

16th Street Neighborhood Association
Final Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2016

The 16th Street Neighborhood Association (SSNA) meeting at Simpson-Hamline Church was attended by 14 neighbors. Including the Association's Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Old Business:

- The minutes from the March meeting were approved by attendees with no changes.
- Since the March meeting, the city government has extended the subsidy for outdoor security cameras to our PSA. Details on the program is included in our Spring Newsletter. Because the available funds are limited, we urge interested neighbors to obtain this subsidy soon. You can call 202-727-5124 to obtain more information.
- Easter Egg Hunt - This event at Upshur Park, organized by the 16th Street Neighborhood Association and co-sponsored by Friends of 16th Street Heights Parks, and D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, was a success, despite rainy weather. More than one hundred children and their parents participated. We ran three separate hunts for plastic eggs filled with candy on the hillside between the two children's playgrounds. About 1,000 eggs were distributed to the children and arts & craft activities were conducted in the nearby recreation building. Thanks to the neighbors who filled the plastic eggs and donated candy!

Identification of Neighborhood Traffic Problems

Jack described the recent walk-through of our neighborhood by Councilman Todd, Fourth District MPD Commander Manlapaz, two DDOT (DC's Department of Transportation) representative, Jack (SSNA Chair), Elisa (ANC 4C03 and a member of the SSNA executive committee), CAUFS (Community Alliance for Upper Fourteenth Street), and CBENA (Carter Baron East Neighborhood Association). The neighbors pointed out streets and intersections that create dangerous conditions including Emerson Street NW, which has become congested with cars during rush hours,¹ the intersection at 16th Street and Buchanan Street NW², which is used by many pedestrians, and the intersection at 14th and Allison Streets NW, which has visibility problems impacting drivers and pedestrians.³

The walk-through is the first step in finding a solution for the above traffic problems. DDOT promised to look into possible resolutions for these problems. The association will follow-up with DDOT on their conclusions and report back to you.

Crime Report

¹ A popular APP recommends routing east-west through the city using this neighborhood street.

² The issue discussed was how to slow traffic on 16th Street at this intersection.

³³ Since the beginning of the year, there have been at least 5 car accidents reported at this intersection.

- Carrie reported on a burglary occurring during the day on March 29th in the 1500 block of Buchanan St. NW. The burglar entered the home through a second floor window using a garbage can. The owner was sleeping in the home at the time and was not injured. MPD is investigating this burglary.
- MPD's Lieutenant Figueras will attend the next meeting of the association (May 3, 2016) to answer our questions about safety and crime in the neighborhood. We invite neighbors to attend.

Treasurer's Report and Annual Dues

Susie provided us with our first Treasurer's Report since the restart of the Association. A checking and savings account has been opened on behalf of the Association at Andrews Federal Credit Union at 5935 Georgia Ave. N.W. Most of the deposited amount of \$2,122.55 are funds reclaimed (\$1922.55) from the District of Columbia Treasurer, which received the account balance from our last bank account when the association became inactive. The remaining funds are dues (\$30/household) paid recently by executive board members. Jack announced that with the reinstatement of the Association with DCRA and the establishment of a banking account, the Association is now collecting dues for 2016. As a reminder, the association requests that each household support the association by paying household dues of \$30 (Bylaw Amount). You can submit your dues to Susie directly at 1501 Varnum Street N.W. (You can drop off your dues in her mailbox slot). When paying your dues, please include your name and address. Checks should be written to 16th Street Neighborhood Association. We appreciate your support!

Upcoming Social Events

Jack reviewed association plans for neighborhood social events in the upcoming months. The proposed schedule of events was discussed at the February meeting. The discussion at April's meeting was to choose possible dates for the events. These events include the summer block party, possibly a summer pool party at Upshur Park, an outdoor movie night, and the Halloween block party (October scheduling). Additionally, we will be holding Happy Hours at Red Derby from time to time (watch the listserv for dates on Happy Hours). Proposals for a Saturday pool party are June 18th or June 25th.

The proposal for a summer block party was Saturday, August 27th. There was discussion on changing the location of the block party in order to engage more neighbors in association social activities. (Last year the party was on the 4300 block of 15th St. NW which has finally been nicely paved by the city!)

The logistics of organizing a movie night during the summer were discussed. Ideas on location included street locations (Crittendon at 14th Street NW and Varnum at 15th Street NW), Upshur Park, Kingsbury School grounds, Mosaic Church, and Simpson-Hamline grounds. (Note that we have not proposed this with anyone yet.) Our neighbor and D.C. Parks employee John Stokes, graciously offered to check with D.C. Parks and Recreation on possible sponsoring the night if an appropriate city-owned property can be identified and the date is available with D.C. Parks and Recreation. Jack has identified a company that provides the technical equipment to show an outdoor film. We hope to identify a film that appeals to children and adults.

Our budget projection for the 2016 events, newsletter costs, developing and hosting a web-site, and miscellaneous costs (mailing, paper, copying, etc.) is \$6,750. We are asking neighbors to contribute dues of \$30 per household to cover these expenses.

Revision of Association ByLaws

The next step in restarting the 16th Street Neighborhood Association is conducting a review and revision of our bylaws. The existing bylaws have some provisions that may need updating, such as meeting notice requirements, dues and other provisions. We have established a committee to review and develop recommendations for revisions to the bylaws. Members of the review committee are Jack Campbell (SSNA Chair), Carrie Beaudreau (SSNA Vice-Chair), Helen Davis (past SSNA Officer) and Nathan Stokes. This committee will present its recommendations to the executive committee, before presenting its final recommendations to the membership.

14th Street Clean-up

On Saturday, April 16, ANC 4C03 (Elisa Irwin) is organizing a 14th Street commercial zone clean-up. The SSNA, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and CBENA are co-sponsoring. Alpha Kappa Alpha will provide a paper shredder, which neighbors may use to destroy sensitive/confidential documents. The clean-up will focus on trash pick-up and replanting and weeding the tree-boxes along 14th Street. Nearby neighbors are strongly encouraged to participate. **UPDATE: Because of logistic complications the 14th Street Clean-up has been postponed. A new date has not yet been selected but will be communicated as soon as possible.**

City Budget Hearings

The city council is conducting public budget hearings for each city agency on the Mayor's proposals. At the beginning of each hearing, citizens have an opportunity to share their ideas on agency activities that need more funding and, generally, on how agencies can improve their performance in the next fiscal year. Michelle Blackwell, constituent service staffer for Councilman Todd, encouraged neighbors to participate in these hearings, particularly the hearing for the Department of Transportation (DDOT), which is responsible for public safety and city infrastructure.

The Mayor's budget proposals for Ward 4 include doubling the budget for alley repairs, continuing to budget a good amount of money for street repairs, doubling the budget for modernizing West Elementary, increasing the budget for Coolidge and budgeting money for projects in the area of Walter Reed. Michele described a feasibility study (Urban Woods) sponsored by DDOT relating to tree removal. The study will consider how the valuable wood from older trees that are cut-down by the city can be resold for furniture-making and other more valuable recycling alternatives to woodchips, the current recycling method.

Neighborhood Zoning Issues

Cecelia and another neighbor plan to testify at the budget hearing for the Office of Planning on April 6th. Councilman Mendelson requested that some citizens concerned about zoning regulations relating to popups/popbacks participate in the budget hearing. Cecelia plans to raise concerns about the recent 14-11 amendments, which are limited and may have significant loopholes, the slowness in BZA's process for writing opinions on zoning appeals, and the need for strong advocacy of neighbors' property

rights and concerns at special exception hearings. Essentially, the Zoning Commission's solution to egregious popups/popbacks is to move the zoning decision to BZA and special exception hearings. We will keep you posted on conversions in our neighborhood.

Cecelia Waldeck
Secretary