



### **MAY 28 KCA MEETING: JIM GRAHAM GUEST SPEAKER, OYSTER-ADAMS PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PRESENTATION**

I hope you can join us on our one-week-delayed May meeting date of the 28<sup>th</sup> as Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham is our guest speaker. Jim has asked to go on early in the meeting.

We'll also have staff and parent-volunteers from Oyster-Adams Bilingual School to make a presentation on their newly renovated playground.

Also on the agenda, we'll be asking KCA members for their opinion on new residential parking rules. And we'll hold our annual election of officers.

*-Denis James*

### **GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR LOOKS BENEATH WALTER PIERCE PARK**

About 50 people got a preview of what lies beneath Walter C. Pierce Community Park on Saturday, April 25, when ground-penetrating radar (GPR) was demonstrated by the Howard University Archaeological Team surveying the historic African American and Quaker cemeteries at the site.

Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham, who sponsored legislation to fund the GPR survey of the park, was among those who peered into a small computerized screen on the equipment to see an image bouncing back from radar beams shot into the earth. The image on the screen indicated an object at about 2 feet deep and another "anomaly" about 6 to 8 feet underground.

The public GPR demonstration was conducted in a small section of the grassy circle on the Adams Mill Road side of the park. The subterranean anomalies were found just a few minutes after the demonstration began. This and further data will be recorded and analyzed by the Howard team under the direction of Professor Mark Mack. Tyrone General, president of the Woodlawn Cemetery Perpetual Care Association will operate the GPR equipment. To the astonishment of some park patrons, the event featured a

very special appearance by ladies from FREED, re-enacting prominent Civil War-era African American women in full hoop-skirted costume on a very hot afternoon. They included dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, whose sewing skills helped her buy her freedom from slavery, portrayed by Joyce Bailey of the Black Fashion Museum; social reformer and educator Hallie Quinn Brown, portrayed by retired State Department employee Patricia Tyson; and world-renowned singer Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, portrayed in perfect pitch by Judy Williams, a DC Schools audiologist and Shiloh Baptist.



**Tyrone General and Mark Mack explain how the GPR works. Church Choir member.**

The GPR survey will be conducted over all of Walter Pierce Park, where more than 7,000 people were buried between 1807 and 1890. The archaeological team hopes to obtain permission from the National Park Service to include in the GPR survey the west hillside leading down

to Rock Creek, where remains have become exposed due to erosion, as well as a section of the National Zoo, just north of Walter Pierce. The small Quaker cemetery, founded in 1807, was located at the southeast corner of the ball field; the much larger Colored Union Benevolent Association Cemetery, established in 1870, stretched across the entirety of Walter Pierce Park, down the National Park Service hillside to Rock Creek, and onto a strip of land inside the National Zoo.

As the Archaeological Team begins its third year of field work in the park, historic research continues. Team members are reviewing 75,000 death certificates at the D.C. Archives to record the names, ages, addresses, and other biographical information about those buried in the cemeteries. So far, more than 47,000 certificates have been reviewed and more than 4,700 burials have been recorded for the Walter Pierce Cemeteries. When this review is complete, the information will be entered into a database and made available to the public.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, staff members from Washington Parks & People, which administers city funding for the Pierce project, began interviewing park patrons to help develop a master plan for the park's future, including the commemoration of the cemeteries. This effort to gather public ideas will continue, and KCA will assist as needed.

- *Mary Belcher*, [maryjbelcher@comcast.net](mailto:maryjbelcher@comcast.net)



Troy General demonstrates ground-penetrating radar.



The ladies of FREED, left to right, Joyce Bailey as dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, Judy Williams as singer Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, and Patricia Tyson as educator and social reformer Hallie Quinn Brown. - *Pierce Park photos by Mary Belcher*

## BILTMORE TRIANGLE GARDEN IN BLOOM, THANKS TO MARIANNE JOSEM AND HER MERRY BAND OF GARDENER- VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the many neighborhood folks who have made financial contributions to help keep this little gem looking good. If you would like to help out, please see the last page of this newsletter and check the appropriate box, and thank you.



Peony



Iris





Iris



Poppy

*Garden flower photos by Marianne Josem*

## WALK FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM, SATURDAY, MAY 30

Have you already “walked the walk” that takes you from the site of a young woman’s daring attempt to escape slavery in 1861 to the sacred ground where more than 7,000 free African American Washingtonians were buried following the Civil War?

If not, join us Saturday, May 30, at 10 am at the Sun Trust Bank Plaza at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbia Road to walk “From Slavery to Freedom in Adams Morgan.” This walk, led by neighborhood historians Eddie Becker and Mary Belcher, has become one of the most popular tours of Cultural Tourism DC’s WalkingTown Weekend.

The 90-minute free tour takes walkers through Civil War-Era Adams Morgan, from today’s Kalorama Park, once the center of a large slave-holding estate, to Walter Pierce Park, the site of a sprawling military hospital known as Cliffburne Barracks, a Quaker burying ground, and Washington’s most active African American cemetery.

Younger walkers can earn a “National Underground Railroad Conductor” badge by discovering the special history of Kalorama Park, which has been designated a National Network to Freedom Underground Railroad site by the National Park Service as a result of the walking tour. In Walter Pierce Park, walkers will learn how

Howard University archaeologists, with the support of the Adams Morgan community, are using 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology to identify and protect the 19<sup>th</sup> Century cemeteries.

Bring a friend who had no idea Adams Morgan had so much history! For information about this and other tours throughout the city during WalkingTown Weekend, visit <http://www.WalkingTownDC.org> KCA, as always, is a happy co-sponsor of this event.

– *Mary Belcher*, [maryibelcher@comcast.net](mailto:maryibelcher@comcast.net)

## MINUTES OF KCA MEETING, APRIL 16, 2009

President **Denis James** called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. After approval of the February and March minutes, Denis made the following announcements: 1. The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities will hold an open house on April 21 from 6-8:00 pm at the Church of Christ, Scientist at 1770 Euclid Street so that the community can see the work of the 3 finalists in the public art competition for the new plaza at Columbia & Adams Mill Roads; 2. KCA elections for officers will be held at the May meeting; 3. DDOT has re-constituted a steering committee for the 18<sup>th</sup> Street streetscape project.

Community reps include Denis, **Maureen Gallagher**, President of the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association, **Lisa Duperier**, Commissioners **Bryan Weaver**, **Stacey Moye**, **Wilson Reynolds** and **Mindy Moretti**.

Lisa Duperier, President of Adams Morgan Main Street, made the following announcements: 1. The Bow Wow Pow Wow is on Sunday April 26 at Marie Reed. Animals will be available for adoption, and there will be celebrity judges for the contests; 2. A historic preservation handbook is available for businesses in a historic district; 3. Adams Morgan Day will be Sunday September 13. Good feedback has been received about Arts on Belmont and the Kids Fair, so there will be an attempt to expand those activities. Also, light jazz in Kalorama Park will be held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year; 4. The façade program, which helps businesses maintain or improve their facades, needs sponsors. This program can also put art in the display windows of empty store fronts.

**Kristin Barden**, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan Partnership BID announced the following: 1. A summer kickoff for staff and managers of neighborhood restaurants on April 23 and May 19 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> District police station. The Assistant Fire Marshall will speak; 2. The BID is working with Colonial Parking to facilitate weekend security.

**Mary Belcher** gave an update on recent activities on the Pierce Park Archeology Project. Mary explained that she is the community liaison to the project and works closely with Howard University Professor Mark Mack and his students, who gain course credit and provide the valuable service to the community of re-acquainting us with our fairly recent past (late 1800’s). The project is

about to begin the use of ground penetrating radar to help determine the exact location and methodology of interments. She noted that it is likely that 7,500 African-Americans and Quakers are buried there. There will be a special event held in the park Saturday, April 25, from 2-4 pm, to demonstrate the radar and answer questions about the survey. In addition to KCA's role of helping with outreach and education, Washington Parks & People is working toward a master plan for the future of the park. Mary is currently reviewing 75,000 DC death certificates to determine the names of everyone buried in the park. Between 1870 and 1890 10% of DC deaths were buried in what is now Pierce Park.

Denis introduced Ward One Councilmember **Jim Graham** who noted the following improvements in public transportation: the new S-9 express bus on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, the 43 bus which goes under Dupont Circle, and the Circulator bus which goes from Woodley Park across Calvert Street to Columbia Road, to 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the loops around McPherson Square and then retraces its path. He also noted the future re-opening of Champlain Street under Marie Reed Learning Center. Jim is currently serving as the Chair of the WMATA Board and chairs the DC Council Committee on Public Works & Transportation

#### **Presentation by Mayor Adrian Fenty**

Mayor Fenty noted that the budget outlook has changed due to economic conditions. The administration has put forth new environmental initiatives, and seeks improvement in fire and EMS. Residents can do more online at DMV and at DCRA—places residents seek to avoid if possible. The government has a policy of putting homeless in housing with supportive services, Oak Hill (for juveniles) is being reformed, and the child welfare backlog is down. Also, much is happening in economic development: the waterfront, east of the River, Georgia Avenue, a new public plaza, with fountain at 14<sup>th</sup> Street & Park Road. Much has been done but this year's budget is austere. This is the first year since he was on the Council that the proposed budget is less than the previous year. Agencies must find a way to do more for less.

To a question from Paul Levy on whether a new soccer stadium for DC United could be built at Poplar Point: Time and money were spent on this stadium issue, but developing a deal proved very hard. Prince Georges can't do it. RFK is not perfect but it works—possibly it can be upgraded. We are still open for a deal at Poplar Point.

To a question on the ability of residents to appeal parking/traffic tickets: There is still a plan to get rid of in-person adjudication service. This is important in Adams Morgan because of all the parking tickets written here. Neither the Mayor nor Councilmember Graham knew the status of this initiative.

To a question on the future of the Department of Aging: There is no plan to abolish it.

To a question on the property tax Homestead exemption: This has grown to a max of \$75,000 in the 2010 budget proposal. This is good news for those on a fixed income.

To a question on homeless policy: ANC 1C-02 Commissioner **Chris Otten** criticized the program that

houses the homeless before they are eligible for an actual home. Mayor Fenty noted that homeless families are handled right away, though homeless individuals are not. The 3,500 chronically homeless in DC cannot be moved immediately into housing. Chris suggested that the homeless shelters are being closed down before other arrangements are made. Fenty disputed this, indicating that the need for transitional shelters would not end.

On the Mayor's approach to the budget: Budgets used to grow 5-6% a year. There was a lot of fat that needs to be trimmed, such as positions in communications, policy, etc.

To a question on the Human Papilloma Virus: It was suggested that not enough is known about this virus to require compulsory shots for young children. The Mayor indicated that the final bill had an opt-out—it was not mandatory.

To a question on Inclusionary Zoning: ANC 1C-04 Commissioner Mindy Moretti, asked when inclusionary zoning would be implemented. Mayor Fenty noted that the concept of exclusionary zoning has changed considerably, with the housing market. All housing used to be market rate, but now virtually every project has an affordable component. So more will be happening in this area.

In response to a complaint that DCRA is hard to deal with regarding business licenses, etc., Fenty said that DCRA has improved in the areas of licensing, permits, and inspections. Much more can be accomplished on-line. There is a good director now—it used to be the worst agency.

To a question on ending a DC Parks & Rec After School Program: There was a complaint from a single mother that the closing of this program would imperil her job. Several people had received notices about the impending closing. Fenty indicated that no Parks & Rec facilities or programs are being closed. The private sector will be bidding on some programs, however. He indicated that Parks & Rec is not equipped to do child care, but there are other providers of this service. He criticized the sending of a letter that alarmed people and offered no alternatives. He will investigate further.

Jeff Wilkes asked about starting environmental program in schools: He pointed out that Sidwell Friends uses the school grounds to teach environmental issues, and this would be a good idea for H.D. Cooke Elementary School when it re-opens. Jeff asked for city help to accomplish this. Mayor Fenty indicated his support.

To a question on fair assessment of home values: Fenty indicated, in regard to a complaint, that there is an attempt to look at each house individually and get the true assessment. Some values have gone down recently.

In response to a question on a DC "anti-crime plan": Mayor Fenty said there was no "plan" per se. What is taught at the Policy Academy could be considered to be an anti-crime plan. In order to keep neighborhoods safer, he would have more policemen walking beats.

Councilmember Graham noted that deployment is the most important part of the plan in this neighborhood, because so many outsiders come here on weekends.

Additional crime question: There was a complaint that crime is worse here than in NYC, and this is because of lack of equipment and technology. We frequently can't prosecute because we don't have the evidence. Fenty indicated that DC compared favorably with NYC with regard to crime statistics. We have caught up quite a bit in technology. For example, all cruisers will have laptops soon. We have updated much of our equipment and reduced corruption. Our charge now is to get police out of the cruisers and onto the street, to be more proactive. We need to get more agencies involved in supporting the police, get gangs out of the schools, and shut down nuisance properties.

With regard to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's plans to close and sell clubs, Denis challenged the administration to purchase not only Jelleff, for which the Mayor proposed a \$15 million purchase price over 5 years in the DC 2010 capital budget, but to also save the other 3 clubs at risk of sale. The 4 clubs could then be leased to neighborhood non-profits. Mayor Fenty said that sounded like a good idea and that he thought we could save three of them. At this point the Mayor's presentation ended and he left the meeting. After a brief recess, the meeting continued with the presentation of a resolution to protect residential neighborhoods from commercial uses from **Ann Hargrove**. She said that the DC Office of Planning is reviewing all zoning regulations and has indicated a desire to increase matter-of-right commercial uses in residential districts. If this happens, the burden will fall mainly on rowhouse areas like Dupont Circle and Adams Morgan. This would lead to more commercial uses in currently residential areas. These areas have encouraged housing as the appropriate usage and do not desire more commercial usage, which would compete with existing nearby commercial uses. In the discussion, it was established that rental properties are not a commercial usage. Ann said that this new type of commercial use in now-residential areas used to be allowed case by case, but the new zoning regulations would allow it as a matter of right in certain areas. She noted that other jurisdictions, like Takoma Park and Alexandria, protect their residential uses. Her resolution for KCA to oppose such new commercial uses under proposed new zoning regulations passed unanimously. (See resolution printed in its entirety below)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**-Linda Ingram, Secretary**

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## **RESOLUTION OF KALORAMA CITIZENS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THE DC ZONING REGULATIONS: PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS FROM INTRUSIONS OF COMMERCIAL USES**

**Whereas** the District of Columbia's Office of Planning (OP), following the 2006 adoption of a revised Comprehensive Plan that is required by law to guide land-use policies, including zoning, is engaged in a comprehensive review of the District's Zoning Regulations,

**Whereas**, OP has made clear, in connection with various topics relevant to this review, including those relating to historic districts, interpretation of the Height Act and residential districts, its desire to increase matter-of-right commercial uses in residential districts,

**Whereas**, the burden of any such increase is likely to fall most heavily on the mainly rowhouse R-5B areas, such as those that predominate in Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle, calling them new "mixed use" districts,

**Whereas**, the Adams Morgan residentially zoned areas are within close proximity to commercial areas along Columbia Road, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Florida Avenue and U Street as well as Connecticut Avenue,

**Whereas**, Adams Morgan has had a history of encouraging housing usage as the appropriate feature of its residential areas,

**Whereas** Adams Morgan's commercially (mixed-use) zoned areas do not need competition from additional commercial use areas, especially at a time of economic downturn,

**Whereas**, the Comprehensive Plan, as approved, has many proposals and actions that are intended to afford protection to the city's rowhouse areas,

**Whereas**, the Office of Planning has announced that it is going to recommend amendments to the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan that may facilitate changes such as those described above (although the text of any such recommendations is not yet available),

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kalorama Citizens Association opposes proposals to revise the Zoning Regulations so as to increase matter-of-right commercial uses in its residential areas.

Resolution offered by Ann Hargrove at the April 16, 2009 meeting of the KCA.

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND DUES

Annual dues are now due. Contributions can be made by credit card or PayPal at: <http://www.kaloramacitizens.org/join>  
Or use this convenient form and send your check to KCA, PO Box 21311, Washington, DC 20009. KCA is a 501(c)(3) organization and all dues and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

- I wish to support the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project with a contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I wish to support the gardeners at the Biltmore Triangle Garden with a contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Here's my \$25 dues for 2009.
  - I wish to support the KCA General Fund, in addition to my dues. Contributions to the General Fund help pay for the routine operation of KCA: The newsletter, web-site, insurance, office expenses and supplies. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I'd like to buy a 100% cotton Adams Morgan T-shirt with map design, in color, by local artist Mary Belcher: \$15.00
- 



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**THE NEXT KCA MEETING  
THURSDAY MAY 28, 7:00 PM**

**GUEST SPEAKER: WARD ONE  
COUNCILMEMBER JIM GRAHAM**

**OYSTER-ADAMS PLAYGROUND**

**GOOD WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
1862 KALORAMA ROAD NW**