

Stanton Park Neighborhood Association

PO Box 75085
National Capitol Station
Washington, DC 20013-5085

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November 2000



City Officials Join Discussion on Neighborhood Development Projects at SPNA's November Town Meeting

*Wednesday, November 29th at 7:30 pm,
Northeast Branch Library, 7th Street and Maryland
Avenue, NE*

Karina Ricks, the newly-appointed DC Office of Planning Ward 6 Planner/Coordinator and Leo Pinson, Ward 6 Community Services Coordinator will join SPNA's November Town Meeting to discuss plans for various neighborhood development projects. The October's Town Meeting was standing-room only, so we encourage you to arrive early to secure a good seat for discussions on items that impact everyone in the neighborhood.

New SPNA Board Member Appointed

Laura Canfield has volunteered to serve as chair for the SPNA Environment Committee. One of the most important projects the Environment Committee will take on this year is coordinating tree planting with the city. Volunteers with ideas and suggestions for other projects the Environment Committee might undertake this year should contact Laura at 547-2209.

Updates on Neighborhood Development Projects

Medlink

There have been no new or revised development proposals since the Historic Preservation Review Board meeting in September.

BP Amoco

There have been several public meetings regarding the BP Amoco proposal for a block-long gas station in the 300 Block of H Street, NE. At each meeting, neighborhood residents expressed an overwhelming opposition to the design of the proposed gas station. The central concern stems from "suburban" nature of the project that many fear will result in similar commuter-oriented, neighborhood-destroying projects. Because of the potential for the BP Amoco project to set the tone for future development, it is critically important to have the project designed to fit within the urban context and in a manner that contributes to the neighborhood.

Area residents are encouraged to write to the Board of Zoning Adjustment to voice their concern over the inappropriate design of the proposed BP Amoco project. **Letters should make reference to BZA Case, No. 16648** and be addressed to:

Ms. Sheila Cross-Reid, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth St., NW—Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Department of Employment Services (DOES)

As a result of Newseum's acquisition of their current building on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, the Department of Employment Services (DOES) has plans to move to the 600 Block of H Street in July 2001. The addition of hundreds of new employees to the corridor will provide an important boost in the customer base for area merchants. The DOES move to H Street should help develop a strong base of neighborhood-serving retail establishments, and offers a positive vision for the redevelopment of H Street, NE.

Capitol Hill Visitors Center

In October, SPNA representatives attended a briefing on the proposed Capitol Visitors Center. The following press release was provided by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

For more information contact Paige Ralston (House Speaker Dennis Hastert's office) at 225-2800, or Genevieve Erny (Senate President pro tempore Strom Thurmond's office) at 224-7730

"U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission Unanimously Approves Final Design for U.S. Capitol Visitor Center"

Washington—House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate President pro tempore Strom Thurmond, co-chairmen of the Capitol Preservation Commission (CPC), today announced that the 18 member bipartisan, bicameral commission unanimously approved the final design for the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. CPC members authorized the Architect of the Capitol to proceed to the next stage of the project, developing construction and solicitation documents for the construction of the Visitor Center.

Hastert and Thurmond issued the following joint statement, "The design of the Capitol Visitor Center is the result of months of consultation between the Architect of the Capitol and members of the Capitol

Preservation Commission. The end result is a design that will provide the necessary facilities to meet both the physical and educational needs of the thousands who come to visit the Capitol each day. It will also be built in such a way that it will complement the existing building and become a seamless addition to the Capitol complex.”

The final design of the Visitor Center has been refined to provide a comfortable and gracious setting for more than 4,000 visitors at one time. In addition to food service facilities, restrooms, and gift shops, the Capitol Visitor Center will provide approximately 20,000 square feet of museum quality exhibition space and two 250-seat orientation theaters designed to inform visitors about the Capitol and the Congress.

As part of the project, the Capitol grounds will be made more gracious as well. Granite paving will replace asphalt and original landscape elements will be restored. New fountains, seat walls, and plantings will be added to reinvigorate Fredrick Law Olmsted’s original landscape design.

Members of the Capitol Preservation Commission also authorized the Architect of the Capitol to produce design and engineering documents for a tunnel connecting the Capitol Visitor Center to the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building. Next summer, the Capitol Preservation Commission will have the opportunity to review these documents and decide whether to proceed with the construction of the tunnel.

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) Event

Capitol Hill in 1800—Wednesday, November 29
Don Hawkins, AIA and historic cartographer, has developed a new map based on historic sources that shows

how Washington and the Capitol Hill area appeared when Congress came in 1800.

Northeast Library Holiday Party Scheduled

The Northeast Library invites children of all ages in the neighborhood to its annual holiday party on Saturday, December 16 from 3–5 pm. The party will celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanza, and Christmas with stories, music, and refreshments. Volunteers are still needed to tell stories, sing or play an instrument, and serve refreshments. For more information, contact the Children’s Librarian, Rachel Meit, at 698-3299.

Donors to the SPNA College Scholarship Program

The SPNA gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support from the many neighborhood residents who have contributed to the SPNA College Scholarship Program. In this newsletter, we recognize those who made donations in September, 2000:

Leslie Beher (Atlas Properties), Susan Benson, Charles Blackwell, Bridgette Cline and Courtland Milloy, Patrick Costigan and Julie Beecher, Clarence Fogelstrom, Tom and Nadine Hamilton, Jeannie and Randolph Harrison, William Horne and Valerie Jablow, Herbert Lehner and Cliff Kibble (H. Lehner Enterprises), Sam and Susan Marullo, Charles and Marilyn McMillion, Barbara Meierhoefer, Mary Fran Miklisch and Ladonna Pavetti, Maureen Nolan, Patricia Olshefski, Mary Panzer, John and Alma Paty, Morris Payne, Janet Quigley, David and Marlene Radloff, Jeffrey and Carolyn Serfass, Bill Silagi, St. James Parish Rector’s Fund, and S.L. Wallace.

SPNA’s membership year runs from
September 1, 2000–August 31, 2001

Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Membership Registration Form (please print)

Please complete form and return to:
SPNA, PO Box 75085,
National Capitol Station,
Washington, DC 20013-5085

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone (evening) _____ (day) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Type of membership (check one)

(Make checks payable to SPNA)

Single membership (\$10 check enclosed)

Household membership (\$18 check enclosed)

Tax-deductible contribution to SPNA Scholarship Fund enclosed.

Yes, I would like to receive the SPNA Newsletter via e-mail.

Signature _____