

16th St. Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2016

The meeting at Simpson-Hamline School Cafeteria was attended by about 17 neighbors.

Old Business:

Jack reported on the August block party and membership drive. The block party was well-attended by adults and children who live in the neighborhood. Seven households became members at the block party and ten others pledged to become members. Jack and Susie will follow up with the pledged members to collect their dues. With these new and pledged members, we still need to recruit about forty new household members to meet the membership drive goal of one hundred households. This number is needed to financially support the association's events and other expenses (*e.g.*, web-site, newsletters, meeting notices, etc.).

Treasurer Report: Susie reported on the current balance of \$2,971.05, as of August 31, 2016, in the association's checking and savings account. During August, dues totaling \$210 for seven households was deposited and Susie issued checks totaling \$402.42 to Jack and other members, who purchased food and other items for the summer pool party and movie night at Upshur Park.

Susie described the procedures in place for payment of association expenses. Officers and other members purchasing food and other items used at association events must document the expenditure and provide the related receipts to Susie before she will issue a reimbursement check from the association's checking account.

Susie also described recent September financial transactions, including a deposit of additional membership dues (\$245) and additional expenditures related to the summer block party, our new website, the summer newsletter and flyers (\$1,067.64).

New Business:

DDOT's Rock Creek East Livability Study: Cecelia shared an overview of the draft recommendations for our neighborhood, which include curb extensions on Arkansas Ave. NW from 16th Street to Georgia Ave. NW. These curb extensions will slow down traffic and limit right turns at some intersections. DDOT claims that this change is needed to protect pedestrians from speeding vehicles. Additionally, the recommendations include a bicycle boulevard on Upshur St. NW, from Blagden to Georgia Ave. NW, and a contraflow bike lane on Buchanan St. NW, from 14th St. to Georgia Ave. NW.

Cecelia noted that the traffic on Upshur St. NW is near the limit for adding a bicycle boulevard and urged concerned neighbors to attend DDOT's Public Workshop on these recommendations, scheduled for September 8, 2016 at the Petworth Library. Although the initial traffic change is simply painting bike lanes on Upshur St., DDOT may add further changes if conditions on Upshur are otherwise unsafe for bikers.

Fall Event Discussion: Jack led a discussion on whether the association should hold a Fall social event. Last year, the association sponsored a Halloween party on Buchanan St. NW. Because, this year, the association has already sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt, a summer pool party, a summer movie night and the block party, it may be financially prudent for us to forego a costly fifth social event. There was some discussion of less costly fall event ideas, including a potluck and Halloween Home Decorating Competition. However, no conclusion on holding a fall event was reached.

Whitley from Councilmember Todd's Office: Whitley provided us with updates on events sponsored by the Mayor and Councilmember Todd.

Jasmine from Mayor Bowser's Office: Jasmine , who is the Ward 4 liaison for Mayor Bowser, shared information on the Mayor's security camera reimbursement program. (Note that details can be found in our summer newsletter.) Jasmine also described a meeting with DPW on litter and clean-up issues in the neighborhood. There is a plan to knock on residents' doors along 14th St. NW and other neighborhood streets with litter problems to inform residents of their responsibilities for maintaining the cleanliness of tree boxes and the curb area in front of their homes. DPW has the authority to issue tickets to homeowners who do not keep these areas litter-free.

1521 Varnum St. NW: Cecelia provided an update on the status of the zoning and building permit cases for this residence. The owner was not successful in appealing the decision of the Office of Administrative Hearings which affirmed DCRA's decision to revoke the building permit for a seven unit apartment building.