

Meeting notes: Neighborhood meeting 13 April 2016
 Hillwood Museum and Gardens

Neighbors	Officials
Christy Wise-Tilden Bill Kelly-Lenore Nathan Crystal-Linnean Anders Aslund-Linnean Andy Beyer-Lenore Mim Miller-Lenore Michael and Soonie Jones- Tilden PL Bob Miller-Linnean Neal and Ava Gross- Lenore Clayton Lewis-Linnean Roberta Colton-Linnean Jim and Karen Foreit- Linnean Nancy Palmer-Linnean Greer and Gerald Goldman- Lenore Burton Schonfeld- Linnean Jane Raso- Linnean Ellen Cohen- Tilden PL	Patrick Jakopchek – ANC 3F Commissioner , District 7 Andrew Kaufmann – DDOT Team 2 Wards 3&4 Steve Saari – DOEE: Planning and restoration branch Karim Marshall – DOEE office of the Director

The meeting began with introductions of city officials and neighbors and a short presentation of neighborhood conditions.

Andrew Kaufmann: I'm just being made aware of these issues. I rode around the area prior to the meeting and there are lots of drainage issues, needs curbs, needs landscaping, drainage pipes. Even though it's a low traffic street it's a major project, not just milling and paving. DDOT will be flexible with whatever is decided upon as long as it's safe.

Steve Saari: I try to address storm water issues. The city wasn't built with good drainage; at one time this neighborhood probably had small streams running all year long. They're now gone. The creek beds have now been replaced by the streets. The storm water from the neighborhood goes to the drains and runs to Soapstone and Rock Creek. The pollution, erosion, silt, and worst of all, the heat from the roads goes right in. We need to retrofit the drainage. Steep slopes are even more challenging. A positive though--and my perspective is different from DOT, they own the land and have to be concerned with safety--I would suggest no curb and flow the water into the grassy areas to collect rainwater in rain gardens. That way it won't dump into the creek. Curb and gutter systems don't work well with that. The large ground swale in front of Hillwood could provide a good place for this "rain garden." We've worked with Hillwood in the past on water runoff. Sounds like Levine School also would be a good place to reach out to if so much water comes down Upton from there.

Karen: In addition to the residents, we have several important institutions in the neighborhood: Levine Music School, the Dutch embassy, Hillwood and the residence of the Ambassador of the Democratic

Republic of Congo. These institutions bring in traffic and heavy vehicles including delivery trucks, busses to Hillwood, [Don:2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon], and garbage trucks.

Karim Marshall: There's something that can be done now, *RiverSmart* homes and communities, it's a program for rain gardens and storm water retrofits.

Steve Saari: We worked in partnership with DDOT on a project the same scale as yours, north of Military Road and Quesada Street near the Broad Branch Market. Please go check out that neighborhood to see what they did and can be done in yours. It started in 2010 and wrapped up in 2015. This is not a short process, it needs soil borings, understanding the geology and traffic studies.

Andrew Kaufmann: You need to know that this is going to take time.

Nancy: What are we doing here tonight, is this informational? Are we making decisions?

Patrick Jakopchek: that's why we're here. This problem is on our radar now, but we need to gather info and report back, then we can come up with a plan.

Steve Saari: For the time period I told you, we had funding identified already on that 5 year process, if there's no funding identified it will be a much longer time frame.

Christy: It seems like there are two projects here, a retrofit or a complete runoff project, right? Which is it we're trying to do?

Steve Saari: anything and everything is on the table here, we're trying to find out what you, the neighbors, want.

Andrew Kaufmann: We wanted to hear the needs from the entire zone, so that's why we're here. Nobody has proposed a single solution for all.

Greer: I'm not sure how that interrelates with having a comprehensive plan for this neighborhood. For example, a substantial part of the runoff comes from Levine. Could that start first while we plan the rest, and would Levine have to pay for it or would the city government fund it?

Karim Marshall: the timing that we decide on would be contingent on the funding. There's a 6 year borrowing plan that would have be considered before anything is decided because it's a capital project. Public right of way is going to take the longest, most complicated and hardest to fund. The school part would be different based on who owns the land. The private property would be the fastest because we could use operating dollars to fund that.

Steve Saari: we have a funded program, *RiverSmart*, with a waiting list of months instead of getting a project in the line. It doesn't fix the road way, it takes care of the pollution. We can fund up to \$1600 per private property. We can provide contractors, or you can find your own contractor and we provide rebates to you the home owners. Larger parcels like Hillwood and Levine that participate in *RiverSmart* get more funding than what individual home owners get.

Bob: Government likes to see funding first, and then projects. I work in construction and like to see foundations first before walls and roofs.

Andrew Kaufmann: we need to do surveying, then engineering, then come up with a plan and get contractors

Karen: Andrew, you saw the reports from DDOT, is it possible that some sections ONLY need milling and paving?

Andrew Kaufmann: it's possible,

Nancy: It's amazing that you're only hearing this, because we've been complaining about this for decades.

Steve Saari: I want to point out that when milling and paving takes place, that doesn't trigger our storm water regulations, but digging down to repair the storm drain will absolutely trigger our MEP (MEP: treating the storm water to the maximum effect possible).

Burt: has there been a professional assessment of what the best solution is?

Karen: Two engineers did a neighborhood walkthrough just yesterday, about 30 hours ago. The report is still "hot ON the press"

Andrew Kaufmann: I drove the street today. There are drainage problems, no sidewalk, no traffic lights, no traffic calming. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed.

Patrick Jakopchek: Andrew, what's the process for the neighbors once they get the info from the report back?

Andrew Kaufmann: we like to see plans get to 30% complete, and then we'll put them up on the ANC meeting to be voted on and prioritized.

Clayton: I saw a very young child traveling down the middle of the street on a bike and thought, "Dear god, don't hit a pot hole." There's no sidewalk, so people walk through the street. There's less room when it's raining where there's nowhere to walk except the middle of the street. Also cars dodge potholes, so they're swerving.

Steve Saari: You are not unique in the city, these problems are found all over. You are unique in that you showed up in mass to talk to us about them.

Anders: I've been here 18 years, and I thought there was a 10 year cycle of resurfacing. Is there any kind of plan in place to resurface?

Andrew Kaufmann: I've seen streets all over wards 3 and 4 that haven't been paved in 40 years

Roberta: Is there a problem with even getting the money if it's going to take 6 years?

Karim Marshall: We could try to get funds shifted to this, but we don't know how much money it will take.

Patrick Jakopchek: Mary Cheh's office apologized for not being with us tonight. We can ask them for priority in funding, but we need to know what and how much to ask from them first.

Burt: is there a need to prioritize or phase these? I want to ask people here, what is the most critical issue is that we've seen today. The Linnean "river" seems to be a big problem for ALL of us, you can't level Linnean ave.

Andrew Kaufmann: no need to work in phases, we can get money.

Ellen: I have two young children in the street and I walk to the metro every day. We don't get plowed out when it snows. We were housebound until Hillwood graciously plowed us out.

Neal: abandonment and neglect are the REAL issues with Linnean . Lenore is about the same age. To fix the underlying problem a major redesign is going to take a study. That's going to take time, and I think others will agree here, we haven't been resurfaced in 25 years

Patrick Jakopchek: Linnean is on the resurfacing calendar; don't know if it's this year or next though. In addition to this "temporary fix" you'll want to look in to the long term fixes

Michael: you come up with the plan, and you start the plan, somebody buys a house are they going to have to start over?

Steve Saari: No, we can implement RiverSmart in private parcels to get things started instead of waiting for full funding of a larger project.

Michael: Why isn't Levine here if they're a part of the problem?

Karen: they weren't invited because only the homeowners on Linnean Avenue, Tilden Place and Lenore Lane were invited

Steve Saari: the problem with storm water is really the impervious surfaces; sidewalks, tennis courts, sidewalks.

Jim: the temporary solution is the pothole truck, which comes and fills three potholes and leaves the other 243.

Andrew Kaufmann: call (311) the number and report the pothole as "dangerous". Then write down the number, they give you, and give it to your ANC when they do nothing

Don: I submitted a request asking them to fix the potholes, they filled one, then left. I submitted another request they fixed from lower gate to Upton. I submitted another request asking to fill from Tilden to Upton They sent someone out and did a small section of the road then left. I called again they filled ONE hole with gravel, It's gone. They aren't packing the asphalt nor prepping the hole, they fill with gravel sometimes, and neither lasts. They are great on showing up within 48 hours just not a good job filling the holes so that it lasts.

Karim Marshall: It sounds like you're looking for a plan of action and sequencing the plan. First, identify everyone in your neighborhood who might be interested in RiverSmart and give their info to Steve. Simultaneously, we can work on filling potholes. Identify all of your potholes, report them and track them. Third, work with your Ward 3 City Councilmember Mary Cheh to identify a capital project to prioritize paving. Keep talking to Dee Smith, Mary Cheh's Director of Constituent Services. Dee is probably the best in dealing with City departments. She's why we're here tonight. You may also want to loop in Nicole Rentz, Mary's Legislative Director. Mary did something similar to this in 2014 when Spring Valley Park wanted us to do a restoration. Mary found the money to get the project started.

Andrew Kaufmann: we'll do a 30% design, how much concrete, pipes and asphalt we need and then have a number for budget.

Karen: for *RiverSmart*, I'll send everyone on the mailing list a survey: Yes/No do you want to be on the project? I have email addresses for every household in the area except two

Karim Marshall: peer pressure works best, the more people who sign up the greater the effect

Karen: Next, report your potholes with your address, and take the case number and send it to me I'll consolidate them all. Third, we will identify a capital project to host this. We will talk to Pat to talk to Dee Smith about getting a capital project started, they'll coordinate with Mary Cheh.

Steve Saari: if you can identify standing water from public right of way onto your private property, there's a drainage committee that deals with that.

Ava: what about sediment that piles up?

Andrew Kaufmann: Request Street sweeping from 311

Karen: Can we get the report that was sent to DDOT?

Andrew Kaufmann: I actually don't know, I'll find out and if so I'll send it to Pat.

Neal: I just want to address the "traffic calming": there are elderly people and cars that won't deal with humps and bumps. My car will not be able to deal with it.

Steve Saari: bump outs on the street might help

Neal: we can't get two cars passed each other now, how is that going to help?

Steve Saari: there are many ways to make the street APPEAR narrower without affecting the road, that will slow down traffic.

Andrew Kaufmann: how about sidewalks? (no response)

Karen: I think we can safely say there are some things we all agree on and there are other things on which there are differences of opinion.