**EP&A Meeting**

**20 January 2022** / 7:00 PM / LOCATION: ZOOM

Quarterly Meeting for Friends & Community
Virtual by Zoom

Tentative Attendees

Board Members – Shoshana Sommer, Mark Galvan, Nicole McEntee, Leslie Barron

Committee Chairs & Members – Beth Worth-Schmierer

Friends (and prospective Friends) of EP&A

Community Leaders & Representatives

Agenda

1. **2021 Board Member Introductions**
2. **EP&A Updates**
	* Eckington Dog Park
		+ Green Maidworks
			- Challenges over past 2 -3 months with consistent cleanings; we’re working with the contractor to correct and expect a cleaning soon.
		+ Crowding/Attentiveness/Communication
			- Some concerns from neighbors have been expressed about attentiveness of dog owners while at park.
			- Friendly reminder for everyone to do your best to stay alert and/or avoid times when the park is crowded.
	* DC Agencies
		+ DDOT meeting took place with Bicycle/Pedestrian Specialist
			- We’re asking for additional signage and assistance with blind spots (e.g., adding mirrors).
			- We’re discussing potential for exercise stations and various plantings along/around the trail. We’re also looking to improve shade/tree cover along the trail.
		+ DDOT meeting planned with State Forester/Head Arborist
			- Creation of map identifying potential spaces for improved tree canopy in the community; according to DDOT, most of the existing tree boxes have been filled with trees in Ward 5.
			- Eckington Civic Association is including tree coverage in their budget request; we will partner on tree coverage issues for our neighborhood. We’re also looking at opportunities to add trees in other spaces beyond tree boxes.
	* GreenWays Committee
		+ Cleanups& volunteering
			- Conduct 2x/month clean-ups; we’re exploring options to make the clean-ups more social.
			- WABA Partnership: Neighbors on bikes helping with trash clean-ups and patrols.
		+ DC Trail Ranger Program
3. **Expenses and fundraising for 2022**
	* Continued efforts from 2021:
		+ Sales of frisbees and bandanas
			- We’re continuing the sale of dog bandanas ($15) – let us know if you need one!
			- We will push our new frisbee sales in the spring when the weather warms up!
		+ Compost Crew signup fundraiser – reminder to sign up! Part of the fee is a donation to EP&A.
	* Working on the following:
		+ Community request for a memorial plaque fundraiser (would be located at the dog park)
			- Similar to Swampoodle dog park; we’re exploring options to honor dogs through a physical memorial in the Tanner dog park. Several neighbors have expressed an interest. We’re focusing on a sustainable option that can also serve as an important fundraiser.
		+ Gaining financial support from adjacent apartment/condo buildings and nearby businesses
			- We’ve reached out to apartments in the neighborhood, especially the building across from the dog park. Encouraging them to offer support and share information on our org with their residents.
4. **Social Media Updates**
	* Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: We’re actively using all three and will continue in 2022.
	* We publish a monthly newsletter and will continue this into 2022.
5. **Elections – members/friends of EP&A may vote**
	* Lots of neighbors have expressed an interest in volunteering with us!
	* Current board members all running again with the exception of the Treasurer position, which is open.
		+ McKinsey Bond, Eckington resident, is running for the open Treasurer position.
		+ Ileah Welch, Eckington resident, is interested in either a co-Treasury role or a different/new Board role.
	* Our Board has been discussing the need for a new fundraising role. Calling live verbal vote for a new Fundraising Board position:
		+ All present board members voted **yes** to formally add a Fundraising position to the Board of Directions.
		+ This will be a one-year position; we will re-evaluate next year.
6. **Our spring 2022 community meeting will include more event and organizational planning and information**
7. **DC NativesFollow-up**
	* Organization promotes pollinator gardens in yards across the city; in Eckington, we’re hoping to get as much interest as possible in the program. It’s an opportunity to bring more environmental awareness to the neighborhood.
	* DC Natives plant the gardens and the residents are responsible for the upkeep. The gardens come back every year. We’ve had a lot of interest so far but not a lot of formal applications. Please help spread the word and/or sign up!
	* Residents can participate if you need to use pots or raised beds; the area just needs to be sunny. May also be possible for the org to help secure large pots as needed. The org can also help residents expand on an existing garden. DC Natives will help provide advice on care once planted.
8. **Questions and Community Announcements (can also email** **eckingtonparks@gmail.com** **with questions)**