

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
January 4, 2003

Minutes

First VP Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10 am. Chaplain Hawkins gave a New Year's reading and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The November minutes were read and accepted on a voice vote. The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$2123.24, was approved on a voice vote.

Dennis Logan presented a donation of \$500 to Holy Comforter for use of the church during the past year. Gloria Logan reported membership of 386 households and reminded members about paying annual dues. She introduced four new members, as well as Mr. Bray, the new Safeway manager.

Education Chair Carrie Thornhill reported on members' visits to Randle-Highland Elementary last fall and said tours of Anne Beers will begin in February. Paul Savage requested to see DCPS capital plans for schools in this area.

Kathy Chamberlain distributed a list of recommendations developed by the traffic task force, saying that they would go to the ANC for approval and then to DC DOT. Recreation chair Mark Johnson reported that the new Hillcrest Rec Center may be delayed due to the Recreation Department's desire to get a blanket zoning permit for all its new buildings. He moved that HCCA send a letter to the zoning commission allowing for joint permitting so the project can move forward. The motion was approved on voice vote. Paul Savage then moved that a letter be sent to Neil Albert asking that the Hillcrest project be considered separately if blanket approval is denied. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Vince Spaulding demonstrated "pick-up sticks" and asked if there was interest in obtaining them through HCCA. A number of members indicated interest and a list was circulated.

Kathy Chamberlain reported on behalf of ANC 7B, saying there are 4 commissioners now representing parts of Hillcrest. She said the ANC will change its meetings to a weekday starting in February; that the ANC had decided to oppose a liquor license for Clancy's; that if Safeway gets its beer and wine license the ANC will watch closely. She said the ANC will support HCCA on the rec center construction question.

Neighborhood Watch chair Dennis Logan praised the successful December luncheon, and introduced Commander Dandridge, who spoke of an "epidemic" of abandoned autos around the city. He said PSA 610 is providing a fast-track number for action on hazardous abandoned cars (727-4534/5/6). He said MPD is using undercover buys to deal with drug activity on Fort Davis St., 32nd Street, and other areas, but the problem is that

juveniles get arrested and are not held. Lieut. Sims then said that of the 75 December crimes, 66 were property crimes, with American vehicles being targeted for theft. In response to Mr. Savage's question about what resources local police need, Cmndr. Dandridge said the sick leave policy needed to be changed and those who can't work should be retired. In response to a request by Gloria Logan that residents be better informed when there is police activity in the neighborhood, Cmndr. Dandridge noted the "reverse 911" system that had never been implemented. Several Members suggested that Hillcrest be a pilot site for it.

Vince Spaulding introduced Ward 7 Councilman Kevin Chavous, who said that District 6D is "undermanned and understaffed" and that the PSA concept needs to be reevaluated. He said he would meet shortly with Chief Ramsey concerning allocation of police resources, asking for goal and timetables on redeployment. On other topics, Chavous said:

- DCPS is reining in the cost of special education, saving \$27 million this year by improving capacity in local schools;
- "We will build a new library at Francis Gregory";
- East of the River has always gotten "second-class treatment" in economic development;
- "We will keep Skyland moving forward" despite the city's financial constraints;
- He is aggressively trying to upgrade constituent outreach, including a new website
- (www.kevinpchavous.com) and a new director of outreach, Calvin Nophlin;
- He will ask the Mayor for a concrete timetable (within 2 years) regarding District agencies moving to Minnesota-Benning;
- He supports the sick leave bill but wants "to get that excuse off the table" and focus on redeployment; adding that Chief Ramsey has been given ample resources but has focused on the federal enclave rather than neighborhood crime;
- He supports limited deployment of surveillance cameras but is concerned about wider use -- and feels that cameras "are no substitute for good old police work";
- He feels that education is the key to safety and cited innovative charter schools like SEED and Maya Angelou for dealing with children from dysfunctional backgrounds;
- He thinks the community should get together and decide what it wants in the Penn Branch/Alabama Avenue area, then the mayor should leverage downtown development to get it done; and
- (In response to a call for more involvement and follow-through) said "It's a two way street" and he wants to be brought to the table by folks with access to the Mayor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm, with 74 members and guests in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Smith, Recording Secretary*