

**Neighborhood Association  
Meeting Minutes  
October 6, 2015**

The meeting at Simpson-Hamline Church was well-attended with about 33 neighbors. The main event at the meeting was the election of officers followed by a discussion of whether the association should reinstate its non-profit status with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs ("DCRA"). Elisa Irwin, the Vice-Chair and our ANC4C representative, called for nominations and conducted the election proceedings. The following neighbors were nominated to run for the following positions on the Executive Committee:

- Jack Campbell for Chair;
- Carrie Beaudreau for Vice-Chair;
- Cecelia Waldeck for Secretary; and
- Susie King for Treasurer.

No one else was nominated. The above neighbors were elected by secret ballot after accepting their nomination and making remarks on their qualifications.

Until about four years ago, when the association became inactive, the association was registered as a non-profit with DCRA and routinely filed bi-annual reports to maintain this status. DCRA revoked the association's status after it stopped filing these reports. The ballots at the meeting included a resolution for reinstating the association with DCRA. Because many neighbors wanted more information about the pros and cons of this resolution, a motion was passed to table voting on the resolution.

Some active members want to reinstate the association's non-profit status because city agencies are likely to give our requests more weight if we are a registered non-profit neighborhood association. However, there is no legal requirement that we register with DCRA and we can continue to function as an informal association of neighbors. The newly elected Executive Committee plans to study the pros and cons of registering as a non-profit association with DCRA and report its conclusions to the membership.

Cecelia reminded neighbors of the following neighborhood events in October:

- Neighborhood Watch Training by MPD trainer. This training instructs attendees on practical measures they can take to protect themselves and their properties from criminal activity. This training was recommended to us as a first step in improving the safety of our neighborhood. The training is on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at 7 PM, at Simpson-Hamline School Cafeteria.
- The local civic association is having a Community Soup event on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, from 6-8 PM. This is a fun event where dinner from Highlands and other nearby restaurants is provided for a donation of \$5. It is a great way to meet nearby neighbors. The Soup will be held at 4411-14<sup>th</sup> St. NW.

- Halloween Block Party on (1500) Buchanan Street on Saturday, October 31, 2015, from 6-8 PM. This is a family event with activities for children. There will be prizes for best costume.

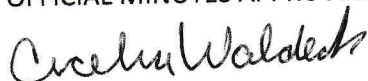
The association is planning several other Fall projects in the neighborhood including a night-time walk-through the neighborhood to identify unsafe conditions that could be improved by the city or neighbors (e.g., better lighting). Additionally, we plan to coordinate with other nearby neighborhood organizations an event for cleaning-up 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Neighbors interested in organizing these projects should contact Jack or Cecelia ([cwald4517@gmail.com](mailto:cwald4517@gmail.com)).

Neighbors brought up several concerns at the meeting:

- A neighbor expressed substantial concern over the recent BZA vote to allow the conversion of a row home on Varum Street into a seven-unit apartment building. He requested that the association and Councilman Todd undertake efforts to pressure the Zoning Commission to overturn this BZA vote.
- A neighbor on 16<sup>th</sup> Street asked whether there are any city services or solutions for financing an expensive repair of his retaining wall which has been damaged from the the steady traffic on 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
- A neighbor asked whether the city can add more safety features for the crosswalk at 16th and Buchanan Streets. Many pedestrians cross 16<sup>th</sup> Street at this corner and on-coming traffic frequently does not slow down for them.
- A neighbor expressed concern over whether the requirements in the bylaws are sufficient to safeguard dues and other money collected and distributed by the Treasurer of the association. A past Treasurer for the association said that the practice is to have the Treasurer and another elected officer sign each check issued by the association. Jack promised that the Executive Committee will review the bylaws for any deficiencies and make recommendations to the membership for any changes.
- Elisa Irwin described the circumstances that led to the closing of the association's bank account after it became inactive. The funds in the account were sent by the bank to a D.C. agency and we may be able to claim these funds.

The next association meeting will be on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 7:15 PM at Simpson-Hamline Church.

OFFICIAL MINUTES APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 3, 2015 MEETING.



Cecelia Waldeck  
Secretary