

**MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
(MACCCA)**

MACCCA MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Location:

One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, NW

Mayor's Office on Veterans Affairs

Suite 1112 North

Washington, DC 20001

1. Meeting called to Order at 6:45 PM
2. Roll call and introduction of Commissioners: Michael Yates, Willair St. Vil, Shurland Oliver, Chris Toussaint, Michael Campbell, Abby Charles, Larissa Bako, Li Angus, Ursula Lauriston and Roger Caruth were present. Steve Walker from MOTA was present. Charlotte Flournoy and Charon Hines from MOCA were also present.
3. **Community Introductions:** Khalil Thompson, Jodi-Kaye Wade and Janel Edens
4. **Chair Updates:** The commission is still in search of a Vice Chair. The meeting location was moved from the BEGA Hearing Room to the Mayor's Office on Veteran Affairs due to repairs.
5. **Commissioners Update:**
 - a. **Meet & Greet:** Charlotte mentioned the commission needs to submit a briefing memo for the Meet and Greet to MOCA. The commissioners expressed the need for business cards, table cloth and step and repeat for the Meet and Greet. The proposed location for the Meet and Greet is The Pitch Tavern located at 4015 Georgia Ave NW. They are also interested in booking reggae band, Ras Slick to perform. Charlotte from MOCA expressed that these services need to be donated to the commissioners.
 - b. **Caribbean-American Heritage Month Awards:** Commissioner Angus will be the Chair for the MACCCA awards planning committee. Roger Caruth, Shurland Oliver, Abby Charles and Michael Campbell will also be on the committee. A draft will be submitted to MOCA.

Caribbean Festival: 1. Why a Music Festival.

Given the time frame, short window for planning and most importantly the budget, MACCCA felt it would be better to produce a condensed version of a Caribbean themed event. This event will incorporate elements of a Carnival such as Moko Jumbies, music, vending and costumed parade which will be the culmination of the day's activities. Similar to J'ouvert, the parade will encourage crowd participation and would be a kick-off to a bigger event in 2017.

2. Why at Gateway Pavilion.

MACCCA explored a variety of options in terms of identifying the ideal location for a 2016 DC Caribbean Carnival or Caribbean Event. These locations included, Georgia Ave, Yards Park, Union Market, Kingman Island and Gateway East. After considering a variety of factors including cost, location, metro access, venue availability among others, the Gateway Pavilion provided the best option. The Gateway Pavilion:

- Provides one stop shop with costs that meet our allocated budget.

- Ample green space, exhibition booths; kitchen space and indoor café
- Space large enough to accommodate outdoor concerts, festivals, parades, food vendors, etc.
- Perimeter fence for enhanced security
- Near metro, parking, ADA compliance

Georgia Avenue, near Howard/Banneker – Street closures for a parade or block party would be costly, couldn't serve alcoholic beverages, pedestrian traffic could be unwieldy, lack of amenities; process to secure 'ok' from HSEMA would take several months, in addition to the various administrative costs associated such as MPD, DDOT, WASA, DCRA and a few others.

The Yards – The space was already booked for the day we wanted. Also the space was inadequate to accommodate a large crowd, only a few hundred people at best; space lack amenities.

Union Market – This venue was expensive, production costs would be significant, space not big enough to accommodate a large crowd for a Music Festival. We had considerable communication problems with management of the venue.

Kingman Island – Venue unsuitable for a Music Festival, production costs to execute the event would be significant and lack needed infrastructure. The venue is logistically unsuitable as well.

Roosevelt High School - Roosevelt High was not considered due to ongoing construction and the general concern of using such an institution for the purpose of a Festival/Carnival or serving alcoholic beverages. This is an option MACCCA can look at if need be.

- c. Bylaws: Nothing was changed or discussed
- d. Social Media: Nothing was changed or discussed

6. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.**

Michael Yates

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