

## **Shaw-Dupont Citizens Alliance**

### **Minutes** Membership Meeting March 20, 2014

#### **DRAFT MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 pm in the Thurgood Marshall Center.

The Treasurer's report supplied by Guy Podgornik. Membership included 3 new members. A friendly reminder once again that as it is a new year...all are encouraged to try to submit their dues if not done so already.

A representative from Madison Investments spoke about the project on 14<sup>th</sup> and Wallach Streets. The representative said his company is still working on the logistics (parking, trash removal, etc.) but that a June or July start date is anticipated. He did say they project 3 parking spaces, and a basement, and that the building proposed is a 9 story apartment building plus 3 retail tenants yet to be lined up. Residents expressed concern about trucks coming through Wallach during construction and so noted this as something important to work out as soon as possible and not after the project is already underway. It was also suggested that Madison representatives schedule a meeting with residents/neighbors, JBG and the city government people as soon as possible.

The Madison representative was told that we will plan on putting their design package on the SDCA website, emphasizing the need for a clear summary for the project plan.

Metropolitan Police Officer Leonard was introduced and outlined his shift duties and offered suggestions on how to report any problems we have.

Examples of neighborhood crimes include auto breaking and entering, stolen property, damage and destruction of property, etc. The use of closed circuit cameras around residences has indeed helped identify those who commit crimes.

ABRA issues included: Doi Moi outdoor seating, St. Ex outdoor hours, Amsterdam Falafel, Tico, and New Town.

Noise Issues: ABRA noise hotline should be used to report noise issues. Investigating installation of Quiet signage used in Georgetown will be investigated

Representatives of the Garrison Elementary PTA gave a presentation of the proposed modernization of the school facility, parking and the great need for volunteers from the community to help at the school. An interesting plan for a space

in the middle of Garrison is planned with the hope that it will be a place for mixed uses between the community and the students. There is a focus group that hopes to articulate and gather ideas for the creation of library facilities, arts, community run offerings, etc.; the need for meaningful liaisons between for example older individuals in the neighborhood and students was mentioned as something that needs to be explored in the hope that Garrison can become a useful and vibrant

The meeting was adjourned a few minutes after 9:00 pm and the next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17.

The main topic for discussion revolved around the proposed parking garage on 1325 S St, NW between 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets. The garage proposed would contain approximately 500 spaces, but as yet there is no design plan provided; Bill Ritz (?) noted he believes the plans may include both parking and residences. Discussion was lively. Although there is certainly support for parking for residents and their families and guests, the proposed use of the property currently occupied by Parks and Recreation met with almost unanimous alarm and objection.

Caroline McKay suggested that we lobby for using available Garrison Elementary property for parking spaces; she also noted that we need to register our desire for work to begin way before 2019.

Dan McKay noted we need to communicate our opposition to changes in zoning laws proposed which would allow for a convenience store in the middle of a residential block. A motion to send a letter was made and unanimously passed (10 votes) to send a Letter of Protest to the city's Zoning Committee.

Both Chuck Goldfarb and Caroline McKay offered suggestions on how we should present our concerns to the City. Chuck noted we should indicate at least three stances: (1) that we are not opposed to some public use of land (2) that we maintain the idea of underground parking and (3) that there be no change to alley parking (around Parks and Recreation facility) because of impact on S and T Streets, and the unacceptable congestion projected onto S and T Streets. Both Chuck and Caroline emphasized the importance of residents being clear and concrete about our vision for the neighborhood. They voiced the need for a drawing (illustration) of any plans for parking/development plans for our area (apparently there are none –or—we have just not received any.)

Two other Letters of Protest were proposed and unanimously agreed upon: one to state our concern about the proposed license for Tico's because of (a) overconcentration already of liquor licensed establishments (b) negative impact of parking projected (c) rodent proliferation and (d) the inevitable increase in late night noise and decrease in reasonable peace and quiet. These things could be resolved subject to the Settlement Agreement.

The third letter voted on and unanimously agreed upon contains our full support of funding for the proposed Garrison parking project.

A new (?) member, Soochon Radee (?) mentioned how really noisy it has been at 3:00am several times in his area of 14<sup>th</sup> and S, and wonders if it would do any good to look into signs that Georgetown, for instance, uses indicating sanctions to loud noise, and Dan mentioned that it is important to call 911 when disturbances happen, because if it comes to some sort of adjudication about the noise, we can provide multiple instances of visitors...disturbing the peace and hopefully discouraging late night noise pollution.

The Reeve Center was mentioned again as a convenient addition to parking for evening and weekend entertainment parking, officials were invited to our meeting, but no one agreed to be present. The person responsible for the flyer about opposing a parking garage on S Street is Elizabeth Dangio, who resides directly beside the Parks and Recreation building on S.

In addition to the points made by Caroline and Chuck, they noted that it is important that we suggest an alternative plan for the public 500 space parking garage, along with the other points, in order to let the City know we are all for progress and improvement but we do not want to go backwards in making the neighborhood unsafe and unhealthy for the residents. Dan noted that we need to be careful in approving little “evils” in our attempts to negotiate, because it is just asking for the result of give them an inch and they’ll take a mile. The discussion was a good preparation for gearing up our proposals and plans.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15pm.