

FOXHALL News

foxhall.org

Next Meeting

The next FCCA meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:00 PM on Wednesday April 26th at the Hardy Rec Center, 45th & Q St. This will be an in-person meeting.

In addition to the police report and other updates the meeting will feature our newly-elected Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin.

This will be your chance to personally interact with the Councilmember both to give him your concerns and to hear his priorities. Please join us. All are welcome!

DC Mayor's New Budget Drops \$56-Million Foxhall Elementary

John A. Bray, reprinted from the PotomacTimes, March 31, 2023

After three years of fractious controversy, spending for construction of a \$56-million, 550-seat public elementary school at Hardy Park at the east end of Palisades has been cut from Mayor Muriel Bowser's 2023 budget proposal.

The school would have landed in the middle of the Foxhall area, where Bob Avery is president of the community association.

Avery said city officials ignored too many red flags flying around the building project. He called the city's process "a poster child for the wrong way to do things." "The Mayor did the right thing in the end," Avery said Friday. "It should not have taken this long or taken this much effort."

In a letter dated March 22, 2023 and addressed to "Foxhall and Ward 3 Communities", Deputy Mayor for Education Paul Kihn says the "Foxhall modernization timeline" has been changed to "now start design in Fiscal Year 2029." The letter provides no explanation for the change.

Kihn says the Mayor "announced in March 2022 that Foxhall Elementary will open as a PK4-5 elementary school, based on recommendations of the Foxhall and MacArthur Community Working Group transmitted in June 2021." But the project was already on the books, appearing in early

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Time to Renew your FCCA Membership

The feature article in this Newsletter is about the delay and likely demise of the proposed Foxhall Elementary school on Hardy Park. Within our Foxhall community there are a variety of views about how school overcrowding in Ward 3 should be handled and in the importance of walkable schools. But virtually all of us felt that there must be a better solution than losing Hardy Park for a school. The FCCA gave voice to that opposition and eventually we prevailed.

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. Only for issues in which the community view is clearcut do we take a position. And when we do we generally prevail.

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 Archibold 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.

If this appeals to you, please renew or join our association. The box on the back page tells you how to do it.

Save the Date!! FCCA Spring Fling!

Saturday May 20th, from 11a-1p at the Hardy Park Pavilion

Fun for all ages--face painting and more
The FCCA will supply pizza, drinks, and dessert. Just bring yourselves!

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

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

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

Katherine Samolyk, At Large

Annie Selak, Pre-K Liaison

Peter Van Allen, DC Fair Skies & Colony Hill Liaison

Tom Wolfe, Friends of Hardy

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.

Join the FCCA Listserve!!

Keep up-to-date with all happenings in your community by joining the FCCA Listserve. For more information and to join, check out: groups.io/g/FCCAlistserve

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, May 8—Open house for the neighborhood, in person at Old Hardy School

St. Patrick's—at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 18

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2020 as part of the Mayor’s budget proposal for 2021.

It sparked stiff opposition from nearby residents. They challenged the logic of a building that would claim newly renovated playground and green space and sit right beside a public school facility designated surplus but under long-term lease to a private school. They also questioned whether enrollment trends justified construction at the site, located at the intersection of Foxhall Road and Q Street. Protest signs sprouted in yards.

Ward 3 Council Member Matthew Frumin said Bowser stated at a recent budget hearing that her action on Foxhall Elementary was to rethink, not abandon the proposal.

A Matter of Scale

“I have long believed that adding elementary school capacity in this part of the Ward made sense, ideally in the building now occupied by the Lab School,” Frumin said, referring to the private school leasing the old Hardy School building. But Frumin said he had reservations about the scale of the school proposed building.

Frumin said he will look forward to what new data from student assignment, school boundary and facilities reviews show and “trying to bring the community together around an approach to this project that can fully serve our community without unduly sacrificing precious park space.”

The Mayor’s early 2020 proposal for an 80,000-square-foot, 550-seat Foxhall school came at a time when Georgetown Day School was engaged in a multi-year effort to sell its elementary school campus, located a block away and with nearly the same size and enrollment numbers. But the

city had expressed no interest in buying the property.

With consummation of a contract with an unnamed buyer in doubt and a rising din urging that the city buy the property, the city in March 2021 paid \$45 million to acquire the GDS campus. DC Public Schools is now working to develop a high school on the site on MacArthur Boulevard.

Meanwhile, DC’s planning for a Foxhall Elementary kept rolling. In June 2021, recommendations from the DCPS Community Working Group for Foxhall and MacArthur proposed a Grades PK4-5 school, as option one for Foxhall, and a Grades 3-5 school, as option 2. Both options posed pros and cons focused on impacts for Key, Stoddert and Mann elementaries.

Momentum Stop and Go

On October 17, 2022, DC General Services Department issued a request for proposals to design and build the Foxhall school, extended the November 21 deadline to November 30, and then cancelled the request on March 16, 2023. Kihn’s letter came a week later.

ANC 3D Chair Tricia Duncan, speaking for herself, said that “post-pandemic it’s probably wise to make timing decisions around Foxhall ES based on student enrollment data and trends. By next year our local schools will have a better sense on where enrollment numbers are. The current boundary study will also shed light on enrollment.”

Duncan added: “It should be noted that Key Elementary is going on twelve years with classrooms in trailers. At this point, it’s a policy decision to educate students in this manner.”

Tom Wolfe of Friends of Hardy took

a dim view of the city’s handling of the project. “Foxhall ES was never a well thought out and vetted project,” Wolfe said. “No one in the ‘Save Hardy Park’ opposition objects to better schools. We did object to the destruction of one very valuable community asset in the thoughtless hurried effort to secure another.”

Wolfe criticized what he called a lack of involvement by “true education infrastructure professionals” in the project plan, absence of public hearings, reliance on deficient enrollment data and the failure to take stock of site access and traffic congestion.

“All of this became apparent when political expedience had to give way to the need for fiscal responsibility,” Wolfe said. “I have counseled my neighbors that we must be vigilant in the days ahead to avert such near travesties before they build momentum.”

Hardy Park Tree Watering Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for an outdoor activity that is good exercise AND good for your community AND good for the ecology? Do you wish you could do all this with family or friends and not have to travel? Join the Hardy Park tree watering volunteers! We need teams of 2 or 3 people (much easier than doing it solo) who can water approximately 25 trees on average one weekend a month, or less oâften if we get more volunteers. Each session typically takes about 3 hours that you can do anytime during your scheduled 3-day (Friday-Sunday) window. Moving the long hose does require some strength, but holding the nozzle at each tree for a set time is suitable for all, including children. The watering season is from late April through early October.

Please contact **Buzz Seltzer** to sign up or for further details, gselftzer05@comcast.net. We hope to hear from you!



Join the FCCA Listserve!!

Keep up-to-date with all happenings in your community, such as developmnts 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

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 our 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