

Monday, 11/16/2020

**Bloomingdale Civic Association meeting**

Virtual meeting via Zoom during the public health emergency

Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

BCA board members in attendance: Teri Janine Quinn, Pat Mitchell, Jennifer McCann, Sherry Howard, Eric Woods, Joe Levesque, Jake Parker, Robert Brannum, Bertha Holliday

43 people attended.

**Public safety**

MPD Third District (3D) Captain David Augustine provided an update on recent crime activity. He mentioned a robbery at a recent marijuana pop-up party on the 1800 block of North Capitol NW. He also described the robbery of keys from a rental vehicle on the 100 block of W Street NW.

Neighbors raised issues about the increase in shootings, vehicles not stopping at stop signs along 1st Street NW, non-enforcement of vehicle weight restrictions on 1st Street NW (it was noted that possibly weight limit signs are no longer present on 1st Street NW) and stolen packages. Captain Augustine’s Email address is David.Augustine@dc.gov.

**Financial report**

Ms. Howard presented the information from the current BCA financial report. The ending balance as of 10/30/2020 was $37,430.63.

**BCA Committee volunteer solicitations**

Ms. Quinn invited people to sign up to participate in the BCA Historic Preservation, Membership and Beautification Committees.

BCA Historic Preservation Committee

It was noted that the committee would be co-chaired by Joe Levesque and Pat Mitchell. The Bloomingdale Historic District will be soon added to the list of DC historic districts and landmarks eligible to participate in the DC homeowner grant program managed by the DC Historic Preservation Office. There is a new Email address for the BCA Historic Preservation committee: BCAHistoricPreservation@gmail.com.

Serita Sanders, former BCA HP Committee Chair, asked how it was communicated that she was no longer committee chair. Ms. Quinn said that she would follow up after the meeting.

BCA Membership Committee

Ms. Quinn acknowledged the progress made over the past several months with the BCA membership campaign. Ms. Mitchell is rolling off the BCA board, but will remain as the BCA Membership Committee chair.

People who volunteered to serve on BCA committees

BCA Membership Committee: Ivona Gopaul, Brian Smith

BCA Scholarship Committee: Jackie Duclos, Sherrill Taylor and Ivan Besserer

BCA Beautification Committee: Amy Oakes, Catherine Laidlaw, Sandra Thompson, David Solomon

BCA Historic Preservation Committee: Arnold Wynn

BCA Beautification Committee: Bernadette Aquil.

Bloomingdale Village Square (BVS) Committee

Dr. Holliday then solicited volunteers for the BCA Village Square Committee. She described the five BVS working groups:

• ORAL HISTORY GROUP -- previously conducted 22 videotaped oral history interviews. We seek to revitalize this work group. If interested ; contact bholliaypsy@gmail.com

• WRITTEN HISTORY GROUP -- Recently issued the 2nd edition of the Social & Architectural History of Bloomingdale: 1800 - 2019. Persons are needed to collect additional & contemporary historical facts and related citations for inclusion in the 2024 3rd Edition. If interested, contact paulcerruti@gmail.com

• ARCHITECTURAL & DESIGN WORK GROUP -- has developed both a brochure that discusses how architectural and design shape sense of' 'place' and community identity in neighborhoods; and an Architectural and Design Recommendations Report that notes the specific type and locations of needed public space improvements -- lighting, sidewalks, environmental, seating, & other amenities -- in the short-term, mid-term and long-term. Volunteers are needed to lead efforts to fundraise and increasingly implement and bring the group's recommendations to life. If interested, contact zpnyc09@gmail.com.

• NORTH CAPITOL STREET DECK-OVER PARK WORK GROUP (a long-term item in the Recommendations Report) -- to date BVS: a) secured a pro bono contract with ZGF Architects, LLP to conduct preliminary engineering and design studies/renderings of the park, solicited participation/partnership of neighboring civic associations (Eckington, Edgewood, Bates, Stronghold), conducted three community-wide forums -- before, during and after completion of ZGF efforts -- where resident input was solicited, and secured Ward 5 Councilmember McDuffie's budget recommendation for $40 million for this project. Volunteers are needed to fundraise, engage in advocacy with selected DC departmental leaders and all Councilmembers, secure petitions//letters of support of at least 1000 community residents. If interested, contact zpnyc09@gmail.com.

• YOUTH ENGAGEMENT -- to increase youth engagement in civic issues in gentrifying neighborhoods and develop a cadre of youth leadership, BVS secured $22,500 in grant funds to develop the Taking Village History to Our Youth and its related curriculum for youth in grades 7 -12 that is rooted in information in BVS' publications and many other information sources. Development of a Teacher Curriculum Guide, Student Curriculum Guide; Teaching/Learning Resources and Promotional Portfolio have been completed, and all curriculum materials are now being digitalized for virtual teaching/learning. Two pilot sites are being sought to implement after January 2021. Volunteers are needed to serve as teachers/assistant teachers, chaperones on field trips, site and youth recruiters, fundraisers/partnership developers, and program evaluators. If interested, contact bhollidaypsy@gmail.com.

 The BVS printed reports will be available in the next few weeks.

Dr. Holliday said that Ms. McCann supplied her with a list of greater than 20 potential BVS Committee volunteers.

Dr. Holliday solicited for volunteers to hand-delivering printed materials. Bernadette Aquil, Michelle “Debbie” Singleton and Sandra Thompson volunteered.

**1st Street NW traffic calming**

Ms. Quinn provided an update on the 1st Street NW traffic calming project.

**2026 North Capitol Street NW zoning special exception**

Alex Wilson, Associate of Sullivan and Barros LLP, introduced herself. She advised that Sullivan & Barros specializes in Washington, DC real estate, zoning and business law.

Ms. Wilson indicated that she was representing the owner, Colleen Slattery. Here is info about this zoning case from the DC Office of Zoning IZIS system: (<https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/CaseReport/CaseReportPage.aspx?case_id=20366>)

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| **Case Number:**   | 20366 |
| **Case Name::**   | Colleen A Slattery, Trustee |
| **Case Summary:**   | Application of Colleen A Slattery, Trustee, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9, for a special exception under Subtitle E § 5201, from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1, to expand two existing rear balconies, on the second and third stories of an existing flat, in the RF-1 Zone, at premises 2026 North Capitol Street, NW (Square 3117, Lot 78). |
| **Relief Type:**   | Special Exception |
| **Case Status:**   | Active |
| **ANC:**   | 5E08 |
| **Future Hearing Date(s):**   | 01/27/2021 |

She described the case to increase the lot occupancy from by a small percentage.

The prior owner — a developer -- constructed the rear decks which exceeded the size allowed. Ms. Slattery is now applying to keep the decks under the recent regulations for lot occupancy. This case is now just a zoning special exception and not a zoning variance, which is a higher bar.

The abutting neighbors support the current zoning relief. The request is for a 3% bump in lot occupancy.

Ms. Quinn reviewed the case’s history a few years ago. The BCA voted against the pursued zoning relief for this case.

Ivan Besserer and Joe Levesque expressed opposition. Brian Smith spoke in support.

The BZA hearing is set for Wednesday, 01/27/2021.

Ms. Quinn invited Ms. Wilson and Ms. Slattery to return to the Monday, BCA December 21, 2020 BVA meeting for a potential vote by the BCA membership.

**Swearing in of newly elected BCA board members**

ANC5E06 Commissioner Karla Lewis swore in the current BCA board members. Mr. Brannum was not present at the time and was not sworn in.

**Community concerns and other items**

Commissioner Lewis advised that the Joe Mamo team was on the agenda of tomorrow’s ANC5E meeting to provide an update on its project at 1600 North Capitol Street NW.

Ms. McCann reminded that BCA dues are due. She said that she would send reminder Emails to current members.

**BCA Corresponding Secretary**

Ms. Quinn noted that the position of BCA Corresponding Secretary was still vacant. She said that BCA member Paul Cerruti offered to serve. A motion was made and seconded to elect Paul Cerruti as BCA Corresponding Secretary. 18 people voted in support, 1 in opposition.

Commissioner Lewis spoke for Bloomingdale Clean Team coordinator David Do and thanked everyone who has participated in the Sunday Clean Team efforts.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

**Motion summary**

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| **Motion #** | **Motion** | **Results of motion** |
| 1 | A motion was made and seconded to elect Paul Cerruti as BCA Corresponding Secretary. The motion passed 18 in support and 1 in opposition.  | Motion passed. |