

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
March 6, 2004

Minutes

HCCA President Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10am. Chaplain Hawkins gave a reading, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The February minutes were read and approved on a voice vote. Treasurer Dennis Logan reported a balance of \$386.08 in the Association's account and distributed the budget plan for 2004, pointing out that additional funds of \$1806.50 are needed just to make ends meet. He emphasized the importance of fund-raisers. A motion was passed to approve the budget, with expenditures totaling \$5016.50 for 2004.

Mr. Spaulding emphasized the importance of HCCA members paying dues and reminded attendees that there are still vacant board positions. Spaulding also reminded the group that the ANC 7B Neighborhood Watch Chairmanship is vacant and the importance of the Neighborhood Watch program. Linda Jackson expressed interest in filling the Education Chair position. Spaulding reported plans for the 15th Anniversary celebration on September 18th at the Navy Yard and requested that volunteers interested in helping with planning contact Recreation Chair Mark Johnson.

Fund Raising Chair Faith Lyles reported plans for 2 events: a 1-day bus trip to Charlestown on May 15 (\$20/person), and a chicken/fish fry on June 5 at Holy Comforter Church (\$10 advance ticket, \$12 same day purchase).

Info Chair Willard Poteat announced a public hearing on March 10 on the "Draft Proposed Consolidated Plan for the District of Columbia Fiscal Year 2005 Action Plan." He announced a public hearing on March 23 regarding a Section 108 loan for the redevelopment of the Skyland Shopping Center, and a Chili Cook-off on March 20 sponsored by Friends of the Francis Gregory Library. Spaulding emphasized the importance of the Section 108 Skyland hearing and requested that HCCA board members testify.

Garden Tour Chair Marvin Bowser announced the Hillcrest Garden Tour will be June 19th, and will focus on the area between Alabama and Park Drive, between 31st St and Branch Ave. He requested that residents of that area contact a member of the committee if they'd like to show their garden.

Membership Chair Gloria Logan reported 377 households having Hillcrest membership, although only 128 have paid dues for 2004. She read the names of 9 new members who joined in February, and recognized the new members in the room.

Public Safety Chair Ed Wilhelm expressed appreciation for the photo radar camera at Alabama Ave near 30th St and reported that work is being done to fix the red light camera at the intersection of Branch and Alabama. He applauded the enforcement of DO NOT ENTER restrictions in Hillcrest by MPD.

Environmental Chair Phillip Hammond announced a household hazardous waste collection day on April 3rd, emphasizing that for the first time a collection center will be on our side of town at the Penn-Branch Municipal Center. Trash pickup sticks are still available, and residents are encouraged to de-litter their streets. Several Hillcrest members participated in an EPA-

sponsored focus group that discussed protecting your family from lead during renovation and remodeling.

ANC 7B Chair Kathy Chamberlain announced that at the next ANC 7B meeting (3/18) a representative from the Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development will discuss details of the upcoming hearing on loan financing for the Skyland Shopping Center. Community attendance is important in order to prepare to testify at the hearing. Historic designation for the Skyland Shopping Center is still on the table, with the hearing scheduled for April 29th. A big turnout from Hillcrest is needed. Chamberlain encouraged everyone to participate in the beautification of Twining Park on March 27th and the 4th Saturday of every month thereafter.

Vince Spaulding announced that he and Kathy Chamberlain will testify on behalf of HCCA and ANC 7B before the City Council in support of the nomination of Gregory Jeffries, formerly of NCRC, to the Zoning Board.

Dennis Logan introduced Capt. Burt Henry, now acting PSA leader for 610. Capt. Henry presented the crime report and emphasized the need for residents to attend PSA meetings. He announced that a group of juveniles is driving an old school bus through the neighborhood and stealing cars, and advised that we call the 6D station (727-4520) or the substation (727-3622) or 311 if we see this group.

Phillip Hammond introduced the speakers: Shadow Senator Paul Strauss, Shadow representative Ray Browne, and DC Vote activist Kimberly Bassett.

Strauss emphasized he is an advocate for statehood but said that "statehood is not just around the corner". He is opposed to a bill to be introduced by U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va) proposing that DC have one voting representative in Congress. He discussed other lobbying activities that he performs to further the cause of DC statehood.

Browne said that statehood is not within our grasp any time in the near future, and therefore he will support the Davis Bill because it brings us a step closer to the goal of statehood, and it gives us a vote in Congress. He praised the work of DC Vote in bringing the lack of DC representation to the forefront.

Basset outlined the activities of DC Vote and urged Hillcrest residents to participate. She stated that recently the Organization of American States (OAS) found the US Government in violation of citizens' democratic rights by depriving DC residents of a voice in Congress. She reminded attendees of Tax Day at Freedom Plaza, April 15th.

Announcements: Hillcrest resident James Short is being considered for Assistant fire Chief position. Ms. Leslie Mtewa of the Francis Gregory Library expressed special thanks to Safeway for allowing library staff to sit at Safeway 1st Friday of the month to recruit new library patrons. Doris Thomas, of Serenity Players announced an acting workshop in April-May.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm, with 52 Members and guests in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Chamberlain
Vice-President, HCCA*