



"Working Together for a Better Community"
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Minutes HCCA General Membership Meeting March 3, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by HCCA President Karen Williams. Chaplin John Hawkins read an inspirational passage "The Boomerang", followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In deference to the schedule of the featured speaker, President Williams allowed Interim Fire/EMS Chief Brian Lee to speak as the first item on the agenda. Chief Lee spoke of his background and how it will help him address critical issues faced by the city and Fire/EMS Departments. He shared many of the principles he holds and those he instills in his staff, such as quality, compassion, responsiveness and service. He stressed to the HCCA membership that Fire and EMS services were no substitute for dealing with all of the health care crises that the city faces but that determining the root of some of the calls for ambulances would help in assessing some of the health care needs of DC residents.

The minutes of the February meeting were read by Linda Jackson and approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Evans reported that HCCA currently has a total of \$4,379.97 in Wachovia Bank.

Boyle Stuckey introduced the new Director of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Orvin Wright, who spoke of the new and ongoing programs, including the upcoming basketball camp for students. Mr. Wright also mentioned the attention he would give to maintenance issues at the center and looked forward to working with the Friends of the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Committee Reports

Recreation:

Boyle noted that he would continue the survey on recreation center programs, started with the former director. The results of this survey would be used to determine future activities and programs.

Information:

Willard Poteat announced that there would be a PSA 606 meeting on March 21st at 6PM and the ANC Meeting would be held on March 15th. He then introduced Jonathan Padgett of NCRC who gave an update on Skyland. He thanked those residents who attended the design charrette. They expect commitments from retail outlets in April but there is no guarantee it will be Target. During the question and answer period, he noted that there had been some consideration of BJ and Costco but that in any case, the schedule was still on track for ground breaking in January 2008.

Francis A. Gregory Library

Lessie Owens-Mtewa from the library reported the following updates:

- Library is now open on Sundays from 1-5PM

- Anacostia Interim portable structure opens on March 12th
- Computer classes for seniors are continuing
- Oversight Board of Trustees meets on March 28th at Anacostia Library
- 9th Chili Cookoff would be held on March 17th.
- A “Big Read” book discussion is scheduled for April 11 and 23. The first book is Zora Neale Hurston’s “Their Eyes are Watching God”

Education: Linda Jackson informed the members of the Anne Beers ES Science Fair to be held on March 14th. A request was made for judges for that science fair competition.

Police Report

Lieutenant Netter provided latest statistics on crime. He noted that there was a 70% decrease in violent crime but an increase in burglaries and theft from autos. He indicated that some arrests had been made in the recent string of 6 thefts from vehicles. He also noted that there were tips on the internet on how to prevent burglaries. Q&As centered around abandoned cars and traffic problems at Branch and Alabama.

President’s Report

- A man from Huntsville, AL looked at several websites and decided that our HillcrestDC website was the best he had seen. He called with questions, especially how were we able to have such a wonderful newsletter funded only by the dues of the members and no advertising.
- Karen Williams thanked Kathy Chamberlain for the wonderful job she does on the website and Michelle Phipps-Evans for our high quality newsletter.
- She reported on Board discussion about membership cards, of the electronic version, that could be scanned to prevent the need to sign in at each meeting. Only visitors would have to sign. The technology for this would cost about \$200.
- She also mentioned the Treasurer’s assessment of newsletter costs. There is an estimated yearly cost of \$4,705 to copy and distribute the newsletter yet we take in only \$3,905 in dues each year, representing approximately a \$1000 deficit.
- Invoices will be sent to members who have not paid their 2007 dues by March 31st.
- President announced that the membership committee needed some members and that there was still a vacancy for Recording Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Following adjournment, Councilmember Gray (who was detained by another activity) engaged some of the remaining HCCA members in a spirited discussion on a number of topics.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackson
Acting Recording Secretary