

Monday, 02/24/2020

**Bloomingdale Civic Association meeting**

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

BCA officers in attendance: Teri Janine Quinn, Jennifer McCann, Sherry Howard, Ernie Emrich, Pat Michell, Felicia Davis, Bertha Holliday, Scott Roberts

Approximate number of people in attendance: 30

The meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

**Public Safety**

MPD 3D Sergeant Stephen Kiern provided a roundup of neighborhood crimes, including package theft.

He described a bold daytime burglary theft on the 100 W Street NW, including vehicle theft. An arrest was made. The stolen vehicle has been recovered. He also briefly discussed the Saturday, 02/15/2020, fatal shooting on the 100 block of N Street NW, and the Sunday, 02/23/2020, carjacking on the 200 block of T Street NW.

**DC Census**

No representative was present to speak because of a reduction in the Census Bureau budget. However, Ms. Quinn said that it is critically important for everyone to be counted and participate in the census. She encouraged the audience to remind neighbors to participate in the census.

**Traffic calming**

Ms. Quinn began with a follow up item from the January 2020 BCA meeting. A neighbor had indicated that the speed humps on the unit block of Randolph Place NW appeared to be worn down. She reported that she shared this concern with the Director of DDOT and DDOT sent a team out the same week and confirmed that the slope of the westbound speed humps were worn down. DDOT indicated it would repair the speed hump in the coming months. The repair will require 1-2 days of parking restrictions.

Ms. Quinn advised that the flexiposts have all been installed on 1st Street NW. She indicated that, in response to residents’ concerns, she met with the DDOT Director. In response to those concerns, DDOT (including the Director) made two site visits to inspect the installations and made adjustments to the placement of the posts at 1st & R and 1st & Randolph Place NW. It was noted that DDOT has pulled in the posts at those intersections to be closer to the curb. A neighbor said that the flexiposts at 1st & Bryant St NW should also be reviewed, since they stick out too much into the intersection.

Ms. Quinn said that speeding solutions are still needed for 1st Street NW and she requested the same from DDOT. DDOT reported that they are working on speeding solutions for 1st Street and Ms. Quinn expects to obtain feedback soon regarding DDOT’s solutions. She has suggested to DDOT to erect signage that explains why flexiposts were installed and their purpose. She also requested signage to indicate proper navigation of the bulb out intersections.

Ms. Quinn talked about the long history of meetings and discussions on traffic calming alternatives. She reminded the audience that the BCA voted to have DDOT conduct a traffic study six months after installation to assess the effectiveness of the flexiposts. She stated that the permanent solution is concrete curb extensions – provided the traffic study indicates that the flexiposts are effective.

Ms. Quinn noted that DDOT expects to provide a draft MOU for the maintenance of the plants in the planters they will provide. The BCA would take responsibility for the plants. The MOU should be ready in March 2020 and it appears they may also address additional painted intersections.

Some neighbors have complained about the loss of illegal parking close to intersections. Ms. Quinn has asked DDOT for feedback on the ideas that could allow for safer temporary parking for deliveries, rideshare, etc.

A neighbor asked how the flexipost effectiveness is to be measured.

**DC Water request for community input re: beginning hauling work at 7 am**

Ms. Quinn said that the DC Water contractor trucks that haul away material from the Northeast Boundary Tunnel (NEBT) worksites presently do not begin until 9:30 am, under a DC Water agreement with the contractor. DC Water indicated that no additional permits would be needed to switch to 7am from 9:30 am. The daily end time would still be 3:30 pm. Ms. Quinn noted that DC Water told her that if the community does not want an earlier start time, DC Water will not request an earlier start time.

The intention of starting the hauling earlier in the day would be to wrap up the project sooner (estimated 3 months earlier at the 3rd Street NW worksite and 1.5 months earlier along Rhode Island Avenue).

Here are the current completion dates for the NEBT construction sites:

• 1st Street Pumping Station construction site: Demobilization on Rhode Island Ave Fall 2020. The bulk of the remaining work activity after that point will be underground.

• Florida Avenue NW construction site: Summer 2021

• R Street NW construction site: Winter 2022

Note that there is a separate request by DC Water for starting concrete work earlier.

Neighbors near 4th Street NW and Richardson Place NW described frustration with the 7:00 am hauling noise.

The business owner of the Raphael’s Grocery at 233 Florida Avenue NW said that DC Water’s contractors park their vehicles on that block and are negatively impacting her business.

Ms. Quinn noted that there is a DC Council oversight hearing on DC Water this Wednesday, 02/26/2020. Ward 3 Councilmember Cheh has DC Council oversight responsibility over DC Water.

DC Water reminded about the partnership with North Capitol Main Street regarding impact mitigation, and the DC Water NEBT Tunnel Forums. The next forum is scheduled for Thursday, 03/12/2020. Project progress is also reported at dcwater.com/NEBT.

Ms. Quinn then remarked that expanded outreach is needed. The BCA is still in the listening mode.

**North Capitol Street Needs Assessment**

Eckington’s Nick Sementelli reviewed recent pedestrian deaths along North Capitol Street and presented his interest in obtaining the Bloomingdale Civic Association’s support for a letter written to DDOT asking them to implement the NoMa BID’s North Capitol Street Needs Assessment study from 2019.

Here is the link to the NoMa BID North Capitol Street Needs Assessment study: <https://t.co/tpMMNPifF3?amp=1>

Here is the link to the letter soliciting support, with all the signers to date:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hu_H25a06sQAMj1nmjc7q8SE5TWOGZVkPRMBy1qv5XY/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Specifically, the letter asked DDOT to immediately implement the 45 study recommendations that were listed as projected to take less than one year to be implemented, and for the agency to jumpstart the process for the medium and longer term recommendations, projected to take greater than one year to be implemented. He noted that most neighborhood civic associations and ANCs have voted to support.

Ms. Quinn described two possible options for the BCA to support the letter requesting DDOT action on the North Capitol Street Needs Assessment: either support of the entire letter or to only support the actions that are specific to Bloomingdale.

A motion was made and seconded to support the letter requesting that DDOT implement the short-term items that are Bloomingdale-specific. A friendly amendment was offered to ask DDOT to perform a comprehensive north-south North Capitol Street traffic study; the friendly amendment was not accepted.

A statement will be added to the letter that indicates that the BCA only supports the short-term items that specifically relate to Bloomingdale.

The motion passed 7 to 4.

**BCA Centennial event**

Ms. Quinn advised that 2021 is the centennial year for the establishment of the BCA. She solicited volunteers.

**Government representatives**

Ward 5 DC MOCRS Dominique Chestnut read off a long list of upcoming events and activities from the Mayor’s Office, including a Keep-Metro-Open rally this week and a DSLBD free pro-bono legal workshop.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that ANC5E voted at its most recent meeting to support an array of traffic calming measures for the 1st & R St NW 1st & Randolph Place NW intersections, including flashing light indicators at intersections and speeding and stop light cameras.

**Community concerns**

A meeting attendee reported that the developers of the 150 S Street NW project want to cut down a large mature oak tree in a treebox alongside the development site. It was noted that the tree is not large enough to qualify as a heritage tree.

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

**Motion summary**

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| **Motion #** | **Motion** | **Results of motion** |
| 1 | A motion was made and seconded to support the letter requesting that DDOT implement the short-term items that are Bloomingdale-specific from the 2019 NoMa BID North Capitol Street Needs Assessment study. The motion passed 7 to 4. | Motion passed |