

Monday, 02/25/2019

**Bloomingdale Civic Association meeting**

St. George’s Episcopal Church, 160 U Street NW

BCA Officers present: Teri Janine Quinn, Felicia, Robert Brannum, Jennifer McCann, Ernie Emrich, Jean-Christophe Devrines, Pat Mitchell, Bertha Holliday, Scott Roberts

Approximately 40 people attended.

**Public safety**

Third District officers provided crime stats for PSA 306 and 308. It was noted that an arrest has been made regarding the homicide near 4th & T St NW. Residents can contact the community prosecutor if there is interest in creating impact statements.

**Zoning special exception for 136 Adams Street NW**

Architect Pete Nettelbeck presented the plans for 136 Adams St NW. The zoning special exception is need for exceeding lot occupancy and rear set back. The plan is to add a level above the existing rear sun room. There would be a rear spiral staircase. There are letters of support from nearby neighbors. Mr. Nettlebeck described how this addition would not adversely impact the neighbors. The BZA hearing will be on 03/27/2019.

A motion was made and seconded to support this zoning special exception. The motion passed 12 to 0.

**Community representatives**

Rod McClure of Ward 5 Councilmember McDuffie’s office described the current round of DC Council oversight hearings. The Mayor plans to announce the city budget in March.

**DDOT and traffic calming**

Bloomingdale resident and former BCA board member Angela Prentice reviewed the traffic calming discussions that have occurred in Bloomingdale over the past four years. She shared a photo of the recent high-velocity car crash near 1st & V St. She said that roundabouts have been requested, but DDOT has rejected those requests.

DDOT Director Jeff Marootian emphasized Mayor Bowser’s commitment to Vision Zero. There is a sense of urgency to address major and minor issues. He introduced Wesley Dawson and Emily Dalphy of DDOT. Ms. Dalphy discussed the plan for nine curb extensions along 1st St NW, which tighten the curb radii and create placemaking. The curb extensions would result in a slight impact to onstreet parking – 6 to 7 parking spaces total along 1st St NW. This project would include placemaking using art & cultural strategies. It would be the first time in DC to incorporate public art and planters. DDOT would engage in a maintenance agreement with the civic association regarding the self-watering planters. It was noted that the curb extensions would be 6.5 to 7 feet wide (and not a full 8 feet wide). It was also noted that DDOT has no plans to remove traffic from 1st Street NW. Some neighbors suggesting including physical speed humps in addition to the curb extension.

The first step of the project would be the flexiposts, white lines on the streets and planters. Artwork would be later.

A motion was made and seconded to move forward and support the proposed DDOT traffic calming – to set a time bound to receive and review data collection results of street calming project. This motion was amended to 6 months. The motion carried 12 to 5.

**1600 North Capitol Street NW**

A team of five neighbors worked on a draft MOU and received feedback from the developer. Ms. Quinn provided a history of the site’s PUD process. The developer amended the MOU to increase the percentage from 20% to 50% of the amenities amount, but the BCA would waive all future rights regarding other DC agencies. No action or vote was taken.

**Other**

A motion was made and seconded regarding DC Council Chair Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole.

Here is the text of the motion:

“The Bloomingdale Civic Association requests DC Council Chair Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole:

Substantially increase the funding for the DC Historic Preservation Office to allow it to better perform its duties

To support the proposed new Department of Buildings

To increase the funding for the Historic District Homeowner Grant Program and expand the program to all historic districts to serve low- and moderate-income homeowners.”

The motion carried 10 to 0. A motion to table the above failed to carry 6 to 5.

Ms. Quinn raised a question about motions introduced at the last minute at BCA meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

**Motion summary**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Motion #** | **Motion** | **Results of motion** |
| 1 | A motion was made and seconded to support this zoning special exception for 136 Adams Street NW. The motion passed 12 to 0.  | Motion passed |
| 2 | A motion was made and seconded to move forward and support the proposed DDOT traffic calming – to set a time bound to receive and review data collection results of street calming project. This motion was amended to 6 months. The motion carried 12 to 5. | Motion passed |
| 3 | “The Bloomingdale Civic Association requests DC Council Chair Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole:Substantially increase the funding for the DC Historic Preservation Office to allow it to better perform its dutiesTo support the proposed new Department of BuildingsTo increase the funding for the Historic District Homeowner Grant Program and expand the program to all historic districts to serve low- and moderate-income homeowners.” | Motion passed |