

Shaw-Dupont Citizens Alliance

Minutes

Membership Meeting
January 17, 2013

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:05p.m, by Vice President, Daniel McKay

Board Members in Attendance:

Daniel McKay, Vice Pres.; Elwyn Ferris, Sec.; Guy Podgornik, Treasurer;
Robert Lawrentz, Tech. Officer.

President's Report:

In the absence of President, Joan Sterling, Vice President Daniel McKay gave the report.

Daniel McKay announced that founding member and 2nd Vice President, Lisa Kelly had submitted her resignation from the board as she has temporarily moved outside of SDCA's boundaries. Lisa Kelly's contributions to the establishment of SDCA and its ongoing efforts on behalf of our community have been substantial and invaluable. She will be greatly missed on the SDCA Board of Directors, but will maintain her status as an Associate General Member of the organization.

It was further reported that the portion of SDCA's boundaries to the south east of 14th and U Street (formerly ANC1B02) have been redistricted into the newly configured ANC1B12, and redrawn to include portions of the neighborhood formerly in other ANC single-member-districts. The newly elected ANC Commissioner for 1B12 is Zahra Jilani. SDCA's boundaries remain unchanged as a result of this redistricting.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Guy Podgornik gave the Treasurer's report, available to members upon request, which included the receipt of membership dues from several new members.

Announcements:

Elwyn Ferris reported on the resounding success of SDCA's First Annual Holiday Toy Drive and expressed SDCA's gratitude to the many members, neighbors, friends and supporters of SDCA for their extraordinary generosity, and to over 30 local businesses who advertized and publicized the event through their own social media outlets, with special appreciation to Good Wood and Home Rule for their participation as designated collection sites. Robert Lawrentz recognized Elwyn Ferris for his work in organizing and managing this event.

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Elwyn Ferris distributed announcements of the Citizens Federation's January 22nd Assembly being held at The All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church, 2300 Cathedral Avenue NW, where Dr. Mohammad Akhter, Chair of DC's Health Benefit Exchange Authority will present, and take questions on the intricacies of The Affordable Care Act expected to become operational in DC in October of this year. This Assembly is Open to the Public.

Guest Speakers:

Lucinda Babers, DMV:

Ms. Babers addressed neighborhood concerns, primarily on parking issues and defined the differences and varying responsibilities of the DMV, DDOT and DPW.

John Settles:

Mr. Settles is a candidate for DC Council-at-Large. He answered questions about promoting and sustaining small businesses in our neighborhood.

JBG Companies:

Representatives from the JBG Companies presented and discussed the alterations made to the 13th and U Street PUD stemming from the December 20th HPRB Hearing, in which the HPRB board expressed various concerns, and made specific suggestions regarding the height and the massing of the proposed project. Since that hearing, JBG has made alterations to the project resulting in a net diminution of the project by just 1000 square feet.

JBG announced that the Zoning Commission Public Hearing on the 13th and U Street PUD (Case 12-20) will be held on March 4, at 6:30 PM at 441 4th Street NW. Suite 220-S.

Motion by Daniel McKay, Chair of the Design and Development Committee, Seconded by Elwyn Ferris, to oppose the project on the grounds of height and massing, and insufficient response to HPRB's concerns. Vote: 6-1-0.

Motion to oppose passes.

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Committee Reports:

ABRA Committee:

Elwyn Ferris distributed copies of the January Report from the President of The Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia, in which President Anne Renshaw credits SDCA for its role in re-shaping the Alcohol Omnibus Bill that passed the DC Council in December. Elwyn Ferris recognized SDCA President, Joan Sterling for her invaluable contribution to this effort through her participation in the Citizens Federation ad hoc Committee that lobbied each and every member of the City Council, and successfully struck or reversed much of the bill that sought to limit resident's rights in alcohol licensing matters.

ABC License Applications:

ABRA Lic. #091140; Class "T" Tavern; "Street"; 1346 T Street NW:

Owners and proprietors Rose Previte and Michael Schuster presented their plan (verbal only-no blue prints or interior plans to present) to open a 2-story (basement and first floor) late-night tavern at 1346 T Street NW, with an interior capacity of 99, with live entertainment and DJ till 2:00 and 3:00 am; an exterior 15-seat T Street Sidewalk Café with live entertainment and DJ till 1:00 and 2:00 am; an exterior 14-seat Rear Summer Garden with live entertainment and DJ till 1:00 and 2:00 am. No food service requirement for a tavern license.

Numerous concerns from the neighbors included the request for maximum hours-of-operation (2:00 and 3:00 am). Request for Live Entertainment, both indoors and outdoors (front and rear of building). Lack of sound insulation. Request for a DJ. Inappropriate location for a tavern (immediately next door to a 3 unit residential building, on a residential side street); refusal to establish any food service requirement; no presentation of interior plans and expressed lack of funds for renovations to property.

Motion by Elwyn Ferris, Chair of the ABRA Committee, seconded by Daniel McKay to file a formal Protest of this application based on its negative impact on peace, order and quiet; vehicular and pedestrian safety; over-concentration of alcohol licenses; and parking concerns. Vote: 9-0-0.

Motion to file Protest passes.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 21, 2013.