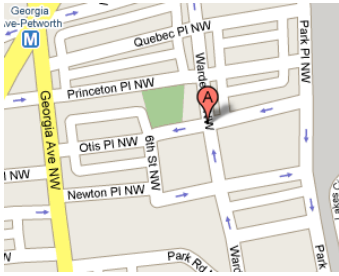


Park View United Neighborhood Coalition (UNC)

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April 2015 Community Newsletter

UNC Monthly Meeting



The United Neighborhood Coalition meets the first Wednesday of every month in the Park View Rec Center. Meetings are free and open to the public. Have an item

for the agenda? Contact the Secretary at 202-450-3871, or email parkviewuncdc@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 1st

Park View UNC Meeting, 7-8pm

Park View Recreation Center, 693 Otis PI NW

Agenda

- Introduction
- Officer and Committee Reports
- Community announcements
- Park Morton Discussion
- April 18th Earth Day Cleanup

Park Morton Discussion

The Park Morton public housing development is part of an ongoing redevelopment program, the New Communities Initiative. This program aims to revitalize severely distressed subsidized housing and redevelop neighborhoods into vibrant mixed-income communities.



Concept rendering of the new Park Morton

A portion of Park Morton has already been closed following construction of "The Avenue," the first stage of the Park Morton redevelopment. A new developer, "Park View

Community Partners," has been selected to complete the remainder of the project.

Come meet the new development team at the next meeting of the United Neighborhood Coalition, and find out the next steps for the project.

Learn more at dcnewcommunities.org/.

Earth Day Neighborhood Cleanup!

On Saturday, April 18th, from 10am to 1pm, join neighbors for an Earth Day Community Cleanup.

Meet your neighbors and help ready our community for spring! Clean up the neighborhood streets, plant flowers and beautify the Park View Rec Center! Enjoy pizza afterwards.

Sign up to volunteer or donate online at www.parkviewunc.org.

Minutes of the March Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7:05pm.

Seven members and 6 guests were in attendance.

Officers' announcements:

The Secretary announced that membership forms were available to guests wishing to become members. Other officers had nothing to report.

Community Announcements

Lori Lincoln announced that the Friends of the Soldier's Home holds a Jingo Night the 2nd Thursday of every month and volunteers are welcome. Contact lorilindcoln@hotmail.com to sign up.

Construction at 729 Princeton Place was shut down after a neighbor called 911 to report illegal early morning construction, and investigating police officers discovered that the "pop-up" (additional height added to the building) being built on the property was not properly permitted.

Speaker: DC Sustainable Energy Utility

Shari Childress (schildress@dcseu.com), Peter Swinton (pswinton@dcseu.com) and Theodore Diggs (tdiggs@dcseu.com) spoke from DC Sustainable Energy Utility. They can all be reached by phone at 1-855-MY-DCSEU (1-855-693-2738), or online at www.dcseu.com.

Mr. Diggs explained that DCSEU is a public-private partnership focused on lowering energy consumption in the district. It is funded by a small fee on each DC resident's energy bill (the "Clean and Affordable Energy Trust Fund").

Mr. Swinton explained how owners of a single-family home or 1 to 4 unit apartment building can qualify for rebates of up to \$1800 for an energy audit, insulation and air sealing. (Additional programs are available for commercial properties or churches, schools, etc.)

Owners must call 1-855-MY-DCSEU and explain what they want from the program. They will be matched with a program-certified contractor who will perform an energy audit. The cost of this audit is around \$400, of which \$200 will be paid for by a rebate from DC SEU. The audit involves checking insulation and appliances and using a giant fan to test air flow throughout the house. (Houses must allow some airflow in order to prevent risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, but too much air flow makes the house drafty.) The energy auditor will then deliver a report with options to save energy, including projected energy bill savings over time. After the audit, DCSEU provides an energy "coach," who will offer a second opinion to the homeowner on needed items. After the certified contractor completes the work, DCSEU will reimburse half the costs of insulation up to a total of \$800, and/or half the costs of air sealing up to a total of \$800.

Ms. Childress described opportunities for cash rebates for energy efficient appliances. These appliances can be purchased from anywhere. Central air conditioners, furnaces, boilers, water heaters, smart thermostats, and dehumidifiers are all covered. The amount of the rebate varies depending on the type of appliance. Rebates range from \$25 for a humidifier to \$1250 for a high-end air source heat pump.

You can still get a rebate if you already purchased an appliance this fiscal year. The fiscal year runs from

October 1, 2014 to September 30th, 2015.

DCSEU also runs a program to subsidize installation of solar panels. This program is only available to income-qualified households (low-income).

UNC Budget

The treasurer distributed the UNC budget for 2015. The budget includes a projected surplus of \$850 and assumes we will be able to raise \$500 in membership dues, \$700 in donations, and \$550 in park-specific donations or grants. Major expenses include the annual block party, park beautification events, and food for neighborhood cleanup events. We also hope to create a reserve to prevent the bank account from dipping dangerously close to zero as it has in previous years.

Comments on the Mayor's Budget

Mayor Bowser is soliciting input on her FY2016 budget. The Park View UNC would like to submit comments for priorities in our neighborhood. The following priorities were discussed:

- Adequate funding to the New Communities Initiative to finish transforming the Park Morton housing development into a mixed-income residential complex.
- Completion of the modernization of the Park View school building (home to Bruce-Monroe Elementary at Park View (BMPV))
- Distribution of at-risk funding in proportion to the number of at-risk students at each school (BMPV serves a high population of these at-risk students).
- Creation of a stand-alone middle school in South Ward Four with a strong bilingual Spanish program to serve fluent bilingual speakers graduating from BMPV, Powell, and other DCPS bilingual schools
- Adequate funding for the Bernice Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center, a Mary's Center Facility located on Georgia Avenue and Newton Place.
- A streetscape plan to widen sidewalks to facilitate wheelchair and stroller access, add tree boxes for shade, and add safety features to reduce accidents, particularly around the park and school.
- Extension of the Great Streets program to Park View's section of Georgia Avenue.
- Adequate funding for street repair and maintenance, particularly alleyways, many of which are badly in need of re-surfacing.

The meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

The UNC is a civic association located in the Park View neighborhood of Washington DC. Membership is free to those who live or own property within the UNC boundary. Join online at www.parkviewunc.org.

