

DRCA Candidate Questionnaire: ROD KUCKRO

Thank you for your interest in a leadership role with the Del Ray Citizens Association. To help members get to know you, please answer the following questions.

1). Please describe your history with the Del Ray Citizens Association. How long have you been a member? In what ways have you been involved or supported the Del Ray Citizens Association?

I have been a member of the association since 1984. I started serving on the executive board in 1986; working in various positions until 1991 when I was elected president. I served a second term in 1992.

During my tenure, Del Ray made progress on a number of fronts:

- The city completed the undergrounding of utilities on Mt. Vernon Ave. and installation of brick sidewalks, a project the DRCA had urged several years earlier.
- We updated the master plan for our community; lowering building heights and setting a new course for pedestrian-oriented land use that helped bring about the neighborhood you see today.
- With support from city, we led the creation of the Town of Potomac Historic District.
- We partnered with the business community to have the city and state crack down on nuisance crimes that were a discouragement to new businesses and residents.
- Association volunteers built the playground for the Head Start program located by George Washington Middle School.
- We worked to produce the first-ever urban design guidelines for Mt. Vernon Avenue.
- The DRCA started holding an annual “block party” on Mt. Vernon Ave., a modest event that has blossomed into Art on the Avenue.

In the past two years, I have returned to serve on the board and am currently First Vice President. I also serve on the Land Use Committee and the ad hoc committee that has been involved in updating our bylaws.

Most recently I volunteered with the annual chili cook-off and was a docent for the House and Garden Tour.

2). What do you see as the key issues facing the Del Ray neighborhood and the Del Ray Citizens Association?

There are two chief issues that our neighborhood needs to address.

The first is traffic and parking.

During rush hours, Mt. Vernon Ave., Commonwealth Ave. and Monroe Ave., to name a few, are dangerous to cross as commuters cut through Del Ray. Parking along Mt. Vernon Ave. and on the residential streets on either side is becoming more and more difficult. We have to work toward finding a balance that protects residents while still accommodating those who patronize our commercial corridor.

The second issue has to do with protecting the Historic District and to *very carefully* consider land use decisions whose impacts will last for a generation or more.

3). What are you hoping to accomplish in a leadership role with the Del Ray Citizens Association? What approach do you expect to take to work towards the implementation of these plans?

My goals include:

- Making progress on traffic calming and parking.
- Increasing the DRCA membership by 50%.
- Re-surveying the Town of Potomac Historic District to capture buildings that were not old enough 25 years ago to qualify.
- Enlisting the city and community in an effort to clean up – and name -- the alleys that crisscross parts of Del Ray.
- Building consensus. No organization, especially an all-volunteer organization, can be successful without working through diverse points of view until acceptable solutions are reached, allowing the organization to move forward on achievable goals. I have proven able to do that in this community.

I will recruit members to fill the three vacancies on our board and volunteers to bolster and serve on existing committees as well as set up an ad hoc committee on traffic and parking.

4). Is there anything else you would like to share?

We are all busy with our lives. But if you like what you've read and can support my candidacy, I'd ask that you consider being a volunteer to the Citizens Association and our community. I think you'll find it rewarding.