



"Working Together for a Better Community"  
www.HillcrestDC.com

## Minutes HCCA General Membership Meeting February 4, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by HCCA President Vincent Spaulding. Chaplain John Hawkins provided an inspirational reading "Troubles" followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the January meeting were read by Karen Lee Williams and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Monica Evans reported that HCCA has a balance of \$3,794.08 in Wachovia Bank.

**President's Report:** Vince Spaulding reported:

- There will be a report to the membership at the April HCCA meeting about the HCCA Board Retreat.
- The "Welcome to Hillcrest Booklet" is available to the membership on the HCCA web-site and hard copies are available by contacting Kathy Chamberlain or Karen Williams.

### Committee Reports

**Recreation:** Boyle Stuckley stated the interim Director of the Hillcrest Recreation Center is Dwayne Marshall. Boyle also reported that he had been asked to serve on the final selection panel for the permanent director. He introduced Mr. Marshall to the general membership. Mr. Marshall addressed the membership and gave a list of the following activities at the recreation center.

- Black History Month Essay Competition, Concluding Ceremony on March 4, 2006
- There will be free HIV/AIDS testing at the recreation center during the month of February.
- The center is offering Interior Decorating Classes starting March 16, 2006
- "Friends of Hillcrest Recreation Center" is hosting a Good-bye Party for Sam Williams in April.

**Fund raising:** No report

**Information:** No report. Willard Poteat introduced Ted Risher who gave the following up-date on Skyland.

#### Acquisition

- NCRC has closed on the first two properties at Skyland, giving NCRC control of approximately 30% of the property.
- NCRC has made tentative agreements with five other property owners. NCRC expects to execute these deals in the coming week. Two are scheduled to be executed on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Closing to occur within 10 days afterward.
- NCRC continues to negotiate with two remaining landowners on prices and purchase agreements.

#### Condemnation

NCRC will continue to manage the condemnation process and obtain title to the six affected properties at the earliest practical time. This process is critical to maintaining the project schedule and is dependent on the court's schedule.

- NCRC continues to monitor legislation currently working its way through Congress with regard to the use of public money for projects involving condemnation. As a failsafe, NCRC is arranging alternative sources of financing.

#### Financing

- NCRC is continuing to investigate different methods to optimize both public and private financing options, with the end goal of producing the highest-quality development in the shortest possible time frame.
- Available options might call for different types of developments, but a national retailer anchor with approximately 170,000 square feet of additional retail space is still the top vision for the site. The community will be involved at the appropriate points during the planning process.

#### Other

- The security contract has been awarded and we should see security in the area soon.

### **Francis A. Gregory Library**

Lessie Owens-Mtewa from the library reported the following programs in the month of February:

- Computer classes;
- Spanish classes;
- free income tax preparation every Tuesday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;
- lecture on Washington, D.C.'s Black Wall Street on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.;
- she announced the schedule for the mobile library van;
- and announced community listening sessions for proposals to improve the D.C. Public Library system.

After Ms. Mtewa addressed the membership Vincent introduced George Norfleet. Mr. Norfleet has been working with Curtis Robinson a member of HCCA and a Tuskegee Pilot; to write Mr. Robinson's autobiography. The project is now completed and the resulting book "A Pilot's Journey" is now available. For more information check out his website at [www.robnorpublishing.com](http://www.robnorpublishing.com).

The Serenity Plays are producing the play "Harriet". Performances will be held at THEARC on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00p.m and 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 for seniors.

**Membership:** Evelyn Primas reported the 2006 membership drive is now underway. The goal is to have all current members renewed by the end of March.

**Education:** Linda Jackson reported that the survey from HCCA Education Committee on how the Association could better serve the schools in the neighborhood had been completed. The next step is to compile the information and then a report will be issued.

**Environmental:** Mary Ross reported the "Blessing of the Trees" will be held on September 9, 2006. This event is designed to be a fundraiser for HCCA youth projects.

**Legislative:** Virgil McDonald requested participation and community support in upcoming meetings on the National Capital Medical Center. He distributed a brochure about the "Friends of the National Capital Medical Center."

**Annual Garden Tour:** Kathy Chamberlain reported for Marvin Bowser the date of this year's HCCA Annual Garden Tour is June 17, 2006.

**Hospitality:** No report

**ANC:** Raymond Keith reported the ANC meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month and invited participation by the membership.

**Public Safety:** Ann Curtsinger introduced Jerome Johnson of Serve D.C. Citizen Core/Neighborhood Core. This organization's primary function is to promote neighborhood preparedness for man made or natural disasters. He described the CERTS Program. This is a six week program where volunteers are trained in one of the following areas:

- to perform in the incident command center;
- on emergency equipment usage;
- crowd control;
- pet preparedness;
- disaster psychology;
- incident command for children from 2 to 12; and
- neighborhood mobilization.

**PSA606:** Lt. Ronald Netter handed out the monthly crime report and addressed the membership about his priorities for 2006. These priorities are:

- Neighborhood Watch;
- organizing Meet and Greets for 606, where officers go house to house to meet the neighborhood; and
- traffic control

PSA606 meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

**Guest Speaker: Carrie Thornhill, Executive Director, Marshall Heights Community Development Organization**

Carrie Thornhill explained the role and function of the MHCDO a community based non-profit organization founded in 197, which has become a major force in the revitalization of Ward 7 especially in the Minnesota Avenue Corridor.

Alice Steward of "Neighbors Through Art" announced this year's theme "Diagonal Voices/Echoes". The next meeting is Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending this meeting or volunteering to work on the committee can reach her a (202) 364-1505.

**Council member Gray's Report:**

Vincent Gray, Council Member for Ward 7 gave the following report:

- The "State of the Ward Address" will be rebroadcast on channel 13;
- The D.C. budget audit has been completed. There is a \$3.70 million surplus. The fund balance will be reduced because of several investments decided upon by the Mayor and City Council.
- The City Council has approved replacement of H.D. Woodson High School.
- The present library design and placement in the city is currently flawed, efforts are underway to revamp this system especially in Ward 7.
- Councilman Gray is taking a look at condo conversions in Ward 7

Items on the Council agenda:

- School modernization bill
- the Washington National's stadium issue; and
- wage to work.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lee Williams  
Recording Secretary