



KCA SPECIAL MEETING: ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM TUESDAY AUGUST 31 7-9 PM

With the DC primary election set for September 14th, the Kalorama Citizens Association and the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association are teaming up to host an “All-Candidates Forum” on Tuesday, August 31st from 7-9 pm in the main sanctuary at Good Will Baptist Church, 1862 Kalorama Road, NW.

Invited are the major candidates for the two At-Large City Council seats, the Ward One Council seat, Chairman of the City Council and Mayor.

At this writing, the following candidates have confirmed their participation:

David Catania (I), At-Large Council
Michael D. Brown (D), At-Large Council (currently DC Shadow Senator)
Phil Mendelson (D), At-large Council
Clark Ray (D), At-Large Council
Marc Morgan (R), Ward One Council
Jeff Smith (D), Ward One Council
Bryan Weaver (D), Ward One Council
Vincent Orange (D), City Council Chairman
Kwame Brown (D), City Council Chairman

The following candidates have either not yet responded, or have not yet confirmed:

Richard Urban (I), At-Large Council
Jim Graham (D), Ward One Council
Vincent Gray (D), Mayor

Mayor Fenty’s campaign has offered his regrets.

Questions will be taken from the audience with a moderator to maintain order. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to see and hear the candidates up close and personal.

My thanks to Maureen Gallagher, President and the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association for partnering with KCA to present this event.

-Denis James

KCA NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT – PLEASE RENEW

In these tough economic times, non-profit groups like KCA have some of the same difficulties felt throughout the economy. Our revenues are declining, while our costs remain the same or increase. I’m appealing directly to our faithful membership base to renew your memberships as soon as possible. Please use the handy coupon on the back of this newsletter to renew dues or support a program.

-Denis James

SAYING THEIR NAMES AT WALTER PIERCE PARK

On Saturday, June 19, more than 40 volunteers gathered at Walter Pierce Park to say the names of 8,428 people who were buried in the 19th Century Quaker and African American cemeteries there. The event marked 120 years since the cemeteries’ closure in June 1890.

The volunteers sat on the ball field, shaded from the sun under small tents, and read aloud from separate lists, saying the names and ages of those buried. Every few minutes, readers would pause to hear a few words more about some of those named: Claiborne Holmes, 83, was a shoemaker born in Virginia; Sarah Burley, 78, was a nurse; Adelaide Molton, 9, was a schoolgirl, James Frazier, 40, fought in the Civil War.

All the names were read in about 40 minutes.

The names were compiled over the past year by Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project researchers. The researchers reviewed 35 years worth of early District of Columbia death records to find those buried in the Quaker and African American cemeteries at Walter Pierce Park. Research of Quaker records dating back to 1807 is continuing.

Among those attending were Frank Smith; director of the African American Civil War Memorial at U Street and Vermont Avenue; Civil War interpreter Patricia Tyson; descendants of the Edmonson and Shorter families who were prominent members of the Colored Union



Volunteers say the names of those buried in the Quaker and African American cemeteries at Walter Pierce Park.

Photo: Barbara Bates

Benevolent Association; David Etheridge and other members of the Friends Meeting of Washington (Quakers); Ranger Jordan Wise and archaeologist Bob Sonderman of the National Park Service; Howard University Professor Mark Mack, the principal investigator of the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project, his wife Cindy and their new daughter Amira; Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners Bryan Weaver and Mindy Moretti; KCA President Denis James and KCA members; and Steve Coleman of Washington Parks and People. Goodwill Baptist Church generously provided the chairs.

The 90-minute event closed with a drill performed on the Walter Pierce ball field by Officer Milton, a U.S. Colored Troops re-enactor. Filmmaker Eddie Becker documented the gathering.

– *Mary Belcher, community liaison to the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project, maryjbelcher@comcast.net*

MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2010 KCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PART II*

*[Here are the rest of the minutes of the Ward One Council Democratic Primary debate. Due to space considerations, we split the minutes into two sections. The first half appeared in the June newsletter. The moderator is Davis Kennedy of the Current Newspapers. The candidates are Jim Graham (JG), Jeff Smith (JS) and Bryan Weaver (BW).]

With regard to senior citizen's programs, what can we do to keep seniors productive?

Businesses will lose customers in the 17 months that 18th Street will be under construction. How can we help this?

JS: Run a shuttle into the early morning. Parking is a problem. Ideas like the trolley on H Street NE would be good.

JG: The community wants streetscape construction, and it will be painful. I hear from the BID there must be some relief. He said he provided the \$5 million to start the process. We must help small businesses survive.

BW: We have different groups affected by this project, and we have worked well together. Tax abatement would be the best solution, according to the small business people he has talked to.

If elected as the Ward One Councilmember, describe an integrated plan for community policing that you think would work for Adams Morgan.

JG: Has advocated for more police, says there must be an adequate police presence. He has changed the way patrols are deployed. The BID can have officers around the bars, to protect people through MPD reimbursable detail legislation he authored.

BW: This is a controversial area, we can't think of police just in terms of Adams Morgan. We must look at the whole of Ward one, because crime moves. There is no union contract and we will have fewer police. This is a policy where fewer officers work extra hours.

JS: We need better-trained police, not just more police. Robberies, larcenies, and theft are all up in Ward 1, despite more cops. Officers should be in the neighborhoods where people are walking their dogs, etc.

Do you support the significant zoning change that would be required to allow a 90 foot height for the proposed hotel development at the Christian Science Church, and why? And should the developer be afforded a tax break in the current stressed economy when the community has basic reservations about the height of the building?

BW: ANC 1C has spent much time on developer Brian Friedman's issue, which was first proposed as a condo, then a bookstore, and now a hotel. The ANC has supported the project which I think would be transformative, and we would save the church façade. But we keep going back to the fact that we want less density and less height.

JS: When we give benefits to developers, we must make sure that the community gets something back.

JG: Spoke about development he has supported such as the garage at the Giant, the Tivoli renovation, and the garage at the Target, all in Columbia Heights, all of which he was instrumental in bringing to Ward one. Density issues of Church Hotel must be worked out.

The Kalorama Park anti-erosion project has dragged on for years. No one has any idea of the amount that has been spent. How should this be resolved?

JS: Communities need support from the administration.

JG: Held walk-throughs in Kalorama Park. He has just gotten all the stakeholders in this controversy together and hosted a meeting. He thought consensus had been reached. That's the way to proceed.

BW: The larger issue of contracts with the city was not addressed here. Whenever there is a contract let, they subcontract, and the work never gets done. We are all tired of this process. There is no oversight of contracts.

Should residential parking privileges be based on smaller areas than entire wards? If yes, please describe how the areas should be drawn?

JG: That's what we are about to do, as we have already done in Columbia Heights. We will apply this policy to all of Ward 1. This is a better law and it will be enforced. Parking on one side of the street will be residential-only 24/7, while the other side will have the traditional RPP. Each ANC can opt in to this system.

BW: With regard to the visitor pass in this new proposal, if every resident gets a visitor pass, no one from out-of-state will ever register their cars in DC. The pass will be a permanent tool for manipulation. This is big loophole. We are moving away from a car-focused city, and this goes against that.

JS: Businesses have closed because the employees can't park.

At this point, there was a round where the candidates asked each other questions.

BW to JS: *Your platform is education and you are knowledgeable on this issue. What is the way to success and what would you do?*

JS: Our expectations are too low in DC. He has started a big brother program. He wants to increase expectations for kids, and wants them to have standards.

BW to JG: *I supported Graham in 1998 and worked with him on housing. We were tenant advocates when it came to buildings being taken over. On Vernon Street, when the landlord tried to get rid of the tenants, we were on the same side. But then he took money from the developer. We can't trust the developer, so why did the city support his getting a tax abatement?*

JG: With regard to the property on Vernon Street, JG investigated, brought people before the Council, and held them accountable. The old YMCA at 14th & W Sts. is a major project which he is helping make happen. Things are on track. Nobody is more aggressive in this area than he is.

BW: The Vernon Street tenants were residents of Ward 1. They were burned out of their home and Councilmember Graham took money from the developer.

JS: Also supported JG and is disappointed now. He has seen JG's people remove JS signs and a city contractor put up JG signs.

JG: Said he would not authorize that because it would be ridiculous. He hired and paid for the services of a city contractor to put up his signs because they had the right kind of truck. That they have a city contract was incidental and there was no conflict of interest.

JS: Said he saw these things going on.

JS to BW: *With regard to DYRS, which is your issue, what are your ideas?*

BW: DYRS is the biggest problem in the city. We must have more than the 60 beds we have currently. The group home system does not work, placing kids in there who are murderers with other kids with less serious infractions. We must have tracking and accountability. They must meet with counselors. We need interim facilities.

JG to BW: *This is a great ward and we are fighting to keep it that way. What areas or projects are you involved in outside of Adams Morgan?*

BW: When he was a student at Howard, he cooperated with neighbors to close down crack houses on Georgia Avenue. He has worked with neighbors on neighborhood issues. He runs a nonprofit, Hoops Sagrado, which takes DC youth to Guatemala every summer for a cultural exchange program.

JG: Referred to the same crack houses Bryan mentioned, and said he followed up for years and they are now in productive use.

JG to JS: *With regard to your civic involvement, you only registered as a Democrat in 2003. Before that, you didn't vote. You didn't vote in the election that your resignation created.*

JS: Said he was registered as an Independent, and thus couldn't vote in party primaries. He was serving our country in the military. Said he does not have great excuses for not voting. Family health issues out of state kept him from voting once, candidates were not deserving of a vote, etc. He criticized JG for missing many votes on the City Council.

JG: Challenged the accusation about Council votes, indicating that he has a good attendance record. He noted that an elected official should believe in the franchise.

The candidates gave two-minute closing statements.

BW: Never separate your words from your life. I will not stand by you and then reverse my decision. We need to raise the bar on what we expect from a Council member. JG has done little oversight, although he does return e-mail.

JS: Four more years are too long for local businesses, and too long for young people in schools. I have a record of service in nonprofits, the school board, and as a veteran. JG received praise years ago for proposing action on the Howard Theater, which still sits vacant.

JG: I have been privileged to work with these people. When we have been best is when we have worked together. I have worked with all groups. I don't just do e-mail. I have a solid record of achievement. The Council has done a lot of oversight.

Maureen Gallagher, President of the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association, closed the meeting by thanking all the candidates for their participation, and the audience for turning out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

-Linda Ingram, Secretary

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

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CONTRIBUTIONS AND DUES PAYMENTS

Annual dues are now due. Contributions can be made by credit card or Paypal at: <http://www.kaloramacitizens.org/join>
Or use this convenient form and send 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

- Here's my \$_____ contribution for plants and supplies for the Biltmore Triangle Garden.
 - I support the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project. Enclosed is my \$_____ contribution to help pay project costs.
 - For a minimum \$25.00 contribution to the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project, get an Adams Morgan T-shirt.
 - Here's my \$25 dues for 2010.
 - I've corrected the mailing label below. Here's my e-mail address for new updates:_____
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Kalorama Station
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Washington DC 20009

Return Service Requested

SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 31 7:00 PM
ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM

WITH CONFIRMED ATTENDEES:
DAVID CATANIA, MICHAEL D. BROWN,
PHIL MENDELSON, CLARK RAY,
MARC MORGAN, JEFF SMITH,
BRYAN WEAVER, KWAME BROWN,
VINCENT ORANGE.

GOOD WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
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