



**FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**5-1-18 at 7pm**

Members present were, Elisse Wright Barnes, Fizie Haleem, Brian Downie, Shana Davis-Cook, Barry Wides, Shane Pollin, Kim Jones, June Henderson, and Pete Fosselman (staff). Dave Feehan, Jeremiah Pope, and Richard Romer were necessarily absent. Amy Stephens (DEP), Tina Michaels (Corrections) and Darrin Johnson (SHA) were guest speakers. Several members of the community joined as well.

- Introductions were given. New Board Member, Kim Jones of the NonProfit Village was introduced later in the meeting.
- Agendas and Minutes were made available to the public.
- Minutes
  - Approved by email from March 26, 2018.
- From the Public
  - No comments
- Guest Speakers
  - Tina Michaels, Manager from the Department of Corrections explained the Weekender and Alternative Community Service Programs. At this point, Corrections short-handed on workers. (The Bethesda/White Flint community is not willing to share the labor.) There may be an opportunity for a joint project with the Pre-Release Center, but there are no long-term maintenance options.
  - Darrin Johnson, Resident Maintenance Engineer for SHA noted his crew oversees 856 miles of lanes with 6 teams. He reviewed how to report a complaint online or one may just call him. Shana mentioned a dip in the pavement on New Hampshire Avenue in the far-right lane, north of the exit from the Hillandale Shopping Center. Residents noted the problem with homeless camps near 495, signage needs, danger of the 29 & Steward intersection, and debris along 495.
  - Leslie Wilcox, DEP Manager of Stormwater Facility and Maintenance Program, discussed DEP's efforts to clean-up local trash to improve the waterway that eventually leads into the Anacostia River. A study indicated that White Oak was the worst trash wise along the

watershed and so DEP is focusing on White Oak with an educational plan. "Pick-up Litter, Lift Up White Oak" is the slogan chosen. A children's art contest to create a logo will be initiated. June remarked that trash cans are missing along Old Columbia Pike and the lot adjacent to the Wallstreet Journal Building is full of debris. Teenagers are hanging out and drinking/smoking; and others are using the property as a dumping ground. Leslie said Pulte Homes is the owner and she has had trouble connecting with them. Pete said he would try to reach out to Pulte. Fizie requested the program be translated into other languages since White Oak is so diverse. Brian suggested the Anacostia is too far away for people to comprehend and DEP should make the campaign very local.

- General updates were given by Pete.
  - Solicitations were sent out, interview held, and a firm has been chosen to help market White Oak. Details are being finalized and Pete thinks they will moving forward by mid-June.
  - Shana gave a brief status report on the funding for the Hillandale Local Park with the Council still considering between \$5M and \$6M amounts.
- Board Comments
  - June mentioned the fence is down again at the Lockwood Transit Center.
- Next Steps
  - Board agreed to set a regular monthly day for meetings. Pete is to coordinate.
- Meeting adjourned