

Monday, 01/25/2021

**Bloomingdale Civic Association meeting**

Virtual meeting via Zoom during the public health emergency

BCA board members in attendance: Teri Janine Quinn, Jennifer McCann, Sherry Howard, Paul Cerruti, Robert Brannum, Jacob Parker, Joe Levesque, Bertha Holliday, Eric Woods, Pat Mitchell, Scott Roberts

42 people attended.

The meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

**Public safety**

MPD 3D Captain David Augustine reported a juvenile who was shot back in December 2020. He described an unarmed carjacking on the 1800 block of 1st St NW. MPD has reached out to the food delivery services and ask them to lock their vehicles during deliveries. About 15 firearms have been recovered in 3D recently. He said that he was proud of MPD who helped resolve the Jan 6th US Capitol riot. Mr. Brannum thanked MPD for its rapid response to a recent home break-in. Mr. Bediz reported on a juvenile who has been active in stealing delivery cars on his block and nearby.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The BCA Treasurer’s Report was displayed. Ms. Howard provided an overview.

Here are a few highlights:

* Developer Folger Pratt donated $3000 for the BCA scholarship program with the Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha matching that donation.
* $500 annual BCA donation to St. George’s Episcopal Church + $350 Thanksgiving Rally donation.

**50 Adams Street NW HPRB**

Property owner Errin Green shared her plans to construct a small roof deck on the rear of the house plus a second story on a single-story existing garage.

Here is the HPRB case brief description: “HPA 21-129, concept/add rear stair and roof deck to house; add second story to one-story garage”. This case is scheduled to go before the HPRB on Thursday, 01/28/2021.

Ms. Green displayed a few architectural renderings. She indicated that her abutting neighbors have been kept abreast of her plans. Ms. Quinn raised a question about the reason for the project to have been advanced to the HPRB.

A motion was made and seconded to support the project. A friendly amendment was made: “The Bloomingdale Civic Association expresses it concerns the applicant has been unduly burdened by prolong filings to HPRB and financial expenses relating to this new Bloomingdale Historic District designation process. During the HPRB community information outreach , HPRB offered assurance the improvements as presented by the applicant would not be subject to high level scrutiny be HPRB. It would be helpful if HPRB offered written agency guidance to Bloomingdale residents to assist future similar home modifications/improvements.”

The motion passed 23 votes in support and 0 in opposition.

**North Capitol Redesign Concept Study in DC FY2022 budget**

Ms. Quinn reviewed the letter as shared by Eckington resident Nick Sementelli. Mr. Sementelli asked for a study – with hosting forums and not taking a hard policy position.

Ms. Quinn said that Bloomingdale may not wish to sign on to bullet point in the letter advocating filling in the North Capitol Street underpasses.

Dr. Holliday said that the DC budget may be 25% lower due to the pandemic, so any money allocated for the North Capitol Street deck over project is unlikely.

Neighbor Lester Perrin does not want vehicular traffic on the unit block of Randolph Place NW.

Dr. Holliday suggested a separate letter that would address Bloomingdale neighborhood concerns, rather than signing Mr. Sementelli’s letter.

A motion was made and seconded to sign on to the North Capitol Redesign Concept Study letter, with an edit of removing the filling of the North Capitol Street underpass and make cosmetic changes elsewhere – who the letter is from (the BCA), removal of the existing signature lines at the bottom of the letter. The motion failed with 2 votes in support, 15 in opposition.

A motion was made and seconded requesting that the BCA board draft a letter to address traffic concerns and design concepts for North Capitol Street and Bloomingdale and present the letter to the BCA members to consider at the Monday, 02/22/2021, BCA meeting.  23 votes in support, 1 vote in opposition.  The motion carried.

**Community representatives**

Malcolm Fox, the new Communications Manager working for Ward 5 CM McDuffie, introduced himself. His Email address is mfox@dccouncil.us. He provided updates on a number of broad topics.

ANC5E07 Commissioner Holliday advised that she received about 12 letters opposing the removal of the flexiposts at 1st & R St NW. She noted that ANC5E voted in suppport on a letter presented by ANC5E06 Lewis, excepting the removal of the 1st & R St NW flexiposts.

**Community concerns**

Mr. Levesque briefly advisd that the Bloomingdale Historic District had been added to the list of DC historic districts eligible to participate in the HPO historic homeowner grant program administered by HPO’s Brendan Meyer.

Dennis Comer, who purchased 107 Rhode Island Avenue NW back in 2008, briefly described issues with ongoing litigation. He spoke with enthusiasm about the rich African American history of the house. He advised that there is a jury trial scheduled in August 2021.

The meeting ended at 9:07 pm.

**Motion summary**

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| **Motion #** | **Motion** | **Results of motion** |
| 1 | A motion was made and seconded to support the 50 Adams Street NW project going before the HPPRB: “HPA 21-129, concept/add rear stair and roof deck to house; add second story to one-story garage” A friendly amendment was made: “The Bloomingdale Civic Association expresses it concerns the applicant has been unduly burdened by prolong filings to HPRB and financial expenses relating to this new Bloomingdale Historic District designation process. During the HPRB community information outreach , HPRB offered assurance the improvements as presented by the applicant would not be subject to high level scrutiny be HPRB. It would be helpful if HPRB offered written agency guidance to Bloomingdale residents to assist future similar home modifications/improvements.”The motion passed 23 votes in support and 0 in opposition.  | Motion passed. |
| 2 | A motion was made and seconded to sign on to the North Capitol Redesign Concept Study letter, with an edit of removing the filling of the North Capitol Street underpass and make cosmetic changes elsewhere – who the letter is from (the BCA), removal of the existing signature lines at the bottom of the letter. The motion failed -- 2 votes in support and 15 in opposition. . | Motion failed. |
| 3 | A motion was made and seconded requesting that the BCA board draft a letter to address traffic concerns and design concepts for North Capitol Street and Bloomingdale and present the letter to the BCA members to consider at the Monday, 02/22/2021, BCA meeting.  The motion passed 23 votes in support and 1 vote in opposition.   | Motion passed. |

Here is the draft North Capitol Redesign Concept Study text:

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| --- | --- |
| Mayor Muriel Bowser1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NWWashington, DC 20004 | Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20004 |
| Councilmember Charles Allen1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NWWashington, DC 20004 | Councilmember Mary Cheh1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NWWashington, DC 20004 |
| Interim Director Everett LottDistrict Department of Transportation55 M Street, SE, Suite 400Washington, DC 20003 | Director Andrew TruebloodOffice of Planning1100 4th Street, SW, Suite 650 EastWashington, DC 20024 |

February XX, 2021

Mayor Bowser, Councilmember McDuffie, Councilmember Allen, Councilmember Cheh, Interim Director Lott, and Director Trueblood:

We, the undersigned Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, community associations, churches, business and individuals, are writing to ask you to fund a concept study for the redesign of North Capitol Street between Massachusetts and Michigan Avenues in the FY 2022 budget. The current design of this corridor falls far short of its historic status and enormous potential and fails to meet the Mayor’s commitment to Vision Zero. North Capitol Street is unsafe, it divides adjacent communities, and it is hostile to the economic and cultural vitality of the mid city.

In the coming decade, the North Capitol Street corridor will be crucial to the city’s growth and sustained affordability. The adjacent neighborhoods of NoMa, Bloomingdale, Stronghold, Eckington, and Mount Vernon Triangle are thriving, and thanks to your leadership, private and public development will add thousands of market rate and affordable housing units as well as new retail to Northwest One, the McMillan Reservation, and other locations along the North Capitol corridor. We believe that the District should begin planning now for a North Capitol Street that will provide a safe way for these new residents to get to and from their homes as well as create an accessible, appealing commercial corridor to attract visitors to the existing and coming small businesses.

A concept study is needed to gather input from those most affected by this dangerous and divisive corridor and assess the feasibility of major improvements to the streetscape. Among the questions this study should answer are:

* How should the District redesign North Capitol Street to discourage speeding and other forms of dangerous and aggressive driving behavior?
* How should the District improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of east-west connections across North Capitol Street for pedestrians and people on bicycles?
* How can current bus lines and supporting infrastructure be modified to improve the speed, frequency, and on-time bus service for residents and visitors?
* Should the District add transit priority lanes to the corridor to improve bus service?
* Should the design of the streetscape better prioritize the needs of local businesses and the safety of those who patronize them?
* Should the District fill in underpasses that encourage speeding and cut off adjacent communities?
* How can the city leverage private investment to address infrastructure deficiencies in a fiscally responsible manner?

We understand that this year’s budget will prioritize the city’s recovery from the pandemic, associated economic consequences, and the critical needs of residents who have been hit hardest. Nonetheless, we believe that a relatively small investment in planning for the future of this corridor will pay massive dividends in the coming years as our city recovers. We simply cannot wait to begin the process of better connecting our communities by improving the safety and vitality of North Capitol Street.

Sincerely,

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E

North Capitol Main Street

NoMa/H Street Civic Association

Eckington Civic Association

Sibley Plaza Townhouses Residents’ Association

Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)

Ward 5 for All
Pub and the People
Republic Cantina

Jeffery A Shapiro, Owner, K&B Sodas