

River Terrace Community Organization

Minutes from January 18, 2023 General Body Meeting, Via Zoom and In-Person (River Terrace Education Campus)

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Culver at 6:35 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain David Parker

ANC Update – Commissioner Milton Hardy

There have been two house fires in the community, Clay Street and 301 34th Street prior to the new year. The fire at 301 34th Street resulted in fire damage to the neighboring home and the residents have been unable to return home as of yet. Commissioner Hardy has been in communication with the Mayor’s office, Councilmember Gray’s office and other government agencies to determine what can be done to address this abandoned house. Commissioner Hardy also shared that flyers have been shared regarding the Rat Riddance Program. It is important that residents know their role in this process. We can work with the city to combat the problem, but residents must do their part as well, which includes putting trash cans back in your yards. Fines can and will be implemented for those that do not adhere to the expectation. A Safety Discussion forum is to be held at the Deanwood Recreation Center on Saturday, January 21st. (ANC invitation only)

Office of Councilman Gray – D. L. Humphrey

Budget season has begun and encourages residents to take part in the budget process and to advocate for the needs and desires of the community including to keep the \$20 million allocation for a River Terrace Recreation Center. Mr. Humphrey also encouraged residents to continue to log/report concerns to 311 in order to keep track. Even if there is a message that states the matter has been resolved, keep the reference number and share with him to follow up (202)704-4304 (cell) OR (202)724-8068 (office) dhumphrey@dccouncil.gov. There will also be a crime summit to address mental health issues. Mr. Humphrey acknowledged that there is a lack of interagency communication and that the summit seeks to address that. There will also be a College Preparedness Tour for students in grades 5-12. It will engage students and families around financial literacy, DC TAG, scholarships, and essay writing. Gun prevention programs will provide mini grants ranging from \$5,000-\$100,000 to get and keep youth off the streets.

MPD Update - Lieutenant Erik Smith

Package thefts, thefts of auto have become prevalent. Emphasized calling 911 when there is an emergency and in need of immediate help. Lt. shared the number to the Lt.’s office, 202-698-0850. Information regarding the drive by shooting in December of 2022 was not available during the meeting. *After the meeting Lt. Smith shared via email that the case was closed the same day with an arrest just a few blocks from the offense location. The canvass and stop occurred mere moments after the shooting and while the crime scene was still being processed.* Information for the 603 PSA meetings was also shared, first Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. They will resume in the coming months. Question/ concern was raised regarding dogs being walked off leash, it was noted that while MPD can address these issues, the primary authority is animal control.

Treasurer’s Report – Carla Brailey

Period ending October 31, 2022	\$2,534.35	Ending balance \$2,318.70
Period ending November 30, 2022	\$2,318.70	Ending balance \$2,367.22
Period ending December , 2022	\$2,367.22	Ending balance \$2,341.33

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s report. It was seconded, and the vote was accepted by the body.

Committee Update:

- Membership (Kesha Mack): appreciate the Block Captains and Co-captains for working on membership packets. There was a 12% decrease in membership in 2022, the goal this year is to have a 50% increase for membership in 2023. Membership packets will be coming soon.
- All committee was shared by President Culver (Fundraising Committee-George Stover, Membership Committee-Kesha Mack, Events Committee-Tiffany Balmer, Legislative Committee-Cinque Culver, Environmental Committee-Devon Brophy) all information will be shared by President Culver

Neighborhood Development Company – Vince Harriman

Shared that NDC projects consist of 3450 Eads Street, 3451 Benning Road and 3443 Benning Road. The project at 3450 Eads will be breaking ground and consists of certified and sustainable materials and is a model for affordable housing. The project at 3451 Benning Road will include a food court (coffee, pizza, vegan, bar??), 9 vendors (1 potential space still available), construction will begin in 2-3 months, vendors should be moving in over the summer, the upstairs space is under permit review and will be a healthcare office (not for on-site patient care). The project at 3443 has begun construction with Industrial Bank on the first floor, and will be in operation early in the summer, upstairs will be another healthcare tenant and is undergoing permit review, there is also a beauty manufacturing vendor, second round of design and expected to begin construction over the summer. Questions were raised around pre/post property surveys. Some residents have received them and some have not (some received on the day the meeting was held). Third party provider should have contacted residents that requested pre-construction surveys. Letters went out to owners and renters on Eads Street to identify persons who wanted to request a pre-construction survey. Concern was raised that surveys have not been completed, while some construction has been done. Vince clarified that the work that is being done is low-impact and that all surveys would be done prior to heavy construction beginning. Mr. Harriman committed to sharing a draft schedule for construction that can be shared with residents and will attend future meetings to share updates.

Closing Prayer & Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.

Prepared by President Sharon Culver