

## **PCA Trail Committee Meeting Minutes Feb 13, 2014 as amended**

1. Next meeting will be held on Thurs Mar 20th at 7pm and Buffie's and Hans's house. (Thank you Buffie and Hans!) They are located at 5319 Manning Pl. NW.
2. Brett provided a review of the Foundry Branch bridge issues. He expects some answers from WMATA (Stan Wall) by June with respect to the possibility of a sale of the bridge. Brett called everyone's attention to the front page article in the Northwest Current with respect to the ROW and the bridge. <http://www.currentnewspapers.com/admin/uploadfiles/NW%2002-05-2014.pdf>
3. The committee will no longer be examining issues surrounding connectors to the C&O Canal Historic Park. Mary Cheh, DDOT and NPS are in discussions with respect to signaling the intersection at Canal and Reservoir Roads since NPS favors an on grade crossing for both pedestrians and vehicles to Fletcher's and the Park.
4. Polly discussed the outline of the "trail count plan" developed by her, Buffie and Hans, and the strong need for volunteers to help staff the effort when the time comes. All three of them will be working on the schedule, the forms to be developed, the location of "counters," etc. Jack mentioned the need to survey "non-users" of the ROW, since many people cannot access the ROW but might if it were connected and improved. A record of the "inability to use" the ROW needs to be recorded somehow. Also, there was consensus that count dates should not be widely circulated in advance of the dates so as to not bias the count sample.
5. Buffie noted the nice map she had obtained from \_\_\_\_ of the ROW. Jack asked that an electronic copy be sent to him. He also noted the several maps he had obtained from NPS as he completes the assignment of determining if any NPS property abuts the ROW. His status report had been sent around to committee members earlier in the week.
6. It was decided that Polly, Hans and Buffie would work out the details of the planned community walk. That now has been done and the community walk of the ROW will be held on April 5, with gathering to start at 9:30 AM and the actual walk at 10 AM, starting at the Foxhall Road end of the ROW. A second walk, which can also be used as a rain date for the first one, will be held on Sunday, May 4 at 1 PM. Further details to be developed with as much advance notice to the community as possible (noting deadlines for the March and April PCA newsletters). A preliminary walk for committee members will be held on March 15th at 10 AM, starting point to be determined.
7. Brett agreed to contact Anne Ourand about inviting Mary Cheh and ANC commissioners to the April 5 walk. Brett will also invite members of the Foxhall Citizens Association. Jack will invite DDOT and NPS personnel to the walk.
8. Jack discussed the National Park Service RTCA Assistance Program application and how he felt it might give the committee a focus to our effort. Brett reported that Chris Niewold or his colleague, Beth Porter will come out to meet with us and provide guidance in completing the

application (due Aug 1, 2014). The website for the application and program is:  
<http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/whatwedo.htm>

9. Brett noted the recent news about the pending opening of the H Street Trolley. Long range DDOT plans call for extending that line to Georgetown. The possibility exists that even longer range plans might call for the trolley line to be extended along the ROW.

10. Jack mentioned the excellent information available on the web site of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy concerning survey procedures and forms, help convincing fellow citizens of the benefits of improved trails, etc. That web site is: <http://www.railstotrails.org/index.html>

## **PCA Trail Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2014, 7 pm

Palisades Library 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Chair: Brett Young** Macarthur

### **Members**

Avi Green

Polly Choate

Hans Moenning

Buffie Brownstein

Mark Binsted

Jack Koczela

Adrienne Shoch

Angelique Deplaa

Alex Dietrich

Nick Keenan

### **Residents:**

Mike Rock

Steve

Michael                      Sherrier

Christoph Duenwald

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Foundry Branch Bridge update**

WMATA POC: Stan Wall conducting an assessment on the bridge, expected to be finished “in a couple weeks”

Property assessment

Cost to repair

Georgetown – has not expressed interest

DDOT – silent thus far, looking for an appropriate point of contact

Mary Cheh at April walk proposed a meeting between all 3 agencies (WMATA, Georgetown & DDOT) once the assessment is complete

**Discussion:**

Alex D: Is the bridge structure “historic” or protected in any way?

Adrienne S.: Or is the land footprint the only property in question?

**ROW Walk**

Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>

50 people attended, including Councilmember Mary Cheh

**Discussion:**

Brett: Favorable feedback from community

Adrienne S: Confusion about the start (people tried to attend but missed it)

Alex D: Trash collection successful (at least 6 bags)

**RTCA --Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**

National Park Service RTCA Assistance Program

Jack Koczela has made contact with RTCA POC:

Beth Porter [beth\\_porter@nps.gov](mailto:beth_porter@nps.gov) (202)690-5169

Applications due August 1<sup>st</sup>, probably too soon for this year but there is a potential for 2015

**New Items:**

**Report:**

Want to get a report posted to PCA website and presented at upcoming PCA general meeting to update members/community on committee activities and fact-finding results.

**Discussion:**

Alex D.: Timeline? Format? Author?

**Survey questions:****Subcommittee assigned: Avi & Adrienne**

Draft proposed questions; bring draft back to committee next meeting, then we will establish mechanics of the survey:

How the survey will be distributed?

Website?

Email?

Hardcopy?

Flyers posted at businesses?

Georgetown Current article

Who is targeted (Palisades only? FCCA? Glen Echo?)

Timeline (open, closed)

When/where will the results be posted?

**Trail Count:****Subcommittee assigned: Alex, Polly & Buffie**

Goal: establish who is currently using the trail

Team will draft a count plan and bring back to committee next meeting

**Walk followup:**

Brett and Hans will call everyone who signed in during both walks; will solicit feedback from attendees, compile responses and bring to next committee meeting.

**Communications**

Create listserv from those who signed up at walks

Need a recommendation for best tool

PCA Website tab/link/dedicated page to post survey, trail count plan, results (from both survey & plan)

Establish process for authorizing outgoing messages

**Discussion:**

Adrienne S: Is there a forum for conversation, remarks?

**Power Lines:**

Investigating possibility of burying lines underground along trail

Slover Washington Post article

Donna Cooper PEPCO present at Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> walk

**Discussion:**

(One of the men to my right asked this question): Why is this committee tackling this issue?

Brett: Because if there is construction on the trail, might as well only have it once rather than going back again later.

**Current maintenance**

DC Water mows Arizona to Norton

Private citizens mow Q to Reservoir Rd (\$500 per mow)

**Layout of Water Pipes Under Trail**

Jack K. has a map that will be included in the report

**Naming Trail**

Could engender political powers

Heather Deutsch DDOT

Nominations:

Stewart Udall Trail (Secretary of the Interior, trail advocate)

Discussion:

Angelique: Include as a survey question

### **New Member Intros**

4 new trail committee members introduced

### **Open Discussion -1 hr duration**

Adjourned at 9pm due to Library closing, although the conversation could have gone on much longer!

## PCA Trails Committee Meeting Minutes June 23, 2014

### Attendees

Committee Members: Avi Green (AG), Alex Dietrich (AD), Adrienne Shoch (AS), Buffie Brownstein (BB), Hans Moennig (HM), Jack Kozela (JK), Mark Binsted (MB), and Brett Young (Chairman) ( Avi Green and Jack Kozela left the meeting shortly after the start of the portion of the meeting open to questions from other community members.)

Other: Michael Greene, Greg Safko, Kent Slowinski, Judith Michaels, Janet A. Nash, Mary M. Tschudy, Ted Tschudy, and Michael Sriqui

### Scribe

Hans Moennig

### Agenda

- Discuss Foundry Branch Bridge progress
- Eleanor Holmes Norton Meeting Synopsis
- Layout of water pipes under Trolley Right of Way (ROW)
- National Park Service (NPS), Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA)
- Pepco's concrete blocks
- Mowing of Trail
- Survey Questions
- Trail count
- Points of agreement
- Other business
- Open questions

### Discussion

- Meeting was opened at 7:06 PM by the Chairman. The Chairman proposed that the first of hour of the meeting be devoted to agenda items and that the second hour be



available for open discussion involving the other community members present. The committee members and others present were asked to introduce themselves.

- Foundry Branch Bridge Progress. The Chairman reported that he had been in communication with Stan Wall of the Washington Area Metropolitan Transportation Association (WAMATA) regarding progress on their structural evaluation of the bridge.

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He was told that WMATA was presently reviewing an initial draft of the report. WAMATA would make the report available when complete. It is the Chairman's view that WAMATA would like to get rid of the bridge. AS questioned the Chairman regarding whether presented himself to WAMATA as representing the PCA or its Trails Committee or as just an interested member of the community. The Chairman said that it was as the latter, and that his inquiries were strictly of a fact finding nature. He also said that he is hoping to arrange for PCA sponsored community walks of the area. AS also questioned whether he had tried to involve the Foxhall Village Community Association. He said he had spoken with some members of that organization. AS volunteered to reach out in a more direct way, to determine how they would like to be involved. HM pointed out that the Foundry Branch Bridge was on the DC Historic Preservation Association's list of endangered sites.

- Eleanor Holmes Norton Meeting. The Chairman reported having attended the meeting which was held for DC residents to raise issues of concern with the NPS. He spoke to the NPS representatives about concerns of members of the Palisades with having safer access to Fletchers Cove. Kevin Brant an NPS representative indicated thatt a bridge across Canal Rd. would not be viable because of truck traffic clearance requirements. Kent Slowinski

a community resident and ANC Commissioner reported on a follow-up meeting he had had with the NPS and DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) where he received

assurances that some sort of traffic control might be installed at the intersection of Reservoir and Canal Roads before the end of the year to provide a safer pedestrian crossing.

- Water Pipes. The Chairman reported that the water authority had provided maps of the 78” pipe which runs under the ROW. He had shared the map with Committee member Mark Binsted who had also reviewed. Both the Chairman and Mark indicated that the maps were of limited use, as they did not provide a cross-section of the line. The Chairman said he would provide access to the maps to AD, who is a civil engineer.
- National Park Service (NPS), Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA). The Chairman has had conversations with Beth Porter of the RTCA. He indicated that she was interested in meeting with the group, and proposed that a separate meeting of the committee be held to see what she had to say. The Committee agreed.
- Pepco’s concrete blocks. The Chairman informed the Committee that he had contacted Pepco to remove concrete blocks at the foot of Q St. NW. Pepco agreed to do so without agreeing that the blocks were theirs. A brief discussion of exactly where the blocks were located followed, without resolution.
- Mowing of Trail. The Chairman informed the Committee that he had contacted the DC Department of General Services to request that as the ROW is District property it should be mowed. He indicated that he had spoken with Kirt Bakos of that department who is contracted to mow the ROW in the immediate neighborhood of the Recreation Center. He also indicated that although some residents were paying to have segments of the ROW mowed, that was strictly speaking not legal as the land belonged to DC. He has written to Councilmember Cheh to request that she have the ROW mowed by the city. It was also suggested that other community members contact Ms Cheh’s office, call 311, and enlist the support of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC). AD volunteered

to draft a letter to the ANC to solicit its support in getting the grass mowed.

- Survey Questions. The Chairman recommended that a separate meeting be held to review and approve the draft survey questions within the next 30 days. A copy of the draft survey which had been prepared by AG and AD had been distributed to Committee before the meeting. The Committee agreed that it might take too much time to consider the survey questions during a regular meeting.
- Trail Count. The Chairman noted that no work had been done by the members who had been asked to develop a trail count strategy. It was agreed that the trail count would be put on the “back burner.”
- Other Business. AS raised two items of concern. The first was that the minutes of  
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the previous meeting should be brought up for approval at the next meeting. There was agreement that this practice should be followed. The second was that there should be a deputy chairman who could conduct any scheduled meeting that the chairman could not attend. AD volunteered to serve as Deputy Chairman, and was approved as such by acclamation. In addition AD and AS agreed to develop an agenda format which would make it easier for meetings to be held in the absence of the Chairman.
- Open forum: The Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments from other members of the community.
- Janet Nash, Greene St. NW. Ms Nash questioned what the mandate of the Committee was. She saw no need for improvement of the ROW, as parallel biking and walking trails already existed. She indicated that what she had read or heard about the Committee suggested that the goal of the Committee was to create a paved parallel bike path into Georgetown.

- Kent Solwinski, ANC Commissioner. Stated that other options such as a bike lane on MacArthur Boulevard should also be considered, and that needed work on the retaining walls along Reservoir Road between MacArthur and Canal Road might provide an opportunity to provide safer access to Fletcher's Cove from the community.
- Michael Greene. Supported the concept of preserving the ROW for future use by the community. Stated that encroachment was already occurring.
- Greg Safko. Raised questions about the mission of the Committee.
- Michael Srigui. Raised questions about the authority of the Committee, in light of the December 2013 PCA meeting when the question of studying the possibility of a trail along the ROW was discussed.
- Ted Schudy. Also raised mission and process questions. He voiced the opinion that the Chairman of the Committee should be neutral with respect to the issue of a trail on the ROW, given that the community seemed divided on that issue.
- Committee response. It was agreed that the Committee would seek to meet with Steve Waller, PCA President, to discuss issues regarding the Committees mission and authority. AS agreed to prepare a draft mission statement for review and possible approval by the PCA board, so that issues raised by the community could be addressed.

#### Next Meeting

The Chairmen said he would look at his calendar and inform the Committe of date and time of the next meeting.

#### Next Meeting Agenda Items

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- The Chairman said he would prepare an agenda for the next meeting.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjounded at approximately 8:50 PM.

## PCA Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

August 5th, 2014

Attendees

Committee Members: Avi Green (AV), Alex Dietrich (AD), Mark Binstead (MB), and Brett Young

(Chairman)

Other: community members Greg Safko, Kent Slowinski, Patrick Flynn, Kyle Yost

Scribe

Alex Dietrich

Agenda

- Approve Minutes from previous meeting
- Discuss Foundry Branch Bridge progress
- Mowing the trail
- PEPCO update (possibility of burying power lines)
- Palisades Community Fund
- Survey Questions
- Committee mission statement

Discussion

- Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by the Chairman. The Chairman proposed that the agenda be covered briefly, with the majority of the meeting be devoted to survey review. The committee members and others present were asked to introduce themselves and sign in.
- Previous Meeting Minutes. Previous meeting minutes were approved by email, posted to PCA website
- Foundry Branch Bridge Progress. The Chairman reported that he is still waiting on a pending report from Stan Wall of the Washington Area Metropolitan Transportation Association (WAMATA) regarding progress on their structural evaluation of the bridge. He intends to request a specific timeline and due date for the report. The Chairman proposed a November

walk(s) near Foundry Bridge to explore east end of trail, details of which will be coordinated with Anne Ourand of the PCA.

- Mowing. The ANC 3D voted unanimously at their July 9th meeting to send DC Dept of General Services a request for regular mowing of the Old Trolley right-of-way. The letter of request was drafted by AD, approved by the PCA Trails subcommittee, endorsed by ANC3D and forwarded to DC DGS. AD will follow up with ANC 3D Chair Gayle Trotter on the status of the request.
- PEPCO potential for burying power lines along right-of-way. The chairman advised that PEPCO is awaiting the results of the 2012 upgrade effectiveness analysis to determine the company's

appetite to invest in burying the power lines along the Old Trolley right-of-way, and they will revisit the issue in 2017 to see if the upgrade is effective.. MB provided background on the 2012 upgrade, which included sleeved wires and new poles. The group discussed PEPCO's wear on the trail (tire ruts, erosion) and their investment in maintaining the trail (gravel, grading), questioning whether they were proportional/appropriate. The group agreed it would be beneficial to add a question to the survey to gauge community's interest/support for burying power lines. KS suggested the committee investigate the Office of the People's Counsel, which is currently soliciting public comment on the undergrounding proposal: <http://www.opc-dc.gov/index.php/consumer-topics-a-z/dc-undergrounding-updates>

The Chairman continues to engage PEPCO regarding the 2 concrete slabs at Q & Potomac/Clark Pl. Pepco has denied that it is their property and is now engaging/coordinating with DDOT to remove the slabs.

- Palisades Community Fund. The Chairman had hoped to submit an application for a PCA grant to produce a design churette for community education for an estimated \$15000 ([http://www.palisadesdc.org/cf\\_about.php](http://www.palisadesdc.org/cf_about.php)). The near deadline is October. AD suggested that given the large amount requested and the historical precedence of previous grant awards, the committee the April deadline may be more appropriate. KS proposed a preliminary planning study of the existing trail system (C&O, Capital Crescent, etc), identifying alternatives (such as at-grade crossings vs. bridges, a bike path along Macarthur Blvd or Canal Rd) in conjunction with the design churette. The Chairman will invite Heather Deutsch (former DDOT employee who would oversee the design) to the next committee meeting for more information.
- Survey. AV introduced the survey and walked through each question, soliciting feedback and corrections. The committee made changes in content, format and layout. AV will incorporate all of the inputs into an updated draft and distribute to the full committee for review before a final vote and public distribution plan is implemented. KS suggested the committee consult with S. Spencer, a former PCA president who is also a community polling expert for advice on marketing the survey for maximum community participation.

### Next Meeting

The Chairmen will inform the Committee of date and time of the next meeting.

### Next Meeting Agenda Items

The Chairman will prepare an agenda for the next meeting, including those agenda items which were not addressed this evening.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

## PCA Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Sept 17th, 2014

Attendees

Committee Members: Alex Dietrich (AD), Mark Binsted (MB), Jack Koczek (JK), Buffie Brownstein (BB), Hans Moenning (HM) Angelique dePlaa (ADP) and Brett Young

(Chairman)

Other: Community members Patrick Flynn, Lucy Ordoobadi; from DC Councilwoman's Mary Cheh's office Adam Gutbezahl; former DDOT/Rails to Trails employee and urban planning expert Heather Deutsch

Scribe

Alex Dietrich (AD)

Agenda

- Approve Minutes from previous meeting
- Discuss Foundry Branch Bridge progress
- Mowing the trail
- Survey
- Palisades Community Fund Grant for formal Charette Process

Discussion

- Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by the Chairman. The Chairman proposed that the agenda be covered briefly to allow time for survey discussion and Heather Deutsch's presentation. The committee members and others present were asked to introduce themselves and sign in.
- Previous Meeting Minutes. Previous meeting minutes were previously approved by email and posted to PCA website. All are invited to review them there.
- Foundry Branch Bridge Progress. The Chairman reported that he is still waiting on a pending report from Stan Wall of the Washington Area Metropolitan Transportation Association (WAMATA) regarding progress on their structural evaluation of the bridge. He has requested a specific timeline and due date for the report. Group engaged in a brief discussion of the property boundaries and ownership specifics (WMATA, Georgetown Univ, City of DC, etc), which are hazy at this point.



The Chairman confirmed two walks are planned for November near Foundry Bridge to explore the east end of the trail: Sun Nov 2nd at 12pm and Sat Nov 8th at 12pm.

Community will be invited to attend via PCA listserv, PCA website, newsletter and trail interest email list. Suggestion made to invite the Foxhall neighborhood (via FCCA listserv). Chairman will reach out to FCCA

- Mowing. Adam Gutbezahl representing DC Councilwoman Mary Cheh's office will follow up with the ANC mowing request sent to DGS in July.

- Survey. The Chairman introduced the survey and walked through each question, soliciting feedback and corrections. The committee proposed minor wording changes in content, format and layout:

- Map red line should extend over Glover-Archbald Park to the Georgetown property.

- #1. Last two response options should be switched.

- #3. Add street endpoints in parenthesis to clarify the orientation ("toward Georgetown" & "toward Galena").

- #6. First response: delete "natural state" (response is simply "no change from present (grass & dirt) and delete the second response (leaving the erosion & drainage issue to question #5).

Change the ranking in the prompt: 1 to 5

Bold and type all caps "SURFACE" in the question prompt

- #9. Delete "being" in the question prompt.

Vote to approve current version with above changes: unanimous (JK, BB, HM, ADP, MB, AD, BY).

Key next actions:

- we need the actual final survey link – AV must provide

- we need sign and poster/flier art and wording – ADP & AD have for action

Duration

Longer is better to ensure maximum participation. Based off the other trail surveys researched online 3 months is a standard window, "straddling" at least two seasons (fall/winter or winter/spring) to capture diversity in users. Consideration to extend if we don't reach minimum goal response: 500 is current goal.

Oct 15th – Jan 15th (open date/close date)

## Distribution

Primary: Electronic format (web-based through the survey monkey tool)

Concerns addressed over lack of hardcopy options and accessibility for neighbors who are not online. Proposal is to encourage online completion as primary method and collect hardcopy surveys as a last resort.

## Promotion

Online via the:

PCA listserve (email link) – BY has for action

FCCA listserve (email link) – BY has for action

Embed link on PCA homepage – BY has for action

Hardcopy fliers distributed in-person at:

Palisades farmers market – ADP will create a signup genius link for first 3 Sundays for the hours of 10am-11am and 11am to 12noon.

Palisades Recreation Center

Hardy Recreation Center

Safeway, Starbucks, other high-traffic businesses

Trailheads (on the trail itself at entry/exit points)

(\*would require establishing shifts for volunteers to work)

Inclusion in PCA newsletter- HM has for action

Hardcopy fliers posted (static) at:

Safeway, Starbucks, other high-traffic businesses – AD has for action

Trailheads (on the trail itself at entry/exit points) - AD has for action

Palisades Recreation Center- AD has for action

Hardy Recreation Center - AD has for action

Median signs – HM has for action (concerns about posting for 90 days straight, instead proposes periodic posting and migrating the locations down the blvd)

Media exposure through:

Local newspapers (Northwest Current, Georgetown Current) – BY has for action

WAMU - AD has for action

Survey Results “Reveal” to the PCA General Membership

- Palisades Community Fund (PCF). Heather Deutsch (former DDOT employee and Rails to Trails urban planner) presented information on a potential future design charette. The Chairman had hoped to submit an application for a PCA grant to produce a design charette for community education for an estimated \$15000, which would include the charette process itself, renderings and plans. ([http://www.palisadesdc.org/cf\\_about.php](http://www.palisadesdc.org/cf_about.php)). The next filing date for the PCF grant is October. The next opportunity would be in April. Group discussed the process and agreed to pursue the October deadline, with an understanding that funding would only be used if the survey indicated a strong interest in improvements relative to the status quo.

Next Meeting

The Chairmen will inform the Committee of date and time of the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The Chairman will prepare an agenda for the next meeting, including those agenda items which were not addressed this evening.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

## PCA Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014

Attendees

Committee Members: Avi Green (AG), Adrienne Shoch (AS), Buffie Brownstein (BB), Hans Moennig (HM), Jack Koczela (JK), Mark Binsted (MB), Angelique dePlaa (AD) and Brett Young

(Chairman) Other: Greg Safko, Kent Slowinski, Patrick Flynn, and Charlie Estes

Scribe

Hans Moennig

Agenda

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Survey Update
- Palisades Community Fund
- Mowing of Trail
- Discuss Foundry Branch Bridge Progress
- Discuss Canal Road Study (Mark Binsted, Nick Keenan)

Discussion

- Meeting was opened at 7:02 PM by the Chairman.
- Minutes of Previous Meeting. The Chairman reminded the Committee that the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved by the membership on-line.
- Report on Canal Road Study. MB reported on the Canal Road Improvement Planning meeting which he, along with several others, had attended. He reported that in addition to a no build option, two alternatives were presented. The one of them included all possible bells and whistles and would make Canal Road a managed access route into the city with tolls charged. Even the second, less extensive alternative, would widen the road

and provide for overpasses in the neighborhood of the access road to Fletcher's boat house and Arizona Avenue. Neither he nor any of the other attendees believed that these improvements would impact the trail right of way, especially given the water supply pipe under the trail.

- Mowing of Trail. The Chairman reminded the Committee that ANC3D had supported the community by requesting the DC General Services mow the trail, but that since then nothing much had happened. He reported that he had discussed the issue with Mary Cheh who had participated in one of the Foundry Branch trail walks. Ms. Cheh then contacted the head of General Services, Brian Hanlon, who subsequently contacted the Chairman. As a result of that conversation he had been in contact with Jackie Stanley, who led him to believe that something would be done. In addition she indicated that she would look into the possibility of the City's doing the entire trail from Foxhall Road. MB indicated that something needed to be done now.

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- Community Fund. The Chairman reported that the Committee's application for funding of a charette to develop plans for the trail was not approved. In rejecting the application, however, the Fund suggested that the application could be resubmitted for consideration in April after the survey was completed and results were available.

- Survey Update.

- a. AG reported that as of the date of the meeting there were 363 completed surveys, the vast majority DC residents. Results so far indicated that the survey taker were clustered at both ends of the spectrum--either favoring that the trail be left pretty much as is or favoring a hard surface trail with bridges.

- b. There was general discussion about how the data would be reported, although there seemed general agreement that the raw data would be made available to committee as

soon as the survey closed, and eventually to the community at large. There was also discussion about the number of meetings which might be needed both of the survey group and the committee as a whole to develop a final report.

c. There was also a general discussion regarding the way forward after the approval of a final report. The results could be presented to the PCA board for their action, or to the PCA and FCCA at general membership meetings. No specific approach was endorsed by the Committee.

d. The Chairman reported that he and Alex Dietrich had attended the Foxhall Village Citizens Association meeting to advertise the survey. He indicated that contrary to what he had anticipated there was relatively little interest in the Foundry Bridge portion of the trail, and more interest in the Foxhall to Galena portion.

e. The Chairman also reported that they still were waiting for an article in the Northwest Current which would advertise the survey. It was suggested he contact the Current to see if they would be willing to run its article the first week of December rather than just before Thanksgiving.

f. BB and HM reported that they had not yet ordered the yard signs. They indicated that they were still planning on doing so. There was some discussion about what the signs should say and where they should be located. Specifically it was suggested that some be located such that they could easily be seen by current users.

g. Charlie Estes pointed out that roughly 30 years ago the community had voted in favor of a trail, but because of the narrow margin in favor, the community decided not to move forward as it would prove divisive to the community.

- Foundry Branch Bridge. Brett reported that WMATA advised him that the Foundry Branch Bridge Report is complete, and that the report indicated that the bridge is repairable. WMATA also indicated that it would not release the report for our review. He

also reported that 23 people attended the two walks from Foxhall into Georgetown which he lead in early November, including Mary Cheh on the second. Patrick Flynn asked if the Ms Cheh might be helpful in getting WMATA to release the report.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Adjournment

The meeting was adjounded at approximately 8:45 PM.

## Minutes of Trails Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 29, 2015

Palisades Public Library Meeting Room

Committee members present: Brett Young, Chairman; Mark Binsted; Buffie Brownstein; Angelique dePlaa; Alex Dietrich; Avi Greene; Nick Keenan; Jack Koczela; Hans Moennig; and Adrienne Shoch.

Community members in attendance: Nina Novak, Kent Slowinski, Charles Lanman, Judith Michaels, Ann Haas, Michael Greene, Chris Conroy, Don Velsey, Ted Tschudy, Mary Tschudy, Amy Sabrin, Paul Brewster, Elizabeth Board, Charles Estes, and Diane Bolz.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7:02.

He announced that the purpose of the meeting was to share with interested members of the community the results of the Trails Survey as assembled in report format by the Committee. He indicated that the Committee had initially hoped that 500 members of the community would participate in order to provide some legitimacy to the survey. That 806 DC residents participated would give greater weight to the results. He introduced committee member Avi Green, who would walk the community through the report.

Mr. Greene stated that the purpose of the survey was to determine what the community might like to see done to the trolley right-of-way to maintain/improve its value as a trail. He indicated that the goal of the report was simply to summarize results of the survey.

Over the course of his presentation of the report members of the community raised the following questions/comments:

--was the advertising of the survey sufficient so that the community had adequate opportunity to participate?

--the survey could not be regarded as objective since the persons taking the survey were not randomly selected from the community.

--why was only the right-of-way to Galena the subject of the survey and not beyond Galena? Extending beyond Galena would have created more opposition especially where the right-of-way has been incorporated into some backyard spaces.

--level of interest in trail if bridges were not built/restored was not addressed.

--last bullet under findings should be changed to reflect that the projected increased usage was among survey participants not the population at large.

--survey did not address motor vehicle access. --add bullet on bicycle access slide which would state that 75% of participants were either opposed to bicycle access or wanted speed controls.

--was there any information regarding the number of police calls related to the right-of-way?

--did posting the survey on a DC bicyclist web site prejudice the survey in the favor of bicyclists?

Mr. Greene and other members of the Committee answered the questions and addressed the comments to the extent possible, emphasizing the extensive advertising of the survey and the range of viewpoints represented on the Committee, and agreeing to consider a limited number of changes to the presentation based on the input received.

When there were no further questions/comments from community participants, there was a brief discussion of how the survey results would be made available to the community, and the path going forward. There was general agreement that the survey report approved by the Committee would be made available on the PCA web site as would the raw data reflecting the opinions of DC residents. The community would be notified via the listserv and the Northwest Current would be approached to run a follow-up story. There was also general agreement that the next



step in the process was to present the survey results to the PCA Board at it's next meeting. The PCA had previously been asked to include a discussion of the survey at the March general membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20

## PCA Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2015

### **Attendees**

Committee Members: Avi Green (AG), Alex Dietrich (AD), Nick Keenan (NK) (by phone), Buffie Brownstein (BB), Hans Moennig (HM), Jack Koczela (JK), Mark Binsted (MB) and Brett Young (Chairman) Other: Scott Cobb

### **Scribe**

Hans Moennig

### **Agenda**

#### **• Discuss and approve Draft Principles to enhance pedestrian and non-motorized access to the Palisades Recreation Center**

#### **Discussion**

##### **• Meeting was opened at 7:43 PM by the Chairman.**

##### **• Discuss Draft Principles to enhance pedestrian and non-motorized access to the Palisades Recreation Center .**

a. AG summarized how the draft principles came to be put together. Started with Recreation Center re-construction project goal of reducing parking requirements by improving trail access. Department of General Services (DGS) employee in charge of the Recreation Center project introduced to Department of Transportation (DDOT) employee with responsibility for evaluating access to Recreation Center. DDOT offered \$200K to improve trail in vicinity of Recreation Center. DDOT would not manage trail improvement. DGS indicated willingness to include trail improvement and funding in design/build contract for the Recreation Center.

b. It was agreed that the area of consideration for trail/right-of-way (ROW) improvement was limited to Galena St. to Chain Bridge Road with the possible addition of a trail spur from the Arizona Ave Bridge to the tennis courts.

c. AD noted the need for openness in the process so that the neighbors who believed that the ROW should not be improved in any but the most minimal ways (e.g., erosion controlled and mowed) not view this effort in connection with the Recreation Center project as the initial stage in an effort to extend any improvements to the entire right-of-way.

d. All present agreed that the first of the six principles “Prevent the ROW from becoming an expanded Palisades Center parking lot (as proposed)” was accepted by everyone in the community.

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e. It was agreed that the second principle “Regrade and reinforce the ROW, taking into account overall drainage needs” should be understood to mean that the ROW should be easily useable except following the most extreme weather events (not including snow) and that the principle be modified at least to include “drainage” in addition to “erosion.” There was some discussion about the segment between Arizona Ave and Galena St, given proximity to property lines whether it was wide enough to accomplish this goal.

f. It was agreed to drop the words “and that respects the community’s desire for the ROW to retain its natural characteristics.” NK noted that the use of “natural” in

connection with the ROW was misleading since the ROW was not a natural feature of the geography. A question was raised about PEPCO's continuing to have access. It was observed that they would certainly be consulted in the design/build process. MB noted that there was a sewer line adjacent to the water main running under the ROW.

g. There was little discussion of the final three principles (#4 Address maintenance issues at Arizona Ave bridge..... #5 Install signage pointing to the Rec Center..... #6 Enhance pedestrian safety with crosswalk..... )

h. There was a general discussion of possible surfaces for the improved right of way including grass supported by a pervious grid, rubberized pervious pavement, permeable pavers, or crushed gravel supported by a pervious grid. It was generally agreed that concrete or asphalt paving would likely not be acceptable to a significant segment of the community. It was also agreed that the principles should not specify a specific surface, but instead specify accessibility requirements for improved access to the Recreation Center. (See third principle: "Adopt a durable 10 foot wide trail surface appropriate for more regular foot, bike and stroller usage (e.g. permeable pavers, crushed gravel, grass grid, etc.)")

i. JK indicated that he had had a conversation with Heather Deutsch (formerly trails person with DDOT) regarding her ability to put together a quick visualization of what the improved ROW might look like which could be used to gain support in the community for the improvements. Her cost estimate was \$2-2.5K. It was agreed money could be found either in the PCA or community to support this effort. It was also agreed that JK would follow-up with Ms Deutsch and that it would be useful for the committee to have input at the mid-point of the process.

#### **Next Meeting**

#### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:51 PM.

## PCA Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2015

### Attendees

Committee Members: Avi Green (AG), Alex Dietrich (AD), Nick Keenan (NK), Buffie Brownstein (BB), Hans Moennig (HM), Mark Binsted (MB) and Brett Young (Chairman)

### Scribe

Hans Moennig

### Agenda

- Discuss and approve draft presentation of possible alternative surfaces for the trolley right of way in the vicinity of the Recreation Center and to consider next steps

### Discussion

- Meeting was opened at 7:15 PM by the Chairman.
- Chairman turned meeting over to AG to discuss draft and approve presentation of possible alternative surfaces for the trolley right of way in the vicinity of the Recreation Center
  - a. The AG summarized how the draft presentation came to be put together. Started with DC Department of General Services willingness to include trail improvement and funding in design/build contract for the Recreation Center. At a meeting in July the Trails Committee approved contracting for preparation of a visualization showing how the trail would look with different possible trail surfaces. The visualization was funded by the Palisades Community Fund.
  - b. There was some discussion of about the quality of the visualization, whether it should have included a visualization of the no change option, and whether the

examples were too heavily weighted toward asphalt.

c. It was agreed that the visualization would not be altered; no additional funding was available to make changes.

- Discussion of next steps

a. Both AG and NK noted that DGS has stated that neither grass grid or permeable pavers are viable options primarily because of cost and maintenance. It was agreed that they should still be presented to the community.

b. It was noted that DGS wanted to resolve architecture and parking issues

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before considering trail improvements, but NK expressed the view that there was no reason why the community should wait.

c. AG introduced a draft set of principals for the Committee's consideration. The draft included a recommended surface, width and a provision to respect interests of the owners of properties immediately adjoining the trail.

d. There was considerable discussion regarding what width to recommend, since it was agreed that 10' was probably the standard width for such trails.

However, given constraints especially between Arizona Ave and Galena and to reduce impact on the neighborhood, it was agreed that an 8' width should be recommended.

e. MB introduced the idea that different segments could have different surfaces. NK specifically suggested that the paved walk-way adjoining the tennis courts could be continued to connect with the Arizona Ave bridge, which would provide a paved trail from Sherier to the Recreation Center. The remainder of the trail might be done with crushed stone.

f. There was considerable discussion of whether having a limited asphalt surface might lead to the rest of the trail being left in an as-is status, a whether an 8' trail could support the traffic when multiple events were happening at the Recreation Center.

g. The Committee approved then the following statement:

“PCA TRAILS COMMITTEE Principles for Enhancing Non-Motorized Access to the Palisades Recreation Center

- A crushed stone surface is preferred built on a re-graded and permeable base for the Trolley Trail segment from Galena Place to Chain Bridge Road

- The existing asphalt trail adjacent to the Rec Center tennis courts should be extended to the eastern end of the Arizona Avenue pedestrian bridge

- The width of the new trail surface should be limited to eight feet

- Privacy landscaping that currently exists within the trail property lines should be preserved wherever possible”

h. It was agreed that these principals would be presented to the Recreation Center renovation committee and then to the general membership. It was agreed that Heather Deutsch who had put together the visualization would be invited to attend.

- Update from the Chairman

a. DDOT had completed work to improve access to the Arizona Ave bridge so water would no longer collect in a depression on the western end of the bridge. DDOT had also indicated that the bridge might need to be replaced due to structural defects from rusting.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.