



Mount Pleasant Business Association Monthly Meeting-October 1, 2008

MINUTES

Members: Jean Lujan, President and LRMT; Alberto Ferrufino, Don Juan's and Deputy VP; Emily Chabel, Curves and Secretary; Alex Kramer, Dos Gringos Cafe; Jaime T. Carrillo, Don Jaime; Gregg Edwards, Newtronics; Jeff Logan, Logan's Antiques; Mario and Haydee Vanegas, Haydee's Restaurant **Guests:** Trisha Clauson, Think Local First DC; Devon Bartlett, Bancroft Elementary School. **Staff:** Gabriela Mossi

DC Fiesta: The festival was better organized this year than last and the clean-up was done well. From Don Jaime's Restaurant perspective, the festival does nothing to benefit Mt. Pleasant businesses, especially since two vendors were giving away free food, one next to his booth. Philadelphia Steak Grill felt it had less customers as well but Don Juan's, Marx Cafe and Haydee's had full tables throughout the day. Fiesta DC did provide free booth space to eight Mt. Pleasant businesses. Comments from businesses participating through booths were not available.

Bancroft Fundraiser: The Bancroft School PTA is working with Marx Cafe to hold an event on a Tuesday or Wednesday night in late October or early November. The cafe will donate a percentage of its profits that evening to Bancroft. Other restaurants, including Tonic, will host future fundraisers.

Street Greening: The Green Team is looking for funding to cover planting the bald spots around the trees on Mt. Pleasant St. The cost is expected to be \$2,000. The Green Team/Main Street will submit a detailed budget to share with MPBA.

Local First DC Campaign: Local First received a grant to put together a map of businesses in Ward One, including Mt. Pleasant. The deadline for businesses to sign up for inclusion is October 3. The map is expected to be printed by Thanksgiving and distributed free in December.

Also, there will be a business mixer event at Chix Restaurant on 11th St. between U and V Sts. on Monday, October 6, from 6 to 8 focusing on recycling, composting, and handling trash.

Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Agency: ABRA wants to reach out to businesses and has asked to meet with Mt. Pleasant restaurants and stores that sell alcohol. Gabriela Mossi will coordinate the date with ABRA officials (probably a Friday in October at 3 p.m.), notify businesses, and collect their concerns before the meeting.

LEDC and facades: LEDC has the money and is waiting for contractor bids. Samber Market and Corado's will definitely be funded. Depending on the cost, there may be funds for other businesses.

Lamont Park: The masonry work is scheduled to be completed October 8.

Business Directory: Main Street has published the new business directory. Businesses that want to distribute it should ask Main Street for copies.

Road/traffic changes: The Department of Transportation has scheduled another meeting on October 16 (time and location to be determined) for the Mt. Pleasant Transportation Study Advisory Committee. Gregg Edwards noted that the meeting is by invitation only but stakeholders representing the neighborhood have not been properly notified. Outgoing President Jean Lujan was invited to attend one of these meetings in the past but had not received notice of the upcoming October meeting. Edwards motioned that MPBA pass a resolution to ask dDOT to work with the association and involve business owners. The motion was seconded by Jaime Carrillo and approved unanimously. Mossi will follow up.

Resolution:

The Mount Pleasant Business Association (MPBA) resolves that the DC Department of Transportation (dDoT) should provide more information and be more open to participation of local business owners in meetings pertaining to traffic issues and streetscape design affecting the Mount Pleasant commercial district including the Mount Pleasant Transportation Study.

MPBA Elections: The following officers were unanimously elected:

President: Haydee Vanegas

Vice President: Alex Kramer

Deputy Vice President: Alberto Ferruffino

Treasurer: Oswald Cameron, DDS

Secretary: Emily Chabel

2008 Accomplishments: MPBA accomplishments this year include:

- Regular monthly meetings and more outreach to notify business owners
- The \$106,000 grant from DC that was used to hire the executive director, produce the banners and assist with directory printing cost
- More interaction with DC authorities (e.g., Council, ABRA, various agencies)
- Advocacy for Lamont Park repair
- Green Team sweeping sidewalks and picking up trash (Mossi to follow up on suggestion to have 1600 block of Lamont included)
- Helping Don Juan and Don Jaime restaurants with licensing issues
- Annual Youth Arts Fair
- Holiday Party
- More interaction with LEDC and Bancroft
- Got 501(c)(6) status as a nonprofit
- Movie nights in Lamont Park during the summer months
- Hired Aaron Eisendrath and later Gabriela Mossi for director position
- Set up website (www.mtpleasantbusiness.org)
- New logo, MPBA banner and printed decals to distribute to member businesses

2009 Objectives/activities:

- Strengthen the effort to get more people to come to MPBA meetings, particularly Korean owners (Esther Young of Samber Market has volunteered to help)
- Have a membership drive and develop a packet that includes a description of the benefits (better access to DC agencies, help with neighborhood disputes, website presence, etc.)
- Set up discounted memberships in other organizations as a benefit of MPBA membership (e.g., Main Street, Think Local First)
- Follow up on changing the Metro station name and getting better street/wayfinding signage on how to get to Mt. Pleasant
- Find additional sources of funding
- Organize promotional event(s) for Mt. Pleasant Street
- Cultivate partnerships, continue advocacy with DC agencies and representatives

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 5, at **3 p.m.** at **Haydee's Restaurant** (note the time and venue change).