

Monday, 09/21/2020

**Bloomingdale Civic Association meeting**

Virtual meeting via Zoom

BCA board members in attendance: Teri Janine Quinn, Jennifer McCann, Robert Brannum, Pat Mitchell, Bertha Holliday, Sherry Howard, Ernie Emrich, Jean-Christophe Deverines, Scott Roberts

The meeting began at 7:05 pm.

33 people attended.

Ms. Quinn provided introductory comments. She noted that the last meeting was held on Monday, 07/20/2020.

Mr. Brannum provided brief comments about the late Florence Pendleton, who served as the Bloomingdale Civic Association president and US Shadow Senator for DC.

**Public safety**

MPD Third District Sgt. Stephen Kiern provided a round-up of reported crimes over the past two months. There was a question about the recent gunfire around 2nd & V St NW. Sgt. Kiern said that there is an Instagram competition among different crews. He mentioned a current issue with Uber Eats delivery drivers whose cars have been regularly highjacked.

**BCA financial report**

Ms. Howard reviewed the BCA financial report dated 09/21/2020.

**DC Water paintings around City Cleaners**

An attendee commented about the DC Water project paintings currently placed at City Cleaners – and asked if BCA money could be used to relocate them around the neighborhood. Mr. Deverines said that he thought the paintings were hideous and that some were in a state of advanced deterioration, and that he thought that BCA money could be better spent elsewhere. He added that he would not oppose it if someone were to step up and take on this project. Ms. Quinn asked the attendee to submit a written proposal to the BCA that the BCA could respond to.

**BCA Nominating Committee**

Ms. Quinn initiated the discussion about the BCA Nominating Committee. She listed the names of the suggested committee members: Zach Sherif, Joe Levesque, Jennifer McCann, Jake Parker and Pat Mitchel. Brian Smith and Robert Brannum subsequently volunteered.

It was noted that two neighbors on the unit block of T Street NW volunteered to serve on the Committee. Unfortunately, these two neighbors had not been expressly notified that in order to be nominated on the committee, they needed to be present at tonight’s meeting. Joe Levesque was similarly not on the Zoom call when this topic was discussed.

Thus, the three members who had expressed interest in serving on the Nominating Committee but not present at the meeting during discussions, nominations or the final vote, were not considered as committee candidates.

It was noted that the BCA elections will be held at the Monday, 10/19/2020, BCA meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept these six BCA members to serve on the 2020 BCA Nominating Committee: Zach Sherif, Jennifer McCann, Jake Parker, Pat Mitchell, Brian Smith and Robert Brannum. The motion carried, 13 to 0. Paul Cerruti then volunteered to also serve. There were no objections.

Mr. Brannum made a motion to suspend the use of absentee ballots for the November 2020 BCA election. Therefore, absentee voting in the November 2020 election would not be allowed. The motion was seconded. The motion passed 21 to 1.

**1st Street NW traffic calming**

Ms. Quinn advised that 2nd Street NW that was not of the first round of the DDOT Safe Streets initiative. She remarked that it is about time for the DDOT six-month study on the effect of the bump outs on 1st Street NW to be shared.

**1st Street NW traffic calming planters**

Regarding planters at 1st Street NW intersections, Ms. Quinn noted that DDOT just passed along a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describing the BCA’s responsibilities for the 32 planters. The MOU indicates that the BCA will take responsibility for maintaining the plants in the planters, but not the physical planters themselves. She asked DDOT for the dimensions of the planters to help determine what plant materials might best fit in the planters.

A neighbor suggested forming an adhoc BCA committee to address the DDOT MOU, making recommendations to the BCA body on what the BCA responsibilities and commitments might be.

Dr. Holiday noted that the BCA Beautification Committee should be associated with the adhoc committee. This suggestion was opposed by the neighbor who had suggested to form the adhoc committee. It was decided to have a BCA Beautification Committee member also be a member of the adhoc committee. The adhoc committee members are Angela Prentice, Ivan Bessesser, Joe Levesque and Teri Janine Quinn. Mr. Levesque will serve as the liaison to the BCA Beautification Committee.

**North Capitol Street public safety report**

Ms. Quinn provided a round-up of the informal task force that she has been participating in with Ward 5 CM McDuffie’s office.

**Bloomingdale clean-up on Sunday, 09/20/2020**

Bloomingdale resident David Do expressed his thanks to Jean-Christophe Deverines from the BCA Beautification Committee, the BCA Beautification Committee, ANC5E06 Commissioner Karla Lewis and Ward 5 CM McDuffie for their support with the Sunday, 09/20/2020, neighborhood clean-up.

**Bloomingdale Village Square (BVS) brochures**

Dr. Holliday reported that two BVS brochures have been updated and posted at the BCA website. She described the updates to the associated student curriculum materials.

**Electric rate increase**

Ms. Quinn described the electricity rate increase request. She invited people to participate in upcoming hearings.

**Replacement of non-historic Cobra streetlights on the unit block of T Street NW with similar non-historic light poles**

A neighbor on T Street NW asked why a Verizon contractor was not installing historic streetlight poles when replacing the existing poles.

**Government representatives**

Ward 5 MOCR Dominique Chestnut provided information on the upcoming November 2020 DC election ballot dropbox locations, early voting locations and election day locations, which can be found at dcboe.org.

**ANC5E contested candidate forum**

Ms. Quinn briefly described how tonight’s candidate forum would operate.

Tonight’s invited candidates:

ANC5E07: Bertha Holliday (incumbent), Sharon Burns

ANC5E09 Dianne Barnes (incumbent), Kirby Vining, Brandon Watts

Not present tonight: Dianne Barnes, Brandon Watts

Kirby Vining, Bertha Holliday and Sharon Burns briefly shared statements. They subsequently described their #1 community-related passions.

The meeting ended at 09:36 pm.

**Motion summary**

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| **Motion #** | **Motion** | **Results of motion** |
| 1 | A motion was made and seconded to accept these six BCA members to serve on the 2020 BCA Nominating Committee: Zach Sherif, Jennifer McCann, Jake Parker, Pat Mitchell, Brian Smith and Robert Brannum. The motion carried, 13 to 0. Paul Cerruti then volunteered to serve. There were no objections.   | Motion passed. |
| 2 | Mr. Brannum made a motion to suspend the use of absentee ballots for the November 2020 BCA election. Therefore, absentee voting in the November 2020 election would not be allowed. The motion was seconded. The motion passed 21 to 1.  | Motion passed. |

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Below is an Email regarding the upcoming community hearing on the Pepco rate increase – for reference.

From: **Jean Gross-Bethel** <jbethel@opc-dc.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 7:57 PM
Subject: Upcoming Community Hearing on Pepco Rate Increase
To: Teri Janine Quinn
CC: Aaron Ward <Award@opc-dc.gov>, Charquia Barringtine <CBarringtine@opc-dc.gov>, Denise Blackson <dblackson@opc-dc.gov>

Greetings Chair Terri Quinn:

I hope this email finds you, your family and members of the Bloomingdale Civic Association well.   As the representative from OPC assigned to Ward 5, I want to share with you information about an upcoming Community Hearing taking place on September 29,.2020 and invite you and your association to voice your opinion.

Pepco has requested a rate increase and change in rate design.  OPC along with the DC Government and other Associations and Advocates have called for the Commission to request that Pepco withdraw its application at this time, and we would like your support.  Attached, please find OPC's fact sheets and Press Release.   I have also attached Pepco's newly revised Press Release.

The Community Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.  We believe it is important that your voice individually and collectively be heard. Please share this information with your members.  I understand your chapter may be meeting on Monday, September 21st.   OPC  would welcome the opportunity to address your association on the rate increase and answers  any questions you may have.

To sign up to testify, please contact the Commission Secretary on (202) 626-5100 or email PSC-Commission Secretary@dc.gov  and reference Formal Case No. 1156.   Please do so as soon as possible and  before September 22nd. Persons will testify virtual in the order in which they signed up.  Let me know if you have any difficulties.

Thank your  for your consideration  and know that we at OPC are working hard to ensure that you receive safe, reliable and affordable utility services at rate that are reasonable and just.

Fell free to contact me should you  have any questions.

Jean Gross-Bethel

Consumer Outreach Specialist

Office of the People's Counsel

OPC is teleworking due to COVID-19.

I am responding to email as usual.

(202) 368-7001, personal cell

(202) 727-3071, main

((314) 455-6733 remote cell

jbethel@opc-dc.gov