



MARCH 17 KCA MEETING WILL FEATURE AT-LARGE COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

The election of Kwame Brown as DC City Council Chairman created a vacancy for his former at-large Council seat. Arcane election rules permitted the DC Democratic State Committee to make a temporary appointment until the special election can be held April 26. The Committee appointed Sekou Biddle, who is also one of the candidates for the permanent office.

I thought it important that the KCA sponsor a forum to better inform the voters of Adams Morgan, and to let folks get to know these candidates, who will be taking questions from the audience on the 17th.

Notwithstanding the results of challenges to petition signatures for the various candidates, the following persons filed the necessary 3,000 petition signatures to be placed on the ballot.

In alphabetical order, they are: Sekou Biddle (D), Tom Brown (D), Dorothy Douglas (D), Arkan Haile (I), Josh Lopez (D), Patrick Mara (R), Vincent Orange (D), Alan Page (SG), Jacques Patterson (D), and Bryan Weaver (D).

Those who have confirmed their attendance at the KCA forum are:

- Biddle
- Brown
- Lopez
- Mara
- Orange
- Page
- Patterson
- Weaver

I hope you'll be able to attend this important event, get to know the candidates adequately to help with your choice, and of course, vote on April 26.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm at Good Will Baptist Church and will likely run about 2 hours.

-Denis James

BILTMORE TRIANGLE GARDEN: PERENNIAL FAVORITE STARTS ITS ANNUAL SHOW OF BEAUTY

It's just about the time of year for neighbors to start seeing the results of the hard work invested in the small triangular park at 20th and Biltmore Streets.

The eight gardeners who tend the ten plots really get motivated in March, clearing debris, pruning the nine rose bushes, spraying them to avoid yellow and black spots, composting, mulching, fertilizing (we only use organic pesticides and fertilizers) and planting new grass.



Pink Iris in Biltmore Triangle Garden- Photo: Marianne Josem

Between the chemicals the city used to melt the snow and unthinking dog walkers, some of our grass has been killed. (Snow from the streets was cleared and dumped in the garden.) Rehabilitating the grass will be one of our

KCA MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2011

major projects for 2011. If we have the funds, we will also make and install a new permanent garden sign.

Soon there will be color in the garden. As always we anticipate a bountiful array of irises in May and June. Some of the gardeners have added new bulbs and plants, so you may see some new blooms as well as your old favorites. More news:

We are looking at adding a new flowering shrub in the shade garden behind the bench;

We have 2 new gardeners this year: Dobromir Vassil and Ted Guthrie;

We are now on Facebook. Become a fan and follow our activities. You can also add pictures, comments and questions. Just search "Biltmore Triangle Garden".



Purple Iris in Biltmore Triangle Garden- Photo: Marianne Josem

Please support the garden with your contributions. Our funds are running low. Later in the spring, we will print and put our 2011 fundraising brochure in a basket on the bench. In the meantime, please use the coupon on the back of this newsletter to send donations to: KCA, P.O. Box 21311, Washington, DC 20009. Designate payments to the Biltmore Triangle Garden. All contributions are tax-deductible. As always, we are very grateful to all our donors for their generosity. This year, we need funds to pay for compost, mulch, fertilizer, pest control, grass seed, tools, plants and bulbs.

-Marianne Josem, Garden Coordinator
mariannejosem@gmail.com

President **Denis James** called the meeting to order at 6:30, with approximately 80 people in attendance. The minutes of the January 20, 2011 meeting were approved.

Community announcements:

Mary Belcher said that there will be Earth Day clean up opportunities in April and that there will be an activity in honor of the Pierce Park cemeteries, possibly on Emancipation Day.

Bill O'Field, Chair of the Ward One Democrats, reminded the audience of the citywide election April 26 to fill the At-large council seat vacated by Kwame Brown. Special elections can have low turnout, so he encouraged participation. There will be vote by mail and absentee ballots will be available without requiring a reason. Polls will be open from 7am-8pm and all precincts will vote at their regular locations.

Lillian Perdomo of appointed Councilmember Sekou Biddle's staff, announced that there will be an Open House Feb 25, 4pm - 7pm at his office in the Wilson Building. She also announced a hearing on school safety and truancy on Saturday, February 26, at 10 am in Room 500 of the Wilson Building.

Nancy Shia, former ANC 06 commissioner, announced that there will be an ABC hearing on Chief Ike's Mambo Room on March 2nd at 4 pm, at 1250 U St. The residents of Beverley Court Coop are protesting late-night noise problems. Nancy emphasized that they love Chief Ike's, they just need some respite from the late night noise.

Olivier Kamanda, ANC 03 commissioner, announced that the ANC 03 community survey is now available online and that the ANC really wants our responses. A paper version, in both English and Spanish, is also available. There is a March 2nd deadline.

Kristin Barden, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan BID, announced that there will be an Adams Morgan BID Temporium project, similar to the one in Mount Pleasant. Coinciding with the annual Cherry Blossom festival, it will be open March 27 through April 8, in the former Caribou Coffee storefront at 2421 18th.

ABC matter

Madam's Organ, 2461 18th Street, has filed to terminate its voluntary agreement with KCA. Denis noted that noise has been a problem at that location. After discussion, **Joe Guttentag** moved to protest the licensee's request to terminate its voluntary agreement with the KCA on the grounds that the granting of the request would lead to disturbance of the peace, order and quiet of the surrounding neighborhood. Mary Belcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed.

GW Cancer Institute presentation

Dr. Steven Patierno, Director of GW Cancer Institute, gave a presentation on the Patient Navigator Network, which helps with cancer screening and locating quality care for District residents. He said there is some good news:

- Over the last 5 years, care providers have gotten very good at treating a large number of cancers, with less toxic treatment alternatives and personalized genomic medicine, which focuses on what has gone wrong in an individual's cells;

- There are 12.5 million cancer survivors in the US;
- While we used to treat cancer as an acute condition, we are beginning to view it as a chronic disease that is manageable, with treatments that don't destroy the cancer, but keep it in check.

There are four major cancer centers in the District: Howard, GW, Washington Hospital Center, and Georgetown. Together with 72 other cancer-treating organizations in DC, they have formed the DC Cancer Consortium, using funding from the tobacco settlement fund.

One of the core areas of the Consortium plan is Patient Navigation. Its purpose is to overcome hurdles in receiving appropriate cancer care. It has proven very efficient in overcoming barriers to care, such as: transportation to treatment, insurance issues, and psycho-social issues (eg: getting men screened).

DC has extremely high cancer rates. The citywide patient navigation network works with every patient who wants care but has run into barriers. There are now 40 patient navigators, embedded in every cancer care organization in the District. Using a secure data base, they can coordinate among multiple sites, from screening to diagnosis, through treatment to post-treatment.

A cancer information hotline will be starting next week. It will link to phone navigators and send patients to appropriate treatment providers.

Questions were raised by the audience on environmental causation and lead levels in DC. Dr. Patierno said lead is not a carcinogen, but causes neurologic problems, blood and kidney issues. He said that most of the lead-in-water problems in the DC have been fixed. He said the lack of heavy industry in DC prevents a bad environment from a cancer causation perspective.

In response to a question about relying on the DC Department of Health, he pointed out that its efficacy has ebbed and flowed, frequently based on finances. Although the DC DOH contributed to the Consortium plan, the Department faces real budget problems and has a challenging administrative process. \$16.5 million over the last 6 years has been provided to the cancer consortium for cancer control.

Contact information for Lisa Schmitt, Outreach Screening Navigator, Citywide Patient Navigator Network:

canlms@gwumc.edu phone: 202 994-7329, website: <http://www.gwumc.edu/gwci/>

For Dr. Patierno: cansrp@gwumc.edu phone: 202 994-2449

Mayor Vincent Gray

The mayor noted that KCA was the first group he addressed after declaring his candidacy less than a year ago.



Denis greets Mayor Gray - photo: Nancy Shia

He said these are challenging times for DC. We're in the 3rd year of an historic recession. Cities and states are facing similar challenges: New York City's \$3 billion deficit, Illinois' 66% income tax increase and California's \$38 billion deficit. DC is in the process of reducing the current budget by \$188 million. DC has introduced staff furloughs on holidays to minimally disrupt services. Projections are for a \$500-600 million deficit for next fiscal year (October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012). \$200 million was taken from savings last year. We're also losing 78 million in stimulus dollars. There is a problem with capital budget vs operating account changes. As a result, DC faces severe cuts in budgets with shared sacrifices needed. We may need to create new funding by increasing revenues. The 2011-2012 budget will be presented April 1.

Mayor Gray said he'd just been in New York City with Council Chair Brown and Councilmember Evans to meet with the folks who rate bonds. Our income tax secured bonds are AAA rated. However, they're very concerned about the spending down of the fund balance in the last two years. Most of the remaining nest egg is part of a Congressionally imposed reserve fund.

The new budget must have structural balance, as we can't get more funding from savings nor can we expect federal assistance. We can only spend what we're bringing in. The mayor doesn't think that there's a threat of a new Control Board unless we can't balance our

budget. But people aren't going to be happy with the details of balancing the budget.

We need to retain solvency. We have increased costs associated with the population increase (to over 600,000 for the first time in decades) and the increased enrollment in public schools. We are now the only city which guarantees that every 3 or 4 year old will have a seat in a school, giving them an early start, but there are increased costs.

The future of the city is based on young families with school-aged children. Previously, they moved out once they had children or didn't even move in. We're seeing a change in that pattern, but need to continue our efforts to make DC an attractive place for families.

The Mayor's top priority is an educated, viable workforce. Currently, 70% of jobs in DC are taken by nonresidents. We need to improve that statistic.

In addition, there will be a Congressional impact on the budget. Congressional leaders are planning to not allow DC to spend its own money on abortions or needle exchange. The HIV statistics in the District are unique: 3% of DC residents are HIV positive; that rate increases to 7% in certain neighborhoods in contrast to 1% nationally. Congress shouldn't be substituting its judgment for locals. We don't need external management.



Mayor Gray addresses the KCA. - Photo: Nancy Shia

Mayor Gray pointed out that DC gets compared with states when there's bad news. "If you're going to rate us as a state, let us be one!" He pointed out that the District already does many of the things state governments do.

He made an analogy to Egypt, noting that we are sick and tired of living under a dictatorship. How can we celebrate democratization in Egypt and not be outraged in the District? We are the only capital city in the world that doesn't have a vote in its national legislative body. And yet we only get 50-75 people at rallies for statehood. Those fifty are wonderfully committed people. But why are the rest of us so apathetic? Every ANC and civic association should discuss how important this is. Perhaps we should become a territory? But the Mayor prefers "Keep my money, but give me what I pay for!"

On this 202nd anniversary of Lincoln's birth, Mayor Gray concluded by paraphrasing Lincoln: There is no self government unless everyone participates in the government. The people of the District have to decide that enough is enough.

Before moving to questions for the Mayor, Denis recognized the work of KCA Executive Committee members **Joyce Douglas**; Bill O'Field; **Ted Guthrie**, and **Bob Ellsworth**, and liaison to the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project, Mary Belcher, and recognized past and current ANC IC commissioners who were present: **Bryan Weaver**; Nancy Shia; **Wilson Reynolds**; **Marty Davis**; Olivier Kamanda, and **Alan Roth**. Denis also thanked Minister **Tom Lewis**, **Frank Smith**, Chairman of the Trustee Board, and Deacon **Lonny Bradley** of Goodwill Baptist Church.

Questions from the audience:

John Cloud: *If this will be a shared sacrifice, will DC revisit or rescind things like tax abatements to Marriott and that requested by Whole Foods?*

The Mayor responded that his criteria for tax abatements is whether there will be a good return for DC. He said investment in the hotel will return dollars to the District, more than paying for our investment. The tax abatement provides the catalyst, which will actually generate dollars. He pointed to the Skyland Shopping Center in Ward 7 as an example of unused property. Its \$40 million TIF will be paid for by additional tax revenue, in addition to providing a better amenity.

Question from audience member: *Will there be across the board cuts or will they be strategic?*

Mayor Gray said his priorities are job creation and education. As the Council made the last revisions, they actually increased the job education budget. The agency budget review teams are asking: "here's a proposed percentage cut, tell us how you'd achieve that? If you can't make the cuts, we'll figure out how to make them for you." We want a balanced budget this year. In a couple of years, things will change. It isn't an absence of jobs. There have been 25,000 new jobs, but there's a mismatch with skills needed for those jobs.

He cited weatherization and other green jobs (some with only two weeks of training necessary) as examples of jobs for which DC can rapidly provide a skilled workforce. DC Community College is vital to that effort. It currently has 2600 students. He also cited the St. Elizabeth's campus development for Homeland Security, where there will be 14,000 jobs and 22,000 construction jobs. Support services will also be necessary: restaurants; dry cleaners; office buildings. We must recognize the kinds of jobs that will be coming and direct our educational efforts there. In short, everything is on the table, half the budget goes to workforce so some cuts there will be necessary. But the cuts will be strategic.

Ann Hargrove asked that the Mayor commit to adequate neighborhood input to the process of revising the rules and

PLEASE CONTINUE TO RENEW DUES

procedures for planning and zoning: we need to educate residents on the effect of proposed changes to the code.

The Mayor noted that the zoning re-write is a monumental process. He committed to making the process as inclusive as possible. He noted the number of Task Forces and the work of Victor Hoskins, the new Deputy for Planning, and Harriett Tregoning, Director of the Office of Planning. He asked that audience members let him know their suggestions. He also noted that the experience with small area plans, like in Brookland, have been quite exciting.

Question from the audience: *Who will be appointed to the 51st State Commission?*

The Mayor said that Boards & Commissions are a mess. His administration is assessing the situation. There are 175 boards & commissions, not all effective. Some will be combined. He supports a Statehood Commission, but it won't be a panacea. Nothing will happen until it rises to the level of personal insult to each DC resident.

Question from Matt McCarthy, *who asked the Mayor to direct some attention to the many problems with the Hilton, and its company town aspect.*

Matt said neighbors never get respect from the District on Hilton issues. Problems include trucks blocking the street, MPD officers receiving free meals, not ticketing for obvious violations. He asked that the Mayor stop the free meals and allow meter maids to give tickets for parking violations. Previous administrations have promised to stop these practices, but nothing happens.

Mayor Gray responded that he was going to an MPD event following the KCA meeting and will take it up with Chief Lanier.

Jim Nixon asked *whether the Mayor has witnessed Adams Morgan at 2-3 am on weekends? He asked the Mayor to appoint someone senior from his office to actually see what happens: the refuse; talk to MPD/bus/fire personnel about ability to use 18th; and provide a comprehensive review of what's going on here.*

Mayor Gray responded that he's not sure of the benefit to DC of our late-night activities when all the added costs, such as MPD, nuisance crimes and disturbance to neighbors are considered.

Olivier Kamanda: *Noting the twenty empty storefronts in Adams Morgan, he asked if there were any proposals to incentivize the use of vacancies?*

The Mayor noted that the District had tried a higher tax rate on vacant and abandoned properties, but there had been a problem with over-zealous enforcement. And there are more challenges due to the recession. He asked for a list of properties so they can go out and look at them. His administration is trying to change the DC government culture to coordinate approach across agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

-Ted Guthrie, Secretary

KCA's annual dues-renewal campaign has been going well, with 77 of our members (out of 274 mailed) already having used the return envelope included in the January mailing of the newsletter. In direct-mail terms this is a great response.

So I ask those of you who have not yet done so to please go back to the January newsletter and use the return envelope to mail in your 2011 dues, or a contribution to another KCA project, such as the Biltmore Triangle Garden, or the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project.

We're continuing to collect member e-mail addresses and preferences for receiving the newsletter by snail mail or electronically. Until that process is complete, and a list compiled, some of you who have opted for the electronic mode of delivery may still receive the newsletter by US mail, but this will be worked out soon.

-Denis James

KCA MEETING DATES FOR 2011

The remaining meeting dates for the Kalorama Citizens Association in 2011 are shown below. KCA meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through June. We normally take July and August off.

In December and June, we generally hold, respectively, a Holiday Party and a Summer Dinner Party at local restaurants. From time to time, we may change our meeting date in order to accommodate the schedule of a guest. In such cases, we give the membership as much notice as possible of the date change.

March 17, 2011	April 21, 2011
May, 19, 2011	June 16, 2011
September 15, 2011	October 20, 2011
November 17, 2011	December 15, 2011

The KCA newsletter is published in print and electronically 10 times a year.

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Contributions and Dues Payments

Please renew your KCA 2011 dues of \$25.00, if your address label states "Please Pay 2011 Dues".

KCA is updating our e-mail list to provide neighborhood news updates and for electronic delivery of our newsletter. Folks often switch e-mail addresses. If a 2 person household, please provide both e-mail addresses.

Please supply your current e-mail address here → _____

Second e-mail address for 2 person household: _____

Wish to receive KCA newsletter electronically? Yes No

Pay dues or contribute to a KCA project!

Pay 2011 dues

Biltmore Triangle Garden

Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project

Contribution in addition to dues payment

Amount enclosed: _____

Please return this form with your check to KCA, PO Box 21311, Washington DC 20009.

KCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. All dues and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.



Kalorama Station
PO Box 21311
Washington DC 20009
Return Service Requested

**THE NEXT KCA MEETING
THURSDAY MARCH 17, 7:00 PM**

**AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATES FORUM**

**GOOD WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1862 KALORAMA ROAD NW**