

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 22, 2022**

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

*Meeting was called to order at 7:04*

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**President's Report**

Susan reported on DCCA's participation in the Dupont Circle Main Streets August 27 pop-up. She said it was a good event and thanked Rebecca, Marcy and Charlie for participating. Some new members were recruited and contacts made with a condo board president and the President of the Woman's National Democratic Club.

Susan next raised a request that came via the Logan Circle Citizens Association for \$750 to support the Little Goblins Parade, a Halloween event for local children and families. Susan said the parade organizer (Joelle Myers) explained that the event had lost corporate sponsors during the pandemic. The board debated. Some board members felt that it would be a poor use of DCCA funds and/or were concerned about spending DCCA funds while the markets are in a slump. Other board members felt that the event would be a good way for DCCA to show support for local families, and pointed out that DCCA does not usually engage in child-oriented activities. Diane said that the event is well-attended and there would be good exposure for DCCA.

**MOTION:** *Susan moved to approve a contribution of \$750 to the parade organizer for the Little Goblins event, and Rebecca seconded; the motion carried 7 to 3 (with one member not present at this time).*

After the vote, Susan mentioned that volunteers would be needed for a DCCA table at the event.

**Action item:** **Susan to circulate request for volunteers closer to the event.**

Susan next asked the board for their views on holding a candidate forum for the DC at-large candidates, which she had been discussing with LCCA and the Woman's National Democratic Club. The board discussed whether a local candidates forum was needed, given that the Ward 2 Council seat is not up for election. The consensus was that there are plenty of other avenues for Dupont Circle residents to learn about the At-Large Council and other candidates up for election this year, but that DCCA should get information to the membership informing them of the election and the candidates.

**Action item: Include links to other community organization (or government-sponsored) candidate forums in the E-blast.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lance sent the Treasurer's report before the meeting. He briefed the board on the past month's income and expenses, both of which were minimal. He also noted that although at the August board meeting the board authorized him to move up to \$5,100 from the investment account to the spending account, to date he had only moved \$2,100. He said anticipated upcoming expenses include Erica's quarterly payment for administrative services.

### **Discussion of ANC procedures**

The next item was how to respond to ANC 2B's last public Zoom meeting, at which a participant who attempted to speak during the meeting was muted. Susan described to the board what had happened (essentially, ANC 2B will only take up items on the published agenda, and if a participant wants to discuss non-agenda items, the ANC will raise a point of order under Robert's Rules of Order to mute the participant and move to the next item on the agenda). Susan also said that discussions are going on across the city about procedures for on-line public meetings, to make them more congruent with in-person meetings, and these will be discussed at the next ANC 2B meeting. Lance said he thought the ANC's action at the meeting was censorship. There was an informal voice vote and the board majority agreed that no DCCA action or response is needed at this time.

### **Social Activities, Campaigns, Fund-Raising Ideas**

**Happy Hours:** Justin described his ideas for happy hours in the neighborhood to draw new members, and asked for the board's input on places, events, times. The board discussed whether to do ticketed events or open events, where to hold events, how to publicize, and whether profits would be shared.

**Action item: Justin and Marcy will coordinate on this.**

**Stretery contest:** Nick had circulated a draft prior to the meeting. The board discussed and agreed it would be good to include a survey to members on their favorite streateries, and that per Nick's suggestion, an expert panel make the final selections.

**Action item: Nick to revise stretery contest proposal and recirculate; Nick, Tom and Susan will work on this.**

**Rat campaign:** Tom reported on having attended a rat SMD meeting. The board discussed different ways to get information about rat abatement to members, whether at meetings, e-blast, or through events/walkarounds in different neighborhoods. No consensus on action items.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary brochure:** Nick reported that it has been harder to get a local historian to draft the text than we had anticipated, although he has a few leads. Diane had some suggestions

of people she thought would be interested in drafting. Nick also circulated a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the brochure. There was also a debate over whether to try to finance the brochure with DCCA funds or whether it would be possible to get local businesses to finance through ads. Diane suggested that local churches would also be a good source of congratulatory ads. The board shared their ideas on content for the brochure.

**Action item:** Diane to forward TOR to her contacts. Nick to finalize TOR.

**MOTION:** Susan moved to authorize up to \$2,000 for the brochure, less what is raised through other channels. Rebecca seconded, all in favor.

**Phillips event:** Susan had not followed up with Phillips yet regarding a potential social hour (as described in the August minutes). She suggested it might be better to have an online event during the winter, than try for an in-person event during the fall to accommodate those DCCA members who find it hard to attend our in-person meetings.

**Action item:** Susan to reach out to Phillips to discuss event.

**House Tour Book:** Nothing to report.

**Action item:** See minutes from August 25, 2022 meeting.

**Shredding event:** Susan said a member had asked her whether there were any shredding events scheduled in Dupont and pointed her to a shredding event sponsored by the Palisades Village, where residents could bring paper that should be shredded to a central and easy-to-reach location. The board discussed logistical issues, potential sites in Dupont Circle, and whether it should be a fundraiser (informal consensus was no).

**Action item:** Susan will find out more about shredding companies, such as cost and other logistical details and ask the Dupont Circle Village about co-sponsoring.

## **ABRA**

Susan said the status of Momo is the same as it was at the August 25, 2022 board meeting, and that ANC2B04 Chris Davis was working on a Settlement Agreement that should be adequate. Regarding Signature Lounge, Glenn reported that it has not operated fully in accordance with the limits imposed on it by ABRA, particularly regarding noise. There is also some concern that operators on the northern side of Connecticut Avenue may act in concert to push/exceed limits imposed on them by ABRA.

**Action item:** At this point, we should keep an eye on this and see what ABRA does in response to Signature's actions. We may eventually have to write a letter.

**October 3 DCCA membership meeting:** This will be at the Chastleton. The board discussed logistics and venue requirements.

***Action items:***

- **Charlie will send the Chastleton agreement to Susan and Lance.**
- **Several volunteers needed to arrive at 7 pm to help set up the room and to man the door.**
- **Susan and Marcy will coordinate on refreshments.**
- **Marcy and Charlie will work on program speakers for future membership meetings.**

**Parks and Gardens:** Rebecca said there has been no word from the Department of General Services on our right of entry permit. She said she thinks as soon as get the permit we should put the irrigation system in, without waiting for spring. She also said the parks have new fall plantings. Tom still has not gotten a response from the city regarding the fence.

**Transportation and Infrastructure:**

- (1) The board discussed the draft letter to DDOT that Tom circulated prior to the meeting. The letter reminds DDOT that it is obligated to engage stakeholders and the community prior to deciding whether to install protected bike lanes on Q and R street, and that DDOT is required to conduct studies and planning prior to such decision.

***Action item:* Board unanimous that DCCA should send the letter.**

- (2) Susan noted that the City Council Transportation Committee will have a public meeting on October 28 about Residential Parking Permit zones. She said there is currently a bill in the Council that would limit zones to the resident's ANC, rather than the resident's ward. ANC 2B's Mobility Committee unanimously voted against supporting the bill, given that during this year's Ward and ANC redistricting, residents were promised that there would be no change to residential parking. Tom suggesting making sure our members know about the October 28 meeting.

***Action item:* Include notice of the October 28 Transportation Committee meeting in upcoming E-blasts.**

**Regulatory, 17<sup>th</sup> and U St building:** The board discussed the potential surplus of the Police and Fire station lots at 17<sup>th</sup> and U Sts NW, and potential upzoning. DCCA's position is that the property should remain in the hands of the city and that the zoning should remain the same, and had sent a letter to the city saying that. The board discussed a lawsuit filed by the Grassroots Planning Organization, and that it appears, from recent public comments made by a Councilperson, that the city may have already decided against surplus of the property. However, this doesn't answer the zoning question.

***Action item:* Lance will follow up with the city to find out about the status of the lot and whether the city has decided to keep it.**

***Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 pm***