

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
February 1, 2003

Minutes

First VP Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Chaplain Hawkins read an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The January minutes were read and approved on a voice vote. Dennis Logan's Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of \$1729.04, was approved on a voice vote.

Fundraising chair Fay Lyles requested volunteers; Information chair Poteat praised the recent crime seminar at Eastern High School and delivered the tragic news of the space shuttle Columbia's demise. Membership chair Gloria Logan reported 390 households including 4 new members.

Education chair Carrie Thornhill announced plans for visits to Anne Beers Elementary in March and SEED Public Charter School in April. Public Safety chair Ed Wilhelm reported on the ABC hearing concerning Clancy's liquor license and moved that the membership approve the Board's recommendation of going on record against the renewal. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote. Mr. Wilhelm also requested additional membership representation at the March 12 hearing. He then moved that the membership approve sending to DC DOT the traffic-calming recommendations developed by Kathy Chamberlain's task force. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

Recreation chair Mark Johnson said the committee had sent its letter to the Zoning Commission in January concerning keeping the new Hillcrest rec center on track. Carrie Thornhill said the Washington East Foundation had also sent a letter. Don Murray said he would keep pressure on the Council's recreation-committee chair, Kevin Chavous, and asked for additional volunteers for the legislative committee.

Environment Chair Phil Hammond said the committee will be active on both "cleanup" issues and air and water quality as well. He said the committee is formulating its agenda, and that cleaning alleys and getting the city to enforce its own regulations are concerns. He also suggested that block captains be enlisted in organizing cleanup efforts. Mary Hammond suggested getting the District's new arborist to meet with HCCA.

ANC7b chair Kathy Chamberlain said ANC meetings will now be the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, still at Ryland-Epworth, and that the ANC has passed a resolution supporting HCCA on the rec center issue. She also announced a new website, ANC7B.org, containing online crime reports and a "fix-it" page concerning problems called into the city's call center.

Neighborhood Watch Chair Dennis Logan commended the mayor's crime prevention seminar which highlighted that the current juvenile court system is not effective. He

noted that PSA boundaries are not consistent. Cmndr. Primus said they are based on crime stats, not geography, but that the Chief is considering reducing their number from 83 to 74, or aligning them with neighborhood clusters.

Lieut. Sims said that the PSA had established a call system to communicate neighborhood incidents to residents. He said that 58 of 66 crimes in the past month were property crimes, and that police were looking for 3 individuals driving a green Caravan. He said the 911 response time is still not what is wished, and that people should voice their concerns about communications to the supervisors in that department. He also said that door-to-door visits and cruiser lights were part of the Chief's crime plan; several residents recommended that the Chief consult more with his officers – or as Dennis Logan suggested, our 169 zone leaders and block captains – before taking such steps.

Kathy Chamberlain introduced Herbert R. Tillery, Deputy Mayor for Operations, who said that his office is focused on DC government workforce development and retention; solidifying organizational processes; and improving service delivery. He discussed a number of initiatives including:

- Cross-enforcement, through which personnel can issue citations for "obvious, easily detectable violations" that may lie outside their usual agency boundaries;
- Working with stakeholders to standardize the process for acquisition of surplus school buildings;
- Allocating \$300K in new street light upgrades that will help curb crime in the neighborhood;
- Moving to complete the input process by this summer on new "welcome" signs for Hillcrest; and
- Centralizing towing enforcement so citizens can find out quickly where their car is, and get it back expeditiously.

Several members commended Mr. Tillery for his presentation; Carrie Thornhill suggested that HCCA consider who it might support for the City Administrator position soon to be vacated.

Miles Steele III asked for volunteers for the musical show to be produced in collaboration with the Palisades association, most likely the weekend after July 4th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 pm, with more than 70 members and guests in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Smith, Recording Secretary