

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 28, 2023**

**Present:** (via videoconference/phone) Susan Volman, Lance Salonia, Rebecca Martin, John Hassell, Ed Hanlon, Justin Thornton, Diane Quinn, Patty Zweibel

Not present: Joe Caruso, Marcy Logan, Susan Valaskovic

*Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.*

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**President's Report**

Susan asked everyone to save the date for the Little Goblins event. It's not absolutely clear it will be at Stead Park or Garrison, but the organizers want it at Stead. October 28. Susan said it's an outreach opportunity and we need DCCA people there. Susan suggested contributing \$750. There was a lengthy debate about whether, why and how much to contribute, and under what circumstances (for example, Diane, suggested whether DCCA could designate use of funds). There was further discussion on this and also a lengthy discussion about the criteria and vetting process for contributions in general. Justin suggested we vote and make a decision. Rebecca and Ed urged Susan to get more information on the \$750.

***Motion:*** Ed moved to commit to contribute \$450 and to get more information to determine if we should instead donate \$750. Diane seconded. All in favor.

Susan's only other items to report were that she continues to make some contacts with realtors for local fundraising, and an announcement about the potential for outreach at an event at October 29 in Mitchell Park. Friends of Mitchell Park is the organizer for the October 29 event. Susan said we need people to handle one or both events for outreach.

**Treasurer's Report**

Lance circulated the financial report before the meeting. He discussed income and expenditures since the prior meeting. There was a discussion about the expense for a CostCo membership. Rebecca said we should be getting the money refunded because Marcy cancelled it—it wound up costing more than would benefit. Lance also reported that WNDC has not yet cashed the check DCCA sent several months ago as a contribution. He spoke with WNDC and they are aware of the check and apparently had planned to cash it, but it has not been cashed to date. He suggested no further follow up.

Lance suggested moving \$2100 from our investment account to checking, to cover Erica's invoice. He asked for a vote.

**Motion:** Rebecca moved to authorize a transfer of \$2100 from the investment account to checking to cover the invoices; John seconded; all in favor.

There was an extended discussion of when to plan and announce the budget to members, and whether just the board or also the membership should approve the budget. The board members exchanged their views. Diane suggested having a budget we can use as a draft in January, and we need to tell the membership how the budget items support the mission of DCCA. Susan Volman said she agreed we should give a budget report once yearly and show members what DCCA funds were spent on, but said the focus when taking the budget to the membership should be to explain the biggest items. For example, she was not sure the membership care about insurance. Diane said the board needs to demonstrate its fiscal oversight to the membership.

This lead to a discussion of whether insurance coverage is needed. Susan suggested Ed and Lance look into this.

**Action item:** Ed and Lance will look into insurance coverage.

### **ABCA**

Susan said there was nothing to report.

### **Programming**

Ed reported that the Program committee drafted a survey and Erica is almost done formatting it to send to the membership about what they would like to have in member meetings.

For the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the Congressional Club, Ed reported that 25 signs and 1000 postcards were delivered today to publicize the meeting. Marcy and he are going to hang 25 signs. He said volunteers would be appreciated, to distribute 1000 postcards. He noted the tour begins at 640 pm, meeting at 7 pm.

For the November meeting the committee has discussed the Chastleton. The subject is 1617 U St and the upzoning. Ed said he believes there is lots of interest and the meeting is likely to draw a large crowd.

Ed said that the program committee thinks that rather than having a speaker, perhaps the board should formulate a resolution to present to the membership, that the membership can debate. There was general agreement.

The board discussed where to hold the December meeting. The Penn Women's Club and Phillips Museum were discussed as possible sites, and what type of program to have. There was no decision.

### **Parks and Garden**

#### **Freedom Park Tree/Stump:**

- Rebecca reported that the stump was removed this very day. The cost was \$200 and DCCA will be invoiced.
- Rebecca said that the Masonic temple will give us some fencing to fix the Freedom park fence.

## **Regulatory**

Susan Volman said there was nothing to report.

## **Ad hoc**

John raised two health and safety issues that he has noticed in his neighborhood, on 19<sup>th</sup> St between S St and Dupont Circle. First, restaurant garbage attracting rats. Second, humans defecating in alleys. He has discussed with his neighbors and has communicated with ANC 2B about these but wanted to know what DCCA could advise.

Regarding the first issue, Lance said that the city makes grant money available to businesses for trash compactors. Susan suggested talking to Bill McCloud of the BID, and Main Streets. She also suggested these might be useful resources for obtaining public rest rooms in the area.

## **Upcoming membership meetings:**

October: Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>

November: Monday, November 6th

## **Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.**

*Next Board Meeting will be – **Thursday October 26th at 7:00 p.m.***