

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2010 KCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Welcome by President **Denis James**.

Approval of Minutes, which are posted on website, was moved and seconded; approved by acclamation.

Resolution on Howard University Anthropology Department

Mary Belcher presented a resolution in appreciation for all the hard work Howard faculty and students have done on the Walter Pierce Park project. She said that the President of Howard University has recommended the closure of the anthropology department as part of a cost saving move. She asked that KCA approve the following resolution because the department's work serves Howard's purpose and urges reconsideration of the decision to discontinue the anthropology department.

KALORAMA CITIZENS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT FOR HOWARD UNIVERSITY ANTHROPOLOGY FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Whereas, Howard University President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., has recommended that the University close its anthropology major and stop granting anthropology degrees, and University officials will make a final decision on this matter in December 2010; and

Whereas, the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer group of residents from Adams Morgan and other parts of the District of Columbia, with special interest in historic preservation and other issues contributing to the quality of life in the Adams Morgan neighborhood; and

Whereas, KCA members since 2005 have worked with Howard University Anthropology Professor Mark Mack and Howard University anthropology students to preserve and protect two nearly forgotten cemeteries in Walter C. Pierce Community Park, including a small Quaker burial ground founded in 1807 and the Mt. Pleasant Plains Cemetery, where more than 8,000 African American citizens were buried between 1871 and 1890; and

Whereas, the Walter Pierce cemeteries were once honored burying grounds that became dishonored in the 20th Century as a result of economic-development pressures and social injustice; and

Whereas, Professor Mack, his students, living descendants of those buried in the Walter Pierce cemeteries, KCA, and other members of the concerned community have raised public awareness of the importance of the cemeteries through extensive anthropological fieldwork, historic research, and regular public events; and

Whereas, the grassroots-driven, academically-supported Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project has been covered by The Washington Post, Current Newspapers, National Public Radio and other media outlets; has received support from KCA, the Washington, D.C. Humanities Council, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-1-C), Friends of Walter Pierce Park, Washington Parks & People, and the District of Columbia City Council; has been granted the D.C. Mayor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation; and has been recognized by the American Anthropological Association as a unique, public-service-oriented effort; and

Whereas, Professor Mark Mack and his students through non-invasive means have identified the exposed remains of at least nine individuals in Walter Pierce Park, have located vulnerable graves

in other parts of the park, and have documented the names of 8,428 burials in the Mt. Pleasant Plains and Quaker cemeteries; and

Whereas, the protection of African American and Quaker graves in Walter Pierce Park could not be accomplished without the expertise and dedication of Professor Mark Mack, his students and other Howard University anthropologists, particularly in light of the scientific paths forged by them in the African Burial Ground Project in New York; and

Whereas, the central participation of Professor Mark Mack and his anthropology students in the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project fulfills Howard University's core mission of "sustaining a cadre of faculty who, through their teaching and research, are committed to the development of distinguished and compassionate graduates and to the quest of solutions to human and social problems in the United States and throughout the world;"

We, the members of the Kalorama Citizens Association, hereby resolve:

-To express our heartfelt appreciation for the public service performed by Professor Mark Mack, his students and other Howard University anthropologists working on the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project since 2005; and

--To urge Howard University President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., to reconsider his recommendation that the University discontinue its anthropology program; and

--To express our support for the continuation of anthropology as a major field of study at Howard University and for it to continue granting anthropology degrees, given the University's unique qualifications for researching and interpreting African American culture both past and present, particularly in the city of Washington, D.C.

Vice President **Bob Ellsworth** moved resolution, seconded by **Suzanne Benda**. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor, none opposed. Mary also pointed out that individuals could write letters.

Denis then offered two resolutions for consideration by the membership. The first resolution was for KCA to write a letter of support for the Adams Morgan Youth Leadership Academy (AMYLEA)'s proposal in response to the District's RFP for educational enrichment services to youth. AMYLEA's proposal would provide after school services for 40 youth aged 14-18.

Bob Ellsworth moved and Suzanne Benda seconded the resolution, which was approved 9-0.

The second resolution was to protest the renewal of Town Tavern's ABC license. Denis asked for approval of the resolution noting that there's been a change in ownership and serious and continuing noise problems since that change.

Resolution On Town Tavern, 2323 18th Street:

Whereas, Town Tavern is a CT-licensed establishment with a sidewalk café, and

Whereas, KCA has a voluntary agreement with Town Tavern to assure that its operation does not disturb residents, and

Whereas, neighbors have complained that noise from Town Tavern cause disturbance of peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood, and

Whereas, the establishment is now up for renewal of its ABC license, which occurs once every three years,

Now, then the members of the KCA present and constituting a quorum hereby vote to protest the renewal of Town Tavern's ABC license base on the ground of disturbance of the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood.

Resolution offered by KCA President Denis James, 10-21-2010

Bob Ellsworth moved and Mary Belcher seconded the resolution. The vote was 10 in favor, none opposed.

Ward One State Board of Education candidates

Incumbent Dotti Love Wade (DLW) Opening Statement

She is the current representative for Ward One. She clarified the difference between the state board and the DCPS: the board creates standards and guidelines for all schools, doesn't open/close schools or deal with teachers. As a state agency, the board was eligible to apply for the Race to the Top grant (\$74 million). It also developed common course standards on language arts and math. She would like to continue Ward One's representation on the board. She enumerated her accomplishments, highlighting child nutrition.

Challenger Patrick Mara (PM) Opening Statement

He lives on 11th Street, NW in Columbia Heights and has been in DC his entire adult life. He believes that we need a greater sense of urgency in public education. He has been door-to-door listening to stakeholders, marched in Capital Pride, participated in Adams Morgan Day. He stressed that we need to look at non-traditional groups like Capital Pride to create that urgency. He cited his experience on the Columbia Heights Day Initiative Board, his longtime role as mentor and tutor for students. He would like to go beyond the traditional role of Board, taking concerns of the people to the administration.

Questions from the audience:

--why is there no program geared to DC statehood?

DLW: day to day operation of the schools no longer under Board, same with maintenance; DC as a subject is under review.

PM: nutrition vital for engaging students. He has met with all principals in the Ward.

--on what do the candidates disagree?

PM: believes that we can do a better job of communication. Rhee said that DLW hadn't spoken with her. It's important to go to community meetings. We need more people involved in process

DLW: she's been involved with DCPS since 1959; active member of PTA; ANC commissioner; knows this neighborhood; attends every festival

--in light of recent suicides of students nationwide, is anything happening in DCPS regarding tolerance?

DLW: addressed that in last night's Board meeting; it's a key item on the agenda; in the process of developing standards.

PM: we need an enrollment audit. Need to know how many students we have; risk behavior in schools, properly administer study, look at data, see where problems are greatest. GLBT students are more at risk than general populace. Create support and advocacy role. Most overlooked group of stakeholders. Would meet with Chancellor one-on-one. Quarterly newsletter planned and would have an Annual Town Hall on Education for Ward One.

--what are the candidates thoughts on Bruce Monroe school which the city has torn down and turned into bb court: what role did SBOE play? Are they disappointed?

DLW: attended a number of meetings about school closures; signed a resolution against Bruce Monroe closure. The decision was made before she was elected to State Board. Thinks the District was sold a bad deal; told that it was going to be an 18 month process with smaller, more efficient school--retail development still going on. Mayor or Chancellor had control over the decision. Graham facilitated meetings on the issue.

PM: Disgraceful how it happened. As member of State Board would be involved even though not strictly within purview of the office. Gave example of Hispanic kids being segregated.

Candidates for ANC 1C

ANC 1C-01

Stacey Moye--was elected as a write-in candidate. She's enjoyed it. It's given her the opportunity to meet a number of neighbors. Issues she's been involved with include zoning matters, environmental issues, tree canopy, 18th St streetscape (particularly green issues), community events including recycling hazardous waste, and the arts. Running unopposed.

ANC 1C-02

Marty Davis—referred audience to his brochure for bio and work history. He initially got involved with the ANC on issues involving the branch library. He sees the ANC as the best opportunity for democracy and would like to make the ANC a vital portion of DC government.

Bill O'Field--Has served on KCA Executive Committee and believes that diversity is important on the ANC (no openly gay member).

ANC 1C-03

Adam Eidinger--11 years in neighborhood, dealt with a lot of neighborhood issues, will work hard, attend every meeting; will be his priority; issues dear to heart: medical cannabis; better grip on alcohol in neighborhood--neighborhood out of control, ANC needs to be more assertive; noise, violence, assaults

Jose Sueiro--over 35 years in neighborhood; detailed positions on website: quality of life issues (broken lamp post removal, Kal park); advocacy from outside and inside: crime and security, went on raid closing nuisance ABC restaurant(drugs/guns); diversity and affordability of neighborhood; preserve it's legacy.

Olivier Kamanda--running because this is his home, wants this to be a place we feel proud of, people feel safe, businesses want to come here; will survey community to find out what residents see as major problems to be dealt with; specific series of ideas to address those problems; give community opportunity to create vision. A plan not a platform.

ANC 1C-04 no candidate on ballot

ANC 1C-05 no candidate on ballot

ANC 1C-06

Steve Lanning--Sees the position as giving him the opportunity to engage neighbors. He's a labor union representative and thinks the position would be consistent with that. Since it's at the grassroots level, you can actually see the benefits. Particular areas of concern include: responsible nightlife activity (using ideas from other cities); curbside recycling; and rat control.

Raymond Mosley did not attend.

ANC 1C-07

Wilson Reynolds It will be his fifth year on the ANC. Running unopposed. Notes that our ANC will be replacing 5 out of 8 commissioners. Primary areas of concern include: parking opportunity opt in to new Ward One legislation; planned hotel; renewal of liquor license moratorium.

ANC 1C-08

Kathie Boettrich did not attend.

Questions from the audience:

--All said that they would support a continuation of the liquor license moratorium. Wilson Reynolds noted that the devil would be in the details.

--How to improve our neighborhood?:

O'Field: We should make use of empty storefronts on 18th, perhaps arts? And we must work with landlords to get rents down.

Sueiro: We need tax abatements for small businesses: if we use the local tax code for big boxes, we can use it for small businesses and developers who do low income housing. We must encourage a diversified business community.

Davis: Job creation is difficult. We need data about who we are. We need a master plan, employment would be a part of that.

Kamanda: There are 12 empty storefronts on 18th, 8 on Columbia. We need to build on our strength--start up information technology organizations and marketing technology. Parking, traffic, and security are a holistic issue. We need to enforce the laws that are on the books, in particular, quality of life ticketing by police officers.

Eidinger: Landlords holding out for extremely high rents creates a huge barrier to business. Limiting liquor licenses will lower rents. We need daytime businesses.

Lanning: Are DC residents getting their fair share from benefits given to developers? The loopholes in first source requirements should be closed. ANC should hold developer's feet to the fire.

--Problems with Adams Morgan Mainstreet; cost to artists of Adams Morgan day/ issue of landlord funding of BID: what is ANC's oversight role?

Eidinger: Agrees on Adams Morgan day needing oversight.

Davis: This is an example of lack of vision. ANC is where things should begin.

O'Field: ANC should have Adams Morgan day organizers come and report.

Sueiro: Should limit Adams Morgan day to resident artists. Mentioned involvement in getting alcohol eliminated from the event participants.

--How do you view your role as ANC commissioner when in opposition to the council, mayor, or BID?

Davis: ANC should be the BIG voice in the room. It is small 'd' democracy in action. He served on Tony Williams' health commission, had a disagreement over shutting down the public hospital. Believes that you have to push back. He wants to wake up his 2000 constituents.

Sueiro: He tries not to make it about himself. He has been public servant all his life and believes that the creation of coalitions is vital; compromise and collegiality are important.

O'Field: "This isn't my first time at the rodeo!" He notes that he was on ANC in Ward 7. There needs to be give and take, you must keep communication going.

Kamanda: He has no intention of working for DC government, so wouldn't be swayed. Believes in the importance of data: when you have the data at the outset, they can't argue with it. The negotiation skills he's learned as a lawyer are important to coming to a solution. He would organize individuals around policy goals.

Ward One Council candidates

Jim Graham (D)

Noted that he's made three appearance before KCA in this election. He carried every precinct in Ward One in the primary. Said that in such a diverse ward, that's a significant achievement. He asked for applause for the tough campaign by Bryan Weaver and Jeff Smith. Said that he's running on his record of achievement: bringing the DC Circulator to Adams Morgan, which has the highest farebox return of any route; putting Adams Morgan on the Metro map; supporting the BID; fighting gang issues; bringing Harris Teeter to the neighborhood; opening up Champlain Street through Marie Reed School campus; funding the improvements to the Sorrento (with DC funds); and the 18th St streetscape, which will be a toothache, but a necessary one with a result we'll be very happy with.

Marc Morgan (R)

Our complacency has gotten us to a place where we've lost jobs and the education system is not working. He acknowledged Graham's legacy, but said that it's time for a fresh new approach. He was a strong supporter of Rhee. DC ranks last in small business development. We need sustainable rents.

Nancy Shia (Statehood Green)

Has been commissioner for ANC 1C-06 for two terms. She's running to give people a choice. She's been in this neighborhood for 38 years. We need a strong voice for statehood. Notes that

the director of the BID does not live in ward 1, but works in favor of liquor licensees. Believes that we have too many liquor licenses. Disputes the decisions to have police presence paid for by liquor licensees. She notes that it was the BID that pushed to open Champlain as two way street and open during the day. Believes that the club zone is one of the worst problems our neighborhood faces, providing a feast for the rats and pigeons. The businesses are not cleaning up until the next morning. And police are not authorized to ticket for littering (implied that they should be).

Questions from the audience:

--Would you support a reduction in the number of liquor licenses allowed in Adams Morgan?

Shia: would support reducing by half. Noted that Chief Ike's has regularly violated voluntary agreements.

Morgan: would support a reduction.

Graham: would consider a reduction. But noted need to bring a better economic balance to the neighborhood (giving the example of U St). Believes that the proposed hotel is a key component, both for preservation and for daytime commerce.

--"The rent is too damned high": How would you encourage affordable housing?

Graham: Rent control originally allowed "comparable" raises. That was strengthened under his watch. He has also proposed making it permanent. He has been endorsed by TANEC.

Morgan: This is a major issue in Ward One. Gentrification increases rent. He is in support of rent control, but believes we can do more. We need to look at other communities for strategies.

Shia: Pointed to the "Hot property" list. She believes in aggressive enforcement of housing code violations (for example, the Deauville fire). She believes in co-op options. We've lost 30% of low income units in Ward One.

Graham disputes Shia's review of "hot property" list. Says that in fact all have been rehabilitated with tenants now as owners.

--relative position in GLAA scoring:

Morgan: disputes his GLAA scoring. After the primary, he resubmitted his record and was given a higher score. He has worked on many issues involving the gay community, from AIDS to marriage equality. Says that GLAA took away points because he had worked for John Boehner.

Shia: Noted that she became a candidate after the primary. Jocularly noted that she must be gayer than Morgan since she got a higher GLAA score. Noted that doing the GLAA survey really helped inform her about issues in the GLBT community.

--Accessibility issues on 18th: what will happen with new streetscape?

Graham noted that the streetscape had significant input from the community at large and complied with mandates for accessibility. Promises he will see that during the improvement process all accessibility will be maintained.

--Document sellers (fake IDs) problem on Columbia Road, has anything new been done?:

Shia: Said MPD Officer Kurtz was addressing the situation, but was transferred.

Graham: Said Officer Kurtz was taken off the street after arrests for lack of immigration documentation, which is against MPD policy. Claimed you don't see the document sellers as much now. Enforcement shouldn't be by MPD.

--Concern expressed about the potential loss of WPFW-FM if Church-Hotel development goes forward.

Graham: His understanding was that WPFW and CityPaper will be staying in the neighborhood in the new hotel project. Noted that a hearing on tax abatement process has been held.

Morgan: Expressed concerns about the oversight of the number of jobs in the hotel project. He's concerned about investments in big businesses rather than small ones.

Graham: claimed 3000 jobs from Columbia Heights project, 1500 of them local. That's not to say that we can't work on small businesses. If we hadn't given tax abatements, there would be no Columbia Heights boom.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 pm.

-Ted Guthrie, Secretary