

Monday, 05/18/2020

**Bloomingdale Civic Association meeting**

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Note: This BCA meeting was held during the Coronavirus pandemic. The usual meeting location, St. George’s Episcopal Church, was closed.

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

34 people attended.

The meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

**Public safety**

MPD Third District was not on the Zoom call. A Bloomingdale resident reported a new method of breaking into a vehicle using RFID to electronically unlock locks. His car was recently broken into using this method. He reported it to MPD. Ms. Quinn advised that this info would be passed along to MPD.

**Pepco update**

Ms. Quinn briefly spoke about the Pepco “Reduce Energy Use” program. (The advisory Email is posted at the end of these meeting minutes.) The website is [www.reduceenergyuse.dc.com](http://www.reduceenergyuse.dc.com) .

**1st & Rhode Island Avenue NW dangerous intersection**

Ms. Quinn described the dangerous intersection at 1st and Rhode Island Avenue NW created by the DC Water NEBT project. The primary concern regards blind spots. A suggestion for a mounted mirror was rejected. The DC Water NEBT virtual forum is this Thursday, 05/21/2020, where the intersection issue can be discussed.

**Resolution to the DC Council on the Bloomingdale Homeowner**

**Repair Grants**

Kelly Cislo, Ward 5 CM McDuffie’s constituent services director, reported that Bloomingdale is included in the historic grants program in the Mayor’s proposed budget.

Dr. Holliday described her resolution of the DC Council. She noted that there was a DC Council of the Committee of the Whole hearing scheduled just prior to the pandemic shutdown, but that the hearing was cancelled.

**1634 North Capitol Street NW project letter of support**

Developer Maedwell Companies was represented at this meeting by James Buckwell and Syga Thomas.

Maedwell Companies is seeking a letter of support for the DC Historic Preservation Office regarding its “subdivision/combine three lots.”

The subdivision/combine three lots issue is slated to go before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) either on Thursday, 05/28/2020, or Thursday, 06/04/2020. It was noted that the DC Office of Planning staff report has not yet been issued.

There were questions why the combining of the lots spurs a decision by the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). Mr. Thomas advised that access to the 2nd level of the firehouse from the building to be constructed next door is required to meet ADA compliance. It was noted that passageway holes would be created in the north side of the firehouse building to connect with the new construction building next door.

There were also questions about parking, considering there will be approximately 90 hotel guest rooms.

Some meeting attendees commented on making incremental decisions regarding the project and how the incremental decisions impact the overall support or opposition of the project. Ms. Quinn clarified that the historic review discussion should focus on items that are within the scope of historic preservation.

Mr. Buckley said that the rear exposed staircase would be bricked in to match the firehouse.

Mr. Thomas said this project required no zoning relief.

A motion was made to *oppose* the request by Maedwell Companies for support for the “subdivision/combine three lots” for 1626/1624/1644 North Capitol Street NW. The motion was seconded.

There was a roll call vote. There were 10 votes in support, 2 votes in opposition and 8 abstentions. The motion carried.

Mr. Buckley thanked the BCA for its participation.

**BCA Scholarship Committee**

Ms. Howard acknowledged the committee members. She said that the BCA scholarship funds traditionally come from the BCA house tour and from small donations.

This year, six scholarship award applications were received. The GPAs of the student applicants ranged from 3.1 to 3.9 with impressive volunteer work experience. After reviewing the essays, the committee selected two awardees:

* Jeffrey Hayward, graduate of McKinley Tech High School
* Regine Campbell, graduate of Dunbar High School

The two scholarships are $1500 each.

It was noted that the scholarship award funds will be sent directly to the schools.

A motion was made to accept the BCA Scholarship Committee funds distribution to the two named awardees. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**BCA Membership Committee**

Ms. Quinn advised that the BCA Membership Committee is now producing messages encouraging memberships. Ms. Mitchell encouraged neighborhood residents to join the BCA and become involved in a committee.

The meeting ended at 8:20 pm.

**Motion summary**

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| **Motion #** | **Motion** | **Results of motion** |
| 1 | A motion was made to oppose the request by Maedwell Companies for support for the “subdivision/combine three lots” for 1626/1624/1644 North Capitol Street NW. The motion was seconded.  There was a roll call vote. There were 10 votes in support, 2 votes in opposition and 8 abstentions. | Motion passed. |
| 2 | A motion was made to accept the BCA Scholarship Committee funds distribution to the two named awardees – Jeffrey Hayward and Regine Campbell. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. | Motion passed. |

Below is the Email on the “Reduce Energy Use DC”

**From:** "Sharon R. Goods" <[sharon@robinsonpr.com](mailto:sharon@robinsonpr.com)>  
**Date:** May 5, 2020 at 5:22:06 PM EDT  
**To:** Teri Janine Quinn   
**Subject:** **Reduce Energy Use DC**

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Please share the *Reduce The Use Challenge* with neighbors, family and friends and on social media. This collaborative effort among the District, Pepco and community partners is designed to help District residents lower their energy bills.

"Reduce Energy Use DC," is part of a united effort among the District’s environmental, business, community groups and leadership  to educate DC residents on ways to use energy more efficiently, reduce energy use at home, and save money while helping to fight climate change. The initiative asks residents to take a pledge and provides those who sign up with tips on easy ways to save and lower their energy bill.

Simply register online [https://www.reduceenergyusedc.com/](https://eur06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.reduceenergyusedc.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C293f9bd3f66247e1382808d7fb4348a8%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637254139577394775&sdata=g7JQftAO7irGoAmEUhkmI9jM1PTjGSqcJBmSpELfEik%3D&reserved=0)

for a chance to win a $300 credit on your energy bill.

Let’s reduce our energy consumption and fight climate change!

       / Please stay safe.

          Sharon R. Goods, Apr

         Founder and CEO