

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting
July 28, 2022**

Present: (via videoconference/phone) Susan Volman, Joe Caruso, Charlie Ellis, Marcy Logan, Rebecca Martin, Nick Manning, Diane Quinn, Tom Reiter, Lance Salonia, Patty Zweibel

Not Present: Justin Thornton

Meeting was called to order at 7:06

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: *Susan moved to approve the May and June Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom, all in favor.*

President's Report

Susan, Marcy, and Lance attended a DDOT outreach meeting on the proposed guidelines for permanent streateries. They expect the final rulemaking to be completed by spring 2023. No action is needed by DCCA at this time. However, we should continue to monitor this issue and opportunities to weigh in on it, most likely through the ANC.

Susan, Lance and Tom attended the ANC mobility committee meeting (Susan is a community member of this committee) where a proposal for protected bike lanes was discussed. This issue was further discussed later in the meeting.

Susan spoke with Bill McLeod about having a DCCA table at the next Dupont Circle Main Streets pop-up, which is on August 27. Bill said Main Streets would be happy to accommodate us.

Susan asked for the board members' opinions on a request from Stonewall Kickball DC soliciting sponsorship. Susan noted that the request seemed geared towards merchants, rather than a request for a grant. She also noted that Stonewall Kickball DC is a 501(c)(3) and thus is eligible to receive a grant. There was a lengthy discussion, and some board members expressed doubt that the sponsorship was a good way to reach the Dupont Circle LGBTQIA+ community. Susan said she could ask Stonewall Kickball DC if instead they would like to apply for a smaller grant, perhaps for a specific joint project.

Susan also said she had recently attended a Dupont Circle Conservancy committee meeting on repairing the police and fire call boxes in Dupont Circle, which was originally a joint project of DCC and DCCA, but for which DCC has primary responsibility. A few years ago, when DCC asked for a DCCA grant for this project we gave them \$2500 and Susan volunteered to help raise other funds. She will continue with this role on the committee, and asked if any board member would like to volunteer to help. Marcy volunteered.

Treasurer's Report

Lance sent the Treasurer's report before the meeting. He briefed the board on income in the past month, and noted that the increase in the value of the Fidelity account was due to market performance. He summarized the past month's expenses, which included Erica's compensation and gardening supplies for the T Street and Freedom parks.

ABRA

Baby Shank and Thaiverse: Susan said that she and Kenlee Ray had attended the ANC meeting to hear what their position was on these licenses. Matthew Holden (2B08) is working on the settlement agreements for Baby Shank, which has agreed to follow SA for Local 16, the former occupant of its space. Meg Roggensack will take over this SA negotiation if it is not completed by July 30, when Matthew leaves the ANC. Jeff Rueckgauer is negotiating the SA for Thaiverse, which has agreed to follow the same restrictions to which former occupant Darlington House had been subject. Both SAs will include the now-standard no-promoters clause. Kenlee, Glenn Engelmann and Susan agreed that these SAs would be acceptable to DCCA and therefore we do not need to protest as well.

Susan also told the board that she had attended a mid-week interagency meeting involving the MPD and other agencies, discussing nightlife hotspots in Dupont Circle (e.g., Club Central, U St.). She said that the MPD reported that it is making some progress in mitigating the problem of ATVs. She noted there were a lot of Dupont Circle residents at the meeting.

Tom asked about Butter Me Up, a new establishment. Susan said that it was her understanding that it received its license and entered into a settlement agreement, but that the proprietor has not acted further to finish opening the establishment.

Parks and Gardens Updates: Rebecca reported that we still do not have a right to entry approval for the irrigation system in the T St park. She said it's in the queue at the Department of General Services and that volunteers are watering and relying on the rain to keep the plants healthy throughout the summer.

Rebecca also reported that the oak tree in Freedom Park is going to be removed by contractors for the city. She said the parks committee will be watching for No Parking signs so that they can protect the other plants from being damaged during the removal. Because the work is being contracted out, we are unlikely to get any advance notice of the removal. There was a discussion about the stump, and whether/how to remove it.

Tom is going to reach out to DDOT, again, about the fence repair.

Rodent Control Academy: Tom reported he attended a two-day Rodent Control Academy. He said most attendees were city workers or professional exterminators. He said that Gerard Brown, a DC employee who is a rat abatement expert, might be willing to come to a member meeting to speak on rat issues. The board agreed to try to get Gerard Brown to speak at a membership meeting.

Transportation: Susan said that the Q and R St protected bike lanes will be brought up at the next ANC meeting, and that at this point the Dupont Circle ANC will likely pass a resolution asking DDOT to study it. Lance suggested that DCCA make a formal resolution or request to the ANC regarding the bike lanes, requesting that DDOT study not how to implement the lanes, but whether they are feasible and how they will impact residents who live on the proposed bike lane route. The board discussed the procedural posture of the proposed bike lanes project, and how prior bike lanes had been implemented (with or sometimes without public input).

Rebecca suggested that we send a letter to DDOT asking for a public meeting on the lanes and for the public stakeholder process to be followed. Nick suggested a targeted survey about the lanes, that could specifically focus on the people who are most impacted by the bike lanes and who live at the addresses along the proposed lanes.

The board exchanged their views of the pros and cons of protected bike lanes. This led to a discussion of potential changes to residential zone parking permits. Tom asked if we could schedule some discussion of zoned parking permits for the next board meeting.

Susan said she did not think there was a need for DCCA to have a position now, but we will need to be proactive going forward. She agreed with Rebecca's suggestion to send a letter asking DDOT to ensure that it has public meetings and that the process for public input is followed. Tom agreed we should wait for the ANC's resolution and if necessary, propose an amendment. Rebecca agreed with Tom's suggestion. All agreed.

Susan then turned to the streateries. Nick suggested having an award for best streattery in Dupont Circle. [After the meeting, Susan got clarification from Nick that he meant for this to be for the existing streateries, since the new ones following the guidelines would not be done until next year, at least]. Susan said that streateries and protected bike lanes may not be able to co-exist on the same block, and that DCCA should stay involved in the process of rulemaking for streateries. The August 12 deadline for comments on the new guidelines is only for comments from restaurants or other affected establishments, so there is no immediate need for any action on DCCA's part.

Regulatory: Susan said that DCCA sent a letter to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Planning and Development opposing the surplus of the Police and Fire station lots at 17th and U Sts NW. DCCA's position is that the property should remain in the hands of the city and that the zoning should remain the same. Susan and Lance will follow up with the Grassroots Planning organization to find out about the legal action they are taking about the upfluming of various properties, including this one, in the Comprehensive Plan.

October Party: The Party Committee reported that they had held a meeting on the previous Tuesday, and the planning was moving along for a party in October.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 pm