

Minutes

Downtown Neighborhood Meeting

Calvary Baptist Church
755 8th St NW

Washington, District of Columbia 20004

May 10, 2011 6:30-8:00pm

President Nanette Paris thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced the DNA Board Members Kevin Wilsey, Treasurer and Diane Platt, Secretary.

Ms. Paris then introduced Mr. James Cheeks of the District Department of Transportation. Mr. Cheeks introduced Ms. Alice Kelly, who would be available to answer questions as well.

Mr. Cheeks mentioned that currently the department is involved with cutting their budget. The circulator that goes up 7th and comes down 9th has been canceled due to budgetary considerations and low ridership. DDOT has also recently moved to new facilities at 55 M Street.

Mount Vernon Square Project: There is a need to incorporate usual traffic, future streetcars, bike lanes, pedestrians, new hotels and the city center project into a traffic plan for this area. After obtaining input from various constituencies, three scenarios were developed from the resultant planning study and offered to a consultant company. (The presentation can be found on the website of the Office of Planning.) The consultant company has 6-9 months to complete its analysis and come up with a solution for the area. This, in turn, will be presented to the Council for approval.

Very soon bike and bus lanes will be removed on 7th and 9th for an 18month period. This will permit all vehicles to use two lanes and help the flow of traffic during the construction period. No decision has been made about changing the streets from 1 way to 2 ways, or 2 ways to 1. H and Mass seem currently be the favored route for trucks removing dirt from the project. A citizen liaison is working with the contractors on problems that arise.

The conversation returned to the circulator bus. Mr. Cheeks mentioned that there should be no loss of bus access. Residents should write and let WAMATA know of their concerns. Comments can be sent to james.cheeks@dc.gov or alice.kelly@dc.gov, and they will forward them to the proper recipients.

Ms. Kelly then talked about the valet parking problems. Regulations have only recently been passed to cover valet parking. Curbside spaces are leased to the businesses (restaurants), not to the valet companies. Valet parking pick up and drop off are limited to these spaces. Space allocation and approval is contingent on cars being parked off street so as not to restrict other parking spaces. Any

problems can be reported to Alice Kelly. A targeted approach by DDOT against problem companies usually works best.

Two other subjects raised by audience members were the rusty CSX bridge that is such an eyesore along I395 and whether it is necessary to have 2 police cars as well as a red light camera where New York Ave. crosses Bradenburg. Mr. Cheeks said that he would forward the concerns about the bridge on to the right person. As for speed and red light traps, their placement is dependent on supporting data. If that corner is heavily covered, it is because it is an area with a high risk for accidents.

Mr Andrew Huff from Councilmember Jack Evans' office spoke about redistricting. He mentioned that this happens every 10 years. The population has grown. There are 8 wards and each needs to cover 75,000 people +/- 5%. Currently wards 2 and 6 are too large and wards 7 and 8 are too small. All the boundaries will be redrawn by July 15. Subsequently, the ANC boundaries will be redrawn, and this will be wrapped up by December. Ms. Paris mentioned the concerns of our neighborhood. We do not want to lose our highly effective ANC representative in Ward 6. Ward 2's representative is much less effective.

Voting for the Rammy awards is still going on through tomorrow. Carmines is up for "power stop." They have also been good for the community and Ms. Paris recommended getting on the website and voting for them.

Other news: Ms. Nigra mentioned that ANC2 now has a website. Martin also mentioned that Democratic redistricting meetings are still going on. The dates and times can be found at www.jackevans.org. JoAnn Neuhaus announced that PennQuarter Neighborhood Association's next breakfast meeting will be on May 26th at 700, 6th Street, NW (Akridge Building). Assistant Chief of Police Diane Groomes will be the speaker.

The next DNA meeting will be on Tuesday June 14th at the Calvary Baptist Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Platt

Secretary

Short Version:

At the meeting tonight James Cheeks of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) talked about traffic matters relating to the Mount Vernon Project. Bike and bus lanes on 7th and 9th will be removed for the next 18 months during the construction period and all vehicles will be able to use all lanes. Alice Kelly of DDOT is the point person for valet parking regulation. The Circulator Bus that goes up 7th and down 9th will be canceled due to budgetary and ridership issues. Comments and complaints about bus needs and valet parking can be sent to either Mr. Cheeks (james.cheeks@dc.gov) or Ms. Kelly (alice.kelly@dc.gov).

Andrew Huff from Councilmember Evans' office talked about redistricting. All Ward boundaries will be redrawn by July 15. ANC boundaries will then be redrawn by December 15th.

There is still time to vote for the RAMMY awards. Voting can be done at <http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/food/rammys> until midnight Wednesday, May 11, 2011.

The next breakfast meeting of the PennQuarter Neighborhood Association will be on May 25th at 700 6th Street NW (Akridge Building). Assistant Chief of Police Diane Groomes will be the speaker.

The next meeting of the Downtown Neighborhood Association will be Tuesday, June 14th.