

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
January 10, 2004

Minutes

Pastor Senger called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Chaplain Hawkins delivered a reading on “working with people” and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The December minutes were read and approved on a voice vote. Dennis Logan’s Treasurer’s Report, showing a balance of \$923.57, was approved on a voice vote. Nelson Smith reported on the morning’s Board meeting.

Mark Johnson reported that the Board had decided to finalize the Navy Yard as the site for the upcoming HCCA 15th anniversary in September, and had approved a \$500 deposit. Information Chair Poteat announced an upcoming Martin Luther King Day celebration at UDC. Membership Chair Gloria Logan reported 365 current households, and reminded Members that 2004 dues are due.

Education Chair Carrie Thornhill reported that the Mayor and Council were able to produce a financing package to avoid DCPS layoffs, and that construction has begun on the second phase at Randle Highlands. Mr. Brock said that as a WTU official, he found “appalling” the threat to teachers’ jobs just before Christmas. Ms. Thornhill introduced Anne Beers principal Anthony Fears, who asked for help from retired teachers in filling a reading specialist position that DCPS has left unfilled. (His email is Anthony.Fears@K12.dc.us.)

Public Safety Chair Ed Wilhelm thanked Ofc. Mason for stopping Maryland cars from going through the neighborhood, and Ofc. Cunningham for doing radar patrol on his own time. He introduced Mary Ross, who reported that she said she had found four “Do Not Enter -- Except Residents” signs in NW, as well as one “Except Local Traffic Only.” She spoke to a DOT staffer who thought that “local traffic only” should be limited to construction sites. However, since other staff were still on holiday, she said she would continue pursuing the matter after they returned.

Pastor Senger invited Cmdr. Dandridge to respond; he said that if the signs say “do not enter,” they have to be enforced, perhaps with exceptions for family emergencies. Environment Chair Phil Hammond suggested that Hillcrest residents obtain a decal allowing passage. There followed some discussion of the alternatives. Paul Savage urged Members to avoid a “piecemeal” solution as opposed to pursuing community-wide interests, and to look at traffic comprehensively.

Cmdr. Dandridge presented awards to Dennis and Gloria Logan for their years of service to Neighborhood Watch. Mr. Logan asked Members to considering volunteering to

succeed him as chair. Cmdr. Dandridge then spoke of his vision for 2004, that this should be “a safe place to shop, live, work, and visit.” In the crime report, Lieut. Sims noted that there were only eight crimes against persons reported in the past month, as well as a decline in auto thefts.

Carrie Thornhill introduced guest speaker Robert C. Bobb, the DC City Administrator. He reviewed a number of initiatives by the Williams Administration, including expanding health clinic hours and securing 24-hour pharmacy services; enforcing licensing requirements for group homes and taking other measures to increase accountability in youth services; expanding PSA areas to add additional officers in neighborhoods; pushing for action on the Skyland revitalization; and broadening the 35% minority contracting requirement to apply to all components of a project.

He said he planned to introduce an evaluation item to all cabinet officers regarding getting every child reading by the 3rd grade. He also said that while downtown development is needed, so is economic development in neighborhoods; specifically, he said he would look at what kind of offices are put in city buildings located in neighborhoods – not just DoES but also Corporation Counsel, for example. And he said the Mayor is committed to libraries and is asking for a new master plan for the whole system.

He said that “none of us have a franchise on our jobs. Performance matters. Those who are performing will be rewarded; those not, those with a different agenda, will work someplace else.”

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm, with 65 Members and guests present.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Smith
Recording Secretary*