



Minutes

Downtown Neighborhood Association Meeting

Calvary Baptist Church

755 8th St NW

Washington, District of Columbia 20004

November 8, 2010

6:30-8:45pm

President Nanette Paris opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and introduced the DNA Board members and staff: Ewing Miller, Vice President; Kevin Wilsey, Treasurer; Terry Carter, board member; and Lolita Dublin, volunteer.

At our meeting on November 8, Randall Boe, Executive Vice President & General Counsel with Monumental Sports and Entertainment, described the new signage on the Verizon Center as proposed in the Verizon Center Graphics and Entertainment Act of 2011. Mr. Boe is sought input from the community, and there was a very helpful discussion.

Several residents expressed concerns about the aesthetic changes to the building, particularly the proposed mesh signage at over the windows at Vida Fitness, on the southwest corner of 7th and F Streets NW.

Other issues were raised about the possibility of creating more pedestrian congestion if, in fact, as Mr. Boe suggested, that the signage would attract more people downtown. Some residents pointed out that these additional pedestrians would not necessarily be spending any money at downtown businesses, but would merely be there for the glitz.

It was proposed and agreed upon that a small citizen advisory committee be formed to meet with Mr. Boe and his company. Details will be announced after the committee is formed.

NOTE: The public hearing on this bill scheduled Thursday, November 17, *has been canceled*. Once it is rescheduled we will post the notice here.

Thor Nelson, an urban designer from the Revitalization and Design Division of the District's Office of Planning, presented a draft plan on the Chinatown Public Realm

Plan. The goals of the plan are to:

1. Create an active dynamic center for Chinatown
2. Promote outdoor commercial activity on key streets
3. Enhance Chinatown's visual and cultural identity
4. Improve pedestrian comfort and safety
5. Green Chinatown's open spaces and streets
6. Enhance and diversify transportation options.

MPD Sgt. Peter Sheldon gave the crime report for Chinatown and fielded questions from residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.