

## **UNC meeting – July 6, 2016**

Meeting start time: 7:06

Meeting adjourned: 8:04

Members present: 6

Non-members present: 8

### **Officers' reports:**

- Marcus reports that we are beginning to plan the summer block party and are planning it in mid-September. Manor Pl. is working to host it. We will have more information later in the summer.

### **Community announcements:**

- Marcus announces that the steering committee for Park Morton, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, is open to the public this month. Those meetings are usually held here at the Rec Center.
- Gabriel announces that he is leaving information including the Mayor's newsletter and a one-pager about the private security camera incentive program.

Guest speakers:

### **Melanie Mason, DC Water**

- DC Water is not under the DC government. It is funded solely from our water and sewer bills.
- DC Water purchases water from the Washington Aquaduct. The facility is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and put into our distribution system.
- Back in the early 2000s, DC had lead issues. That stemmed from a change in the aquaduct's treatment from chlorine to chloramine. That caused the pipes to corrode. Since then, per EPA orders, DC Water has put an anti-corrosive into the water. There have been no safe drinking water act standards violations since 2004. (Level is 15 ppb)
- DC does 100 different lead monitoring tests every 6 months.
- Lead levels are at the lowest they have been since the 2000s.
- When water comes out of the aquaduct, there is no lead in it. The pipes cause lead to leach into the water. Lead service pipes were installed until the mid-1950s. Lead solder has been in plumbing until 1987. So even if you don't have lead pipes, they may have been soldered together with lead. Some fixtures may also contain lead.
- The service pipe is partially owned by DC Water and partially by the homeowner.

- Water mains are typically made from iron, not lead – so *mains* are not made of lead, only the service lines. The service line brings water from the water main to your home.
- Public space is the portion of the service line that goes from the street to your water meter. The privately-owned part goes from the meter to your house.
- If it is shown on the map that you have lead, you have lead. If you aren't sure, go to the pipe, scratch it with a coin and if it's soft, it is lead. If a magnet won't stick to it, it is lead.
- There are 125,000 service lines in the city and 12,000 are listed as unknown.
- DC Water can come and test for you for free – they give you bottles and you leave them outside and they will come pick them up.
- When the city replaces or repairs water mains, they automatically replace all of the public portions of the service lines in that area if they are lead, and they offer to have their contractor work with you to do the private portion. The average price of the private portion is \$2500 – generally \$100/foot. The homeowner must shoulder the cost but the city will facilitate you working with the contractor.
- If you think you may have a lead pipe but you aren't sure, they will dig and if they don't find lead, you do not have to pay.
- Q: Schools are getting periodically tested now. For households, is it enough to test just once, or should we come back and do it multiple times? Just because you test and don't detect once, you won't have it again. If you know you have a lead service line, you need to take steps to minimize your exposure even if the test is low.
- Q: is there any funding prioritized for schools? A: DC Water is not responsible for what's in schools because all the service lines into schools are NOT lead – so if there is lead it's the pipes inside the schools, which are controlled by the city.
- Q: What's the standard? A: EPA has set a standard for lead in water at 15 ppb. This is not a health standard. What that means is that if water consistently tests for over that, the city has to take steps to reduce it. But it is not a health standard. That is more of a question to discuss with your physician. For children or pregnant/nursing women, no lead is best. Lead can affect brain development. You must limit lead exposure in children under age 6 or pregnant or nursing women.
- Q: Is there a way to find out if DC Water is scheduled to work on your water main? A: If you have a lead service line and want it replaced, start talking to our lead service line replacement coordinator – don't wait. There is not a huge difference between the cost if we're doing the main replacement and the cost if we are not.
- As far as limiting lead exposure – if you have a lead service line, fixtures or solder, if your water has been sitting overnight or after work, let it run until it gets cold and then let it run another minute or two. Also don't use hot water for cooking or drinking – always use it cold and then heat up in a stove or microwave. You will get higher levels of hot water straight out of the tap.

- If you have children under age 6, you need to filter your water. Brita does not do it – buy a filter that is NSF certified #53. You have to maintain the filter as well. The filter works by absorbing the particles of lead, and over time its effectiveness will go down.
- We suggest point of use filters or a pitcher filter, not the ones that are installed right off of the service line (because that won't address lead in solder or fixtures).
- Call the Water Quality division if you think you have lead in the water.

### **Brainstorm PUD amenities for Park Morton**

- The Steering Committee has been asked to get input from the community on what sorts of offsets we would like to see as part of the package.
- As an example – traffic mitigation (protected turn lanes, lights), tree planting/landscaping, sometimes developers will donate money to local organizations, etc.
- Could we get them to maintain certain things in the neighborhood that need regular maintenance, e.g. the Welcome to Park View sign – 8 votes
- Fund a new Park View sign on Kenyon for cars coming east – 9 votes
- Traffic calming on Park Rd. between Georgia and Warder – the blind curve creates hazards for pedestrians and bikers as well as drivers – 12 votes
- Provide funding to support business and community development along Georgia Ave. – e.g Business Improvement District, Green Team, Main Streets – 11 votes
- Amenities at the Park View Rec Center given that increased density at the Park Morton site may drive more use of the Rec (no specific amenities discussed) - 12 votes
- Amenities in the park space that will be built in the current Park Morton site – e.g. a playground – and proper lighting to deter crime and improve security. – 10 votes

If you care about this process, please stay involved – please keep coming to the UNC meetings, the steering committee meetings, ANC, etc. It is important to keep the community concerns and perspective front and center in this process.