

16th St. Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2016

About 17 neighbors attended the meeting, along with five DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) employees and Whitley O'Neal from Councilman Todd's office.

Old Business:

The minutes from the June meeting will be approved at the September meeting because paper copies were not available for review.

Susie gave the Treasurer's Report on the association's finances. Since the last report, additional neighbors have paid their 2016 dues and, as of July 31, 2016, 33 households are paid-members of the association. Andrews Federal Credit Union has generously donated \$500 to the association. In June, the association donated \$200 to Simpson-Hamline Church, the location of our monthly meetings. At the end of July 2016, the total balance in the savings and checking accounts was \$3,212.27.

Jack shared that our 2016 goal is to obtain dues from 100 households in our footprint. Households interested in paying their dues should write a check for \$30 to 16th Street Neighborhood Association and mail or drop it off at 1502 Varnum Street NW.

New Business:

Jack announced that the launching of the association's web-site at www.ssna-dc.org. This website allows you to join the Listserv, review newsletters and meeting minutes, and obtain information on the association and its events. You can also access the association's Facebook page, now operational, from the website. The executive committee is very grateful for Jack's leadership and efforts in giving the association an on-line presence.

Carrie is organizing the neighborhood block party, scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 2016. Neighbors who can help with this annual event should contact Carrie (carriellenc@gmail.com).

The meeting was devoted to presentations by DDOT employees and a discussion with them of neighborhood needs.

- The new director of DDOT, appointed by Mayor Bowser 18 months ago, is Leif Dormsjo. His key priority is reducing traffic-related fatalities to zero. Under his direction, DDOT has improved the safety around schools and improved street infrastructure safety. There are still fatalities, some related to speeding and drunk driving. Last year, at this

time, there had been 15 fatalities in D.C. This year, for the same time-period, there have been only 3 fatalities.

- DDOT's safety efforts include traffic engineering changes, public safety education, and traffic rule enforcement through speed cameras. It evaluates and seeks resolutions for safety hazards involving vehicles, bikers, and pedestrians.
 - DDOT responds to traffic-related service requests filed by citizens. Currently, there is a backlog of these requests and DDOT is trying to improve its response times. Some requests result in projects that can take DDOT many years to complete.
- Emily Dalphy of DDOT is responsible for improving traffic safety in our neighborhood. She participated in the walk-through of the neighborhood this Spring with Jack, representing the Association, Councilman Todd and other neighbors. The safety problems identified at that time included increased traffic and speeding cars on Emerson Street NW (the WAZE app recommends using Emerson to cross our neighborhood); the cross-walk on 16th St. NW at Buchanan St. NW; and lack of visibility when turning from Allison St. NW onto 14th St. NW. Before recommending resolutions to these problems, Ms. Dalphy wants to conduct a four month study of traffic in the neighborhood (*i.e.*, Upshur to Delafield NW and Arkansas to 16th Street NW). Her study began in July and should end sometime in November 2016.
 - A neighbor living on the 1400 block of Crittendon St. NW requested more immediate changes to signage on her street, specifically, updating the one-way signage and stop signs, and moving the no parking signs so that they are consistent on both sides of the street.
 - A neighbor living on the 1400 block of Buchanan St. NW requested that a speed bump is added to the street to slow down speeding traffic.
 - Ms. Dalphy promised to address the signage problems on Crittendon St. NW as soon as possible.
- Ted Van Houten of DDOT is conducting a Livability Study for the neighborhoods east of Rock Creek Park to improve storm-water drainage, street green space, pedestrian safety and travel by bike. His team has draft recommendations for changes to the sidewalk, street curbs, street, parking places, and sewer drainage. He mentioned that the recommendations for Arkansas St. NW may result in the loss of some parking spaces. Currently, he and DDOT are seeking community comment on these recommendations on their website – www.rockcreekeast2.com/draft-recommendations and at the local Farmers Markets (14th and Kennedy St. NW and 9th and Upshur Street NW) on Saturday, August 13, 2016, from 9 am to 1 pm. We encourage interested neighbors to comment before September 8, 2016, when the recommendations are finalized.

- One neighbor expressed concern that DDOT has not directly solicited input from the nearby churches about recommended changes that can impact them.
- Several neighbors requested that, before it finalizes its recommendations, DDOT consider community needs relating to density and the usage of nearby buildings, as well as the street plan created by the Office of Planning for 14th Street NW. It was not clear from the presentation whether DDOT consulted with Office of Planning, the Zoning Commission or other city agencies involved in community planning about its recommendations.
- Spring Worth of DDOT discussed the final plans for the Bus Project on 16th Street NW. The goal of this project, which began some time ago, is to improve the bus service on 16th Street NW by eliminating the bunching of buses and lowering bus route times. One of the final plans is to create a designated bus lane on 16th St. NW, between Arkansas and H Streets NW, that will operate during rush hour. This type of designated bus lane is already in place on Georgia Avenue near Howard University. Additionally, there will be improvements to the bus stops, including better access to buses for disabled citizens.
- A DDOT employee, who is working with the National Park Service on the Beach Drive Reconstruction Project, provided an overview of this project, which may divert more rush hour traffic into our neighborhood. (It will also limit access out of the neighborhood via Beach Drive for months at a time.) The construction, which begins after Labor Day, is organized into four phases, each lasting 6-8 months. The first phase covers Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to Tilden St. NW; the second phase is Tilden St. NW to Broad Branch Rd; the third phase is Broad Branch Rd. to Joyce Rd.; and the fourth phase is Joyce Rd. to DC/MD border. Neighbors can get more details at www.nps.gov/rocr/. Additionally, there is a public information meeting on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 6:30 PM at Petworth Neighborhood Library (4200 Kansas Ave. NW).
 - DDOT will place signage boards to inform drivers of detours around the construction.
 - DDOT has modeled the likely traffic diversions into our neighborhood from the construction but will actively monitor traffic diversions once the project begins.
 - The project includes repair of the Rock Creek Trail (*i.e.*, the paved bike trail). These repairs will be made in conjunction with the nearby roadway.

The meeting ended with Lieutenant Figueras of Precinct 4D who shared an update on neighborhood crime. (Note that he attends our membership meetings every other month and welcomes questions or information from neighbors on crime or policing activities.) He reported a 50% reduction in crime in the last month relative to the same period last year. Specifically, there were 2 robberies and 2 burglaries in July. Additionally, MPD issued 700 traffic citations.

- A neighbor asked what can MPD and DDOT do to enforce the speeding limits on those WAMATA bus drivers who speed through the neighborhood to the bus barn.
- Lieutenant Figueras recommended that you call 911 to get an officer quickly as the officer must personally observe the speeding vehicle before issuing a citation. He also shared that MPD is not issuing many traffic citations during the rush hour.
- A neighbor shared concerns about possible drug dealing in the neighborhood.