

FOXHALL News

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Next Meeting

The next FCCA meeting will be from **6:30 to 8:00 PM** on **Tuesday February 21st** at the **Hardy Recreation Center, 45th & Q St.** The meeting will be in-person.

This will be our annual membership meeting where we will vote on FCCA Board membership. Our major topic (in addition to the police report and other updates) will be the new MacArthur High School which is slated to open at the old GDS site on MacArthur this Fall. Newly-elected Ward 3 School-Board member Eric Goulet will attend and with FCCA Community Working Group member Janet Nash will discuss what to expect when the school opens. Please join us. All are welcome!

Time to Renew FCCA Membership or Consider Joining

The FCCA has long featured an inclusive, transparent governance style. All major decisions are done by vote. Everyone in our area is noticed by hand-delivered newsletters of upcoming meetings. Meetings are open to all—whether members or not. We don't endorse political candidates but rather provide a forum for presentation of views on issues relevant to our neighborhood.

It has been hard to operate this way over the past three years of COVID. But it is time to return to normal. Our next meeting on Tuesday February 21st (focused on the new MacArthur High School) will be in person and we hope to continue that practice. We are also planning to return to social events with our annual Spring Fling at Hardy Park in May.

As part of this, we encourage those of you that have let your membership lapse to renew and for newcomers to consider joining. The box on the back page tells you how to do it.

What do you get for your membership? Perhaps the most important thing is advocacy. Historically, the FCCA has avoided taking positions on divisive issues where our community is split, feeling that here, individuals are free to advocate their own positions. But when we do take a position, it has **'Join FCCA' con't on Page 4...**

Save Hardy Park and the Foxhall Elementary School Proposal

Robert Avery

It has been three years since a proposal to place a large public elementary school on Hardy Park was put into the District's capital budget. The new school was proposed to deal with pre-pandemic overcrowding at the three local elementary schools--Key, Mann, and Stoddert. But since that time both the District's population and elementary school enrollment in Ward 3 has dropped. Most importantly, more appropriate proposals to deal with any future growth in elementary school student population have since been put into the budget.

'Save Hardy' con't on Page 4...

Update on the New MacArthur High School

Janet Nash

In late January, DCPS held its last community working group (CWG) meeting for the new public high school currently referred to as MacArthur High School (MHS). I have been one of two representatives on the CWG. MHS will be located at the former Georgetown Day School campus (purchased in 2021 at 4530 MacArthur Boulevard) on MacArthur Boulevard, and will open in August 2023. Currently, renovation is underway to upgrade the building interior.

DCPS made projections that MHS would begin with 250 students, 200 9th graders and 50 10th graders. Some would be from Hardy Middle School (no definite number was provided), and some will be from out-of-boundary neighborhoods through the lottery program. Although lottery submissions had to be made by February 1st, the **'MacArthur High School' con't on Page 3...**

Join the FCCA Listserve!!

Keep up-to-date with all happenings in your community, such as developments with the schools, issues before ANC, community parties, recommendations for repairment, etc. by joining the FCCA Listserve. For more information and to join, check out: groups.io/g/FCCAlistserve

When possible, please contact the appropriate FCCA Board Member directly to discuss issues and concerns—Focus Areas are listed after the board member's name. General issues can go to Bob Avery.

FCCA Board

Bob Avery, President and Police Liaison
338-3834, raverydc@gmail.com

Carter Beach, Clark Place Liaison

Vipul Bhagat, Treasurer
725-0144, vipbhagdc@gmail.com

Michael Delaney, Special Projects

Conrad J. DeWitte, Jr., Secretary and GCP Steering Committee Representative
321-1700, cjdewitte@hotmail.com

Brian Donahue, FCCA Listserve Administrator

Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation & Listserve Liaison

Nikki Farison, Community Events & Welcome Committee

Ann Haas, At Large

Janet Nash, At Large

Michael O'Connell, GU/Medstar Construction Liaison

Sara Paulson, Aging-in-Place, Palisades Village Liaison, & Chair of the Foxhall Call Box Restoration Committee

John Szymkowicz, Bylaws Committee

Peter Van Allen, DC Fair Skies & Colony Hill Liaison

FCCA Administrator

Brittany Aguilar, Administrator
britt.aggie@gmail.com

FCCA Listserve
FCCAlistserv+subscribe@groups.io

FCCA Newsletter Submissions

Send to cjdewitte@hotmail.com for the next newsletter. Generally submissions should be under 300 words, but longer pieces may run by advance arrangement.

Who Do You Call?

City-Wide Call Center

Go to 311.dc.gov or call 311 to request free bulk trash and yard waste pickups, and to report burned out street lights, illegal dumping, graffiti, cars obstructing sidewalks or displaying suspicious guest parking permits, and other issues.

DC Animal Shelter 576-6664

Police and Fire Departments

Call 911 for both emergency and non-emergency Police matters.

Georgetown 24/7 Community Hotline

Report student activities that negatively impact our community including noise after 10 pm at GU's 24/7 Hotline, 687-8413

PEPCO

Power Outages 877-737-2662
Street Lights Out 269-0855
Washington Gas 624-6049

Ward 3 City Council Member

Matt Frumin, mfrumin@dccouncil.gov

Ward 3 Mayor's Liaison

Matthew Barclay, matthew.barclay@dc.gov, 202-340-7853

Our ANC Commissioners, Marilyn Nowalk, 3D06@ANC.DC.GOV, and J.P. Szymkowicz, jp.szymkowicz@anc.dc.gov. For more information, go to anc3d.org.

Foxhall Village Historic District

Planning to work on the exterior of your Foxhall Village home? See work going on that seems contrary to our Historic District guidelines? Please call or email our DCHPO rep, Anne Brockett, (202) 442-7600 or anne.brockett@dc.gov. Historic District Guidelines can be found at http://foxhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/FVHD_Design-Guidelines.pdf

Going out of town?

Email MPD Officer Tony McElwee to check on your home periodically, anthony.mcelwee@dc.gov.

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Scheduled Meetings with Local Private Schools

Share comments and concerns so they can be aired at these public meetings that institutions are required to schedule with local communities according to their agreements with the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Lab School—at 6 p.m.

Monday, March 13, May 8

St. Patrick's—at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18, July 18

Lab School Updates

Kim Wargo

The Lab School of Washington is in full swing this spring. We wanted to share some of the exciting things happening on our campuses, some of which are open to our neighbors!

Our travel program has returned at Lab! Last month, our Upper School arts enjoyed a fabulous trip to New York City, where they took full advantage of the visual and performing arts opportunities and venues in the Big Apple. Students saw four Broadway shows, had workshops with various visual and performing artists, took behind-the-scenes tours, and took a moving tour at the Tenement Museum. The Upper School students who were not on the NY trip took advantage of the campus beyond our gates - great city we live in! Students had special tours of the U.S. Capitol, and went to the Holocaust Museum, the African American History and Culture Museum, the Museum of the American Indian, the Air and Space Museum, and the Natural History Museum. In a few weeks our 8th graders will participate in one of two trips- a science adventure in the Grand Tetons 'Lab School' con't on Page 3...

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and an outdoor educational experience at Bretton Woods in Maryland.

Before we break for Spring Break (March 17), we will showcase the annual Student/Faculty Theatrical Show, a one-of-a-kind debut production and retelling of *The Odyssey*. Neighbors are welcome to attend! The show will take place on March 10 and 11 with three performances (7pm on Friday and Saturday, and a 2pm Saturday matinee). Tickets can be purchased at the door of the Shaun Miskell Theater on the Reservoir Campus.

We are grateful to the many neighbors who count themselves “Friends of Lab.” Friends of Lab have expressed their support of our mission to provide a holistic, arts-based education for students with language-based learning differences through a gift of financial support. If you are interested in supporting our financial assistance program, you are welcome to join us at our annual Gala where we recognize “Outstanding Achievers with Learning Differences.” This fun community event will take place on the Reservoir Campus on Saturday, April 29 at 7pm. Tickets will go on sale in late March on the Lab School website - labschool.org. Or you can reach out to our Institutional Advancement office at 202/944-2201.

We look forward to keeping you connected with all that’s happening at Lab, and hopefully to seeing you on campus at one of our spring events!

FCCA Board Elections

The Foxhall Community Citizens Association (FCCA) will have a vote for next year’s Board of Directors at our next meeting on February 21st. Directors are elected by a majority FCCA membership and serve one year terms. Only FCCA members residing within the FCCA geographic area may be nominated and serve as Directors. The Board is empowered to transact all necessary and urgent business of the FCCA, including, but not limited to, financial expenditures, membership drives and dues collection, presentations before administrative and legal authorities, and the newsletter publication and distribution. The Board also elects a President who serves for a one year term. The Board of Directors is composed of not less than seven or more than nineteen members.

At present Robert Avery, Carter Beach, Vipul Bhagat, Conrad DeWitte, Paul DonVito, Nikki Farison, Ann Haas, Michael O’Connell, Janet Nash, Sara Paulson, Katherine Samolyk, Peter Van Allen, and Tom Wolfe have indicated they will stand for election.

There is room for more. If you would like to join the Board please attend the February 21st meeting or contact Robert Avery at raverydc@gmail.com

...‘MacArthur High School’ con’t from Page 1

exact enrollment may not be known until this summer.

DCPS, however, is not requiring Hardy MS students to attend MHS for the next two years, instead allowing current 7th and 8th graders to choose Jackson-Reed High School.

The viability of MHS in 2023 may be an issue, as a question was asked whether MHS could open with only 150 students seeking enrollment. DCPS senior employees and the newly chosen principal Dr. Harold McCray would not provide an answer in the CWG meeting.

MHS’s specific academic courses and sports to be offered will be decided in the summer. Only one AP course will be offered, AP History, and both Spanish and Italian likely will be available. The sports, possibly soccer and basketball, will be at the junior varsity level. (Unfortunately, the soccer field is not regulation size for inter-school competitions.) The applications from potential new teachers were submitted in late January, but final teacher choices will not be available until the enrollment size is finalized.

One of the reasons enrollment at MHS may be low is the lack of transportation options - only the D6 bus serves MHS, and commuter traffic delays are significant on Foxhall Road and MacArthur Boulevard during rush hour. The general consensus is that long commutes to schools are not the best for students (at any age). I learned in a CWG meeting that out-of-boundary and some in-boundary students eligible for MHS will have about an hour commute each way using the D6 bus or the closest Metro station, which is nearly 3 miles from MHS. Recently, ANC 3D passed a resolution to seek a new public bus from WMATA to service MHS and portions of Ward 3. (The new city bus route would not service Jackson-Reed.) This action and its supporting documentation will be sent to Mayor Bowser and Council Member Matt Frumin for each to make an earmarked 2024 budget request of approximately \$3.5 million per year. This MHS bus line principally will pick up Ward 3 in-boundary students but add little for MHS students commuting from other Wards.

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Specifically, the Glover Park community succeeded in putting \$20 million into the budget to expand Stoddert, which would largely deal with any overcrowding there. Expanding Stoddert would mean that a new school built on Hardy Park would ONLY deal with overcrowding at Key and Mann. But Key and Mann are among the smallest schools in Ward 3, and they are losing enrollment—not growing. Both are operating well below capacity. Together the two schools have a total enrollment of less than 750 students with fewer than 600 in-boundary.

Carving a third school out of Key and Mann would create three elementary schools operating way below an acceptable scale. It simply makes no sense.

Nevertheless, funds for Foxhall School remain in the budget. Indeed, in our current year budget, the District is supposed to expend funds on planning, with construction slated to begin one year from now. As part of the planning process, the District put out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) last fall. Worse, this proposal makes it absolutely clear that the school would be built on the park, not next to the old Hardy school as some have been saying.

The Foxhall community has made its views clear on the Foxhall proposal for

a long time: In the Spring of 2021 we voted 102 to 15 to oppose the project. We recognize that some people in our community do want the school, and as a community we respect their views. However, at this point, it is evident that the vast majority of people in our area do not want a school to be built on Hardy Park.

No one disputes the fact that Ward 3 schools are popular and in demand. No schools offer PK3 and many have excess demand for PK4. However, there is a strong argument that building the Foxhall School in this location will not solve any potential over-crowding problems in a meaningful way. Worse, it will drain money from other proposals that legitimately would help – both in Ward 3 and across the city.

The first step in the Budget process is the Mayor’s office. We need to contact Mayor Bowser and urge her to “do the right thing.” At <https://mayor.dc.gov/page/2023-budget-engagement-forums> you can find a questionnaire that you can use to voice your opinion on the proposed school. Or you can call 202-442-4755. Finally you can e-mail the Mayor at muriel.bowser@dc.gov. If the Mayor does not take the funds for Foxhall Elementary out of her proposed budget, we will have to go to the DC Council (that will receive the Mayor’s Budget on March 22nd). In

this case, send the same message to Council Chair Phil Mendelson (pmendelson@dccouncil.gov) and Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin (mfrumin@dccouncil.gov) who are the two key players on the Council.

...‘Join FCCA’ con’t from Page 1

generally been on “quality of life issues” where our community comes out strongly on one side. Here we fight tenaciously and have generally won.

Our victories include the establishment of the Foxhall and Colony Hill historic preservation districts; the renovation of Hardy Park; the defeat of Georgetown University’s “loop road” proposal along Glover Archbold park; and the Landmark Status for the Old Hardy School. The past 15 years have seen major improvements in the “town/gown” relationship between the community and the Lab School, GDS, and St. Patrick’s. This has happened to a large extent because FCCA representatives have attended every school BZA meeting during this period to push for neighborhood interests.

Our current concern is the Foxhall Elementary school proposal which could result in the loss of much of our park (see related article). If this appeals to you, please renew or join our association.

Pay by check or go to www.foxhall.org and join or renew using PayPal!

Thank you for your support!

If you would like to talk about how your interests might mesh with the FCCA’s current needs for volunteers - including newsletter delivery and attending ANC meetings - let us know!

Sure, call me!

Membership Form for the Calendar Year

Members must reside within FCCA area, be present, and be over 18 years of age to vote at meetings. Memberships are for the calendar year. Please make checks out to the Foxhall Community Citizens Association. Send to FCCA c/o Vipul Bhagat, Treasurer, 4435 Volta Place NW, Washington, DC 20007 or bring to a meeting!

Standard Memberships

- \$25 Household
- \$15 Senior Household
- \$25 Non-Resident

Booster Memberships

- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Advocate
- \$50 Sponsor
- Donation \$ _____

Names (LAST, First, as you wish listing to appear, Ex: DOW, Jane & John Smith)

Complete Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address for FCCA Updates _____ Date _____