

# Post 114/MC Appearance & Cleanliness Action Committee

**\*This document includes notes from all Appearance & Cleanliness Action Committee Meetings, with the most recent meeting at the top of the document.**

**Next Meeting: February 9, 2021, 1 pm**

**Meeting 1/12/2021** - Kenneth Jennings, Nikia Mack (Community Liaison Manager, DOT), Stephanie Nichols, Bruce Panczner, Chantel Quarles (Assistant Superintendent), Ann Winder, Kristen Mitchell

**Trash Can Project** – The group reviewed images of the trash cans with the proposed stickers on them. Bruce suggested that we capitalize MarketCenterBaltimore.org. The group supported this change. KM and AW will distribute on January 22, together with code enforcement brochures. AW asked KJ and CQ to begin enforcement on January 29. AW noted that residents can also flout trash disposal rules and asked KJ and CQ to distinguish between residents and businesses. CQ – start by educating residents about collection days and rules. AW and KM will try to get the brochures to residents, too. KJ noted that sometimes residents put their trash in the business trash cans – this could result in overflowing trash receptacles. If this happens, business owners should contact KJ so they can avoid getting citations. AW and KM will hand out KJ's business cards. KJ willing to visit the businesses directly, too. AW – If there is a resident that is in violation – CQ – if the property is registered, they can get the tenants' names. If there are two more units, the violation goes to the building owner. AW asked KJ and CQ to keep track of their business visits. CQ will create a spreadsheet and share at the next meeting. AW suggested they do their walkthroughs before 11 a.m. on Friday, because after that, trash may have been collected. AW asked them to keep an eye on the alley between 320 and 322 Park.

The next street that will receive these trash cans is Eutaw Street.

AW asked CQ & KJ to pay close attention to 100 block of Howard with respect to trash disposal.

MCMA will remind business and property owners that they are responsible for exterior sanitation up to the gutter. They need to maintain the area free of litter.

KJ asked if we need more public trash cans. KM said that it would be nice to have another public trash can at Paca & Lexington.

## **Appearance/Infrastructure –**

**Tree Wells** – NM is scheduling a walkthrough with Rec & Parks. (UPDATE: This took place on 1/19/21, but without Rec & Parks. Liam Davis from DOT participated).

**Streetlights** – DOT evaluated streetlights in Market Center. They found three outages in the 100 block of N. Eutaw, four outages in 200 block of N. Eutaw, and several in unit block, all related to cable faults. Still out as of yesterday, but DOT is working on this with BGE. Will circle back and discuss whether we want to push for pedestrian lighting in the area. NM will send us information on potential grants for lighting.

**Footways** – This may take the most time. They are still investigating conditions in Market Center. Will take a couple of weeks to get a summary to us. The sidewalks at 301 N. Eutaw will be fixed this spring.

Franklin Street repairs – multi-agency conversation because the problems were exacerbated by contracting crews working on water lines.

Vending information – Contact Sean Stephenson at DOT.

### **On-Street Parking Restrictions –**

NM noted that Mr. Malinowski is looking into the removal of peak hour restrictions on Park Avenue, Franklin Street, Mulberry Street, and that he will prepare a holistic plan, including community notification, which is standard when they make traffic pattern changes. (KM Note: We are discussing this in the Appearance & Cleanliness Action Committee because we connected it to our requests to DOT for infrastructure repairs.)

**Meeting 12/16/2020** – Nikia Mack, Bruce Panczner, Chantel Quarles, Muriel Rich, Ann Winder, Kristen Mitchell

### **Mission Statement**

AW shared a proposed mission statement, and the group discussed and proposed modifications. Rather than make a final decision during the meeting, they agreed to think about the following two options prior to the next meeting:

Option A. To enhance the Market Center’s historical and contemporary beauty, sanitation, and sense of pride by partnering with our business community, residents, city agencies, and corporate sponsors to provide an aesthetically pleasing experience while living, working, and visiting the district.

Option B. To enhance Market Center and its historical beauty, sanitation, and sense of pride by partnering with our business community, residents, city agencies, and corporate sponsors to provide an aesthetically pleasing experience while living, working, and visiting the district.

Participants offered differing views on the inclusion of the term “historical.” Some felt it makes the mission statement focus too narrowly on historical buildings (to the exclusion of contemporary buildings), and they did not understand how the appearance and cleanliness action committee’s work enhances historic structures. Others felt that “historic beauty” does not necessarily refer just to historic buildings, but the overall feeling people used to get while walking through the bustling Market Center.

### **Potential slogans to help get people excited about beautifying Market Center:**

1. Cleanliness brings happiness, but trash makes you gasp
2. Market Center clean, makes you gleam

### **Trash cans:**

AM to get sponsor logos to BP as vector files. KM and AW will test the stencils on AW’s trashcans and then determine if we should use stencils or stickers.

### **Public Realm/Infrastructure Improvements:**

- AW welcomed NM to the group and explained that she talked to NM about Market Center's requests for public realm improvements.
- NM said that she wants to think about our request for public realm improvements holistically, not piecemeal.
- Sidewalk Repairs
  - NM said that she talked to Michael Camper and Satinder Kang, and DOT will repair the sidewalks at 301 N. Eutaw with bricks.
  - She noted that it is not always possible to replace the brick with new bricks; she suggested stamped concrete as an option.
  - KM asked that DOT confer with the community on brick/stamped concrete options. She noted that the residents on the 300 block of N. Paca Street specifically want brick.
  - KM asked NM for rough estimates of the per-square-foot cost to replace a sidewalk with brick vs. concrete.
- Lighting
  - DOT did a lighting study of Market Center and found that the highway lighting in Market Center meets standards. They reported outages to BGE, and NM will send us a list.
  - DOT typically does not install pedestrian lighting. To get new pedestrian lighting, we need to raise money, likely through safety or beautification grants. DOT will install the lights. NM suggested talking to Planning to get information on grants.
- Tree wells
  - NM will do a walking tour with Forestry to look at the tree wells and sidewalks. We agreed to invite DPOB and MTA to the site visit.
- Removal of on-street parking restrictions. NM spoke with a representative from Traffic recently and they think it is feasible. KM clarified that the request is to remove on-street parking restrictions on Park Avenue from the unit block through the 400 block. The group also discussed the removal of on-street parking restrictions on Franklin and Mulberry. NM to present a plan at an upcoming meeting.

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**Meeting 11/4/2020** – Kenneth Jennings, Bruce Panczner, Chantel Quarles, Muriel Rich, Perry Standfield, Ann Winder, Kristen Mitchell

1. Following up on a question from a previous Post 114/MC Coalition Meeting, Kenneth Jennings told the group that the Fire Department had identified a life safety concern at 425-27 W. Saratoga Street, which is what prompted HABC (Housing Authority of Baltimore City) to stabilize the front and side of the building.
2. Kristen Mitchell asked if the Fire Department could evaluate 320 N. Eutaw Street for life safety concerns, too. Kenneth Jennings will investigate it.
3. Ann Winder outlined the Trash Can Project (300 block Park) for Chantel Quarles and Kenneth Jennings. Next steps:
  - a. Get Check
  - b. Buy Cans
  - c. Distribute Cans
  - d. Give Businesses a 30-day grace period

- e. Begin Enforcement around 12/11/2020
    - i. Kenneth Jennings will walk the block before trash collection on Fridays to identify possible illegal dumping.
    - ii. Instead of using 311, we should email Muriel, Perry, and Kenneth with concerns about illegal trash disposal.
  4. Note that businesses are permitted to put trash out after 6 pm the night before collection, but we will discourage it. Leaving trash out overnight can lead to theft of trash cans, dumping of the trash in the streets, and rats.
  5. The trash cans will have "Market Center" written vertically on the back side of the cans, "Clean Sponsor" written vertically on the back side of the cans, and the address on the bottom front – in stencils. We will get a sticker with the sponsors logos, which will be placed on the sides.
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**Meeting 10/28/2020** – Bruce Panczner, Muriel Rich, Perry Standfield, Ann Winder, Kristen Mitchell

1. Ann will draft a mission statement for the group.
2. Trash Can Project:
  - a. Ann secured business sponsorships for the purchase of 96-gallon trash cans to give to business owners on key blocks in Market Center.
  - b. Step 1: Kristen and Ann will talk to business owners about trash disposal on the 300 block of Park Avenue on November 3; will ask size preference for cans.
  - c. Step 2: Purchase, distribute cans.
  - d. Step 3: Visit again on trash day to see if they are being used.
  - e. Step 4: Code enforcement
  - f. We will repeat the process for the 200 block of W. Saratoga Street.
3. Ann will give Bruce the dimensions of the trash cans so he can get quotes for the stencils and/or stickers that will be placed on the cans to market the sponsors.
4. Kristen will invite Chantel Quarles (HCD Code Enforcement) and Kenneth Jennings (HCD Special Investigations Unit) to the Action Committee, and to a meeting on November 4 at 11 a.m.
5. Kristen will get copies of Baltimore City's clean/green brochure to distribute to businesses. If she can't get this, she will update a flyer that MCMA distributed to businesses several years ago regarding trash and recycling regulations.

Next meeting: November 4, 11 a.m.