

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Minutes for the Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2012

at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, 623 Florida Avenue NW

Call to order at 7:11 pm

1. **Treasurer's report by Donna Morris, Treasurer**
 - a. Ms. Morris said the association had \$3,663.18 in its account.
 - b. Ms. Morris reiterated the membership dues.
2. **Communications report by Ms. Danielle Ricks, Communications Chair**
 - a. Ms. Ricks asked for photos and material for the civic association website.
3. **Announcements by Marc Morgan, President**
 - a. Mr. Morgan said the association is seeking volunteers for the neighborhood cleanup committee and that the clean-up day will be April 14.
 - b. Mr. Morgan asked for volunteers for the Oktoberfest planning committee to plan this year's event. This year's event will include part of Elm Street, a stage, and more entertainment.
 - c. Mr. Morgan noted that the Howard Theatre ribbon cutting is on April 9 at 11:00 and that everyone is invited.
4. **Mr. Juan Camilo Barragan of the mayor's office announced that the Ward One Budget Town Hall Meeting will be on April 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Columbia Heights Education Campus.**
5. **Presentation by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton.**
 - a. Ms. Norton thanked everyone for the invitation and invited residents to speak-up with any questions.
 - b. Ms. Norton said the only thing to "relieve us of the burden of the United States Congress" was statehood. Ms. Norton said DC was the closest it ever was to voting rights until the there was a gun rider amendment.
 - c. Ms. Norton said that statehood advocates should advocate incremental improvements while we can. This includes budget autonomy. Ms. Norton said that Rep. Issa (R-CA) has realized that uncertainty in Congressional approval adds greater uncertainty to the District's budget and thus reduces bond ratings agencies' confidence in the city.
 - d. Ms. Norton described Rep. Issa as a "smart guy" and "better than most of them."
 - e. Ms. Norton also said that Gov. McDonnell of Virginia supports budget autonomy. She said this illustrates that seemingly unlikely progress is possible.
 - f. Ms. Norton said she has introduced a bill to ensure that DC can continue to spend its money in the event of a federal government shutdown. She says that disagreement between the Republican House and the Democratic Senate could likely cause a shutdown.
 - g. Ms. Norton listed the important federal programs for the District, including the Tuition Access Grants. TAG, she said, is to help prevent families from fleeing DC to neighboring states with state-level university systems.
 - h. Ms. Norton rejected the idea of vouchers, stating, "We didn't ask for these vouchers, we don't want these vouchers," saying the money would have been from TAG money.
 - i. Ms. Norton said she has been able to remove all budget riders, although an abortion rider has been put back in place. Ms. Norton says the president raised the amount of money for DC TAG.
 - j. Ms. Norton noted the DHS project at St. Elizabeths as an economic development project, but she noted that the site will be built more slowly than first expected.
 - k. Ms. Norton said the average DC family will receive a payroll tax cut of \$1,060 annually.
 - l. Ms. Norton says she spends time educating members of Congress about home rule.
 - m. Ms. Norton says that riders have nothing to do with one's opinion on an issue, but is about imposing views on people to whom you are not accountable.

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- n. Ms. Norton said Sen. Lee (UT) did not publicize that he had introduced an abortion bill. Ms. Norton says she notified Utah newspapers of what he was doing.
 - o. Ms. Norton decried the nationalization of the DC World War Memorial, which will be rededicated.
 - p. Ms. Norton said she introduced a bill to decrease the number of days between a council vacancy and a special election. The purpose was to combine elections to save money, but she said a Senator placed an anonymous hold on the bill.
 - q. Ms. Norton said she has introduced a bill so the District could create its own Hatch Act and called the federal version unsuitable for a local jurisdiction.
 - r. Ms. Norton said she has introduced a bill to permit redevelopment in Southwest Washington. She said she introduced a bill to develop land by the Navy Yard in Southeast Washington, including Yards Park.
 - s. Ms. Norton that the Height Act, though protecting vistas, limits positive redevelopment opportunities.
 - t. Ms. Norton says the long-term unemployed face especially difficult challenges. She has introduced a bill to give a \$5,000-incentive to employers who hire the long-term unemployed.
 - u. Ms. Norton that many movies have difficulty shooting in DC. She said that she was able to convince the Architect of the Capitol and Capitol Police to permit crews to film on Grant Plaza. She is pressing for more places from which film crews can film the Capitol.
 - v. Mr. Meyers asked how the indictments in local government make her job more difficult. Ms. Norton says it has not “made one wit of difference” in Congress.
 - w. Mr. Fidler thanked Ms. Norton for holding a forum with National Park Service officials. Ms. Norton said she thought it was important to NPS officials to listen to residents and that she rarely encountered trouble from NPS officials.
6. **Presentation by Mr. Steve Cassell on Progression Place.**
- a. Mr. Cassell stated that UNCF plans to move in in late September and that he is actively looking at leasing the rest of the office space.
 - b. Mr. Cassell said he is also seeking restaurants, clothing stores and coffee shops for the retail space.
 - c. Mr. Cassell stated that HUD will on Thursday approve their residential loan so that the residential construction can begin.
 - d. Mr. Cassell explained that a part of the project will include “affordable” retail space available to entrepreneurs. A committee will oversee the CBA, which includes scholarships, local hiring, etc. The first element of the CBA is the affordable retail tenant. 10% of the 20,000 sq ft of retail will be part for the affordable retail.
 - e. Mr. Cassell said they are looking for a viable business ideas from local entrepreneurs.
 - f. Because of the delay from HUD, the residential portion will be delayed by 90 and will be ready Q1 2013 and the retail portion will be ready in the spring of 2013.
 - g. Ms. Myla Moss thanked Mr. Cassell for sticking diligently to the CBA.
7. **Presentation by Mr. David Rosenblatt and Mr. Bryan Weaver regarding a ballot initiative.**
- a. Mr. Rosenblatt explained the ballot initiative to ban corporate contributions to political campaigns in DC.
 - b. Mr. Weaver said the initiative came about from local instance of councilmembers using their connections to companies with business before the council to get campaign donations.
 - c. Mr. Weaver said the ballot initiative would apply similar federal restrictions to DC elected officials.

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- d. Mr. Weaver requested that residents sign the petition to put the petition on the ballot in November. He would like the signatures by July 6.
 - e. Mr. Weaver advised residents to visit DCpublictrust.org for details.
8. **Miscellaneous introductions and announcements**
- a. Ms. Myla Moss announced that she would meet at 11 am tomorrow with the associate director of DDOT to discuss transportation plans for Florida Ave east of 9th St, Georgia Avenue and Florida Avenue. She invited residents to join.
 - b. Ms. Myla Moss said that ANC1B voted to opt into Enhanced Residential Permit Parking (ERPP).
 - c. Cornelius Moses of the Florida Avenue Baptist Church invited residents to the church's centennial celebration including a visit by Col. Charles McGee of the Tuskegee Airmen (April 15) and a community open house (June 16).
9. **Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.**

This memorandum represents our understanding of the events which transpired and the actions which were taken. If they do not conform to a recipient's understand, prompt written notice must be communicated to the writer. If no corrections or objections are made, this memorandum will be relied upon as a factual interpretation of this meeting.

Submitted on Thursday, April 26, 2012, by Mr. Eric Fidler, the secretary of the LeDroit Park Civic Association.