BID doesn't represent 17<sup>th</sup> street and only those associated with Connecticut Avenue
    - It is decided that business taxes are outside of DCCA's purview.

***ACTION ITEM:*** The Board agreed that Susan will continue to work with Colleen and Bill on availability and Joe is willing to meet with Colleen along with Tom.

- Topics for upcoming meetings were discussed and Susan asked if any Board Member had ideas or could do outreach to help with scheduling. No board members had contact ideas or volunteered to assist. Topics included:
  - DC Executive agencies (MPD, DDOT, others) – go lighter on elected people this year and heavier on executives.
  - Casey Trees and DC Urban Forestry (combine)
  - Wildlife – what's going on with it?
  - DC Water: wastewater mitigation project status, flooding, water, alleys, etc.
  - Something arts related
  - Rats

***ACTION ITEM:*** Susan and Charlie will continue to work to identify and schedule speakers.

## **Committee and Task Assignments:**

- **HT Committee needs to meet:** Susan circulated the House Tour planning docs to committee members prior to the meeting.

**Other Business**

- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** A brochure was produced for the 75<sup>th</sup> which Susan circulated prior to the meeting to spur ideas or thoughts on the 100<sup>th</sup>.

*Next meeting: October 28*

*Meeting ends at 8:43*