



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working Together for a Better Community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895 phone: (202) 584-2703

HCAA Membership Meeting
March 01, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Karen Williams.

The inspirational message was given by Chaplain Hawkins followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer's Report – Monica Evans read the treasurers report which reflected a balance of \$5111.40 at the end of February. The report was approved by the general membership.

The President announced a restructuring of the agenda to bring on Chancellor Rhee early because she has to leave at 11:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker – Chancellor Michell Rhee

Carrie Thornhill introduced the guest speaker Chancellor Rhee of DC Public Schools. Also on hand were the principals and teachers of Anne Beers, Randall Highlands, Winston Elementary Schools, Kelly Miller Middle and Anacostia High School.

Chancellor Rhee's message to the Hillcrest community is that she wants to be in the community to connect with residents and keep the community informed on school initiatives. DCPS and the community has a "once in a lifetime opportunity to transform schools". Chancellor Rhee encourages citizens to have the courage to persevere through the challenges to get the schools where it should be. Among her goals are to change the culture of school district to ensure that everything is done in service to the schools and children and to create a culture where the priority and interests of adults will not override the rights of the children.

Out of the \$100 million revenue surplus \$81 million has been dedicated to schools. "Public education should be the great equalizer"; we should not have the dynamic where schools in Tenlytown and Anacostia have vastly different outcomes.

Chancellor Rhee encourages principals to email her directly with their issues and concerns.

The Chancellor's presentation was followed by a brief Q&A session with several educators as well as Hillcrest residents participating. Chancellor Rhee who had to leave early to pick up her children, offered to come back as there was not time to answer the many questions.

President's Report

The board retreat is scheduled for March 29th. President Williams asked Hillcrest members if there are additional topics they wish to have the board consider, please send to her.

Marvin Bowser will chair this years' Garden Tour Committee.

A proposal for a HCCA position on the 11 Street Bridge plan will be crafted for review by the board of directors and put forth for a vote by the membership at the April meeting.



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Francis Gregory Library – Cheryle Allen

Ms. Allen announced the 10th annual Chili Contest on March 15th. This is a Hillcrest Palisades partnership joint activity.

The invitation was extended to area principals to bring the pre-school children to the pre-school programs at the library. Attendance has been down at these activities.

AARP will provide free tax service between the hours of 10:30AM and 3:30PM, The library has resumed its Sunday hours of 1-5pm.

Other programs were announced; please check the library website for details.

Ginny Cooper, Chief Librarian, will be next months' HCAA speaker.

ANC7B Report – Robin Marlin

Ms. Marlin announced that Archie Williams spoke on the status of the Anacostia and Gregory Libraries. Support is needed from the community to get feedback on the library renovations.

The fire department gave an update on the inspection and repair and or replacement of hydrants in the Hillcrest area.

On the Skyland project, the commissioner created a survey and needs input from the community in formulating the survey questions.

Casey Trees will give a \$50 rebate on trees to be planted in homeowner's yards.

Meetings will be held in March on the changes to the 30 bus lines.

Ms. Marlin encourages the HCAA members to attend the meetings that are held every 3rd Thursday at Ryland Epworth Church.

Recreation Report – Boyle Stuckey

DPR Summer Camp begins registration on March 3rd, 2008.

Distinguished Gentlemen announced its program "History of Tuskegee Airmen".

Friends of the Recreation Center will plant 12 trees on April 12th and is in need of volunteers to help with the plantings beginning at 09:30AM.

Education Report – Carrie Thornhill

Anne Beers has a new partnership with NASA and the Monarch Effect Foundation who will launch an exciting pilot effort in Ward 7 to save the butterflies and their habitat through gardening and environmental education programs for children, teachers, parents and community. One of our Ward 7 principals is concerned about when schools will be notified about the Gifted and Talented programs of which Chancellor Rhee spoke and the unusual challenges of meeting the needs of special needs children at the local school with limited resources. A number of other education issues were raised and the president encouraged people to get involved with the Education Committee chaired by Linda Jackson who is out of town today but represented by Marva Carroll.



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Public Safety – LT. Netter

Auto thefts, auto break- ins and theft of GPS devices are up. Please be vigilant.

Lt. Netter also announced Operation Full Stride, officers are walking through the neighborhoods knocking on doors and introducing themselves as a way of getting to know the residents and reduce crime.

Also announced were plans to have summer programs that include a spelling bee, movie night and arts& crafts. Please support by volunteering.

The 50/50 drawing winner and Association treasury received \$50.00.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon followed by the councilmember's roundtable with Chairman Vincent Gray and Kwame Brown.

Respectfully submitted

Yvonne Dupree