

**Hillcrest Community Civic Association  
Monthly Meeting  
April 3, 2004**

**Minutes**

President Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Chaplain Hawkins offered a reading celebrating volunteers, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The March minutes were read and approved on a voice vote.

Mr. Spaulding noted that only 165 of 282 current Members have paid dues and said the newsletter alone costs \$200 a month. Referring to the membership drive, he asked how many members had recruited new members; only 4 or 5 hands went up.

Reporting on the morning's Board meeting, Mr. Spaulding asked for volunteers for committee chairs, including a new Corresponding Secretary; commended the community for its strong showing at the Sec. 108 hearing on Skyland; and noted upcoming hearings on Eminent Domain (April 28) and historic designation (April 29). He circulated a petition against the historic designation of Skyland, calling it a "delaying tactic." Another petition, regarding juvenile car theft and joyriding, was also circulated.

**Committee Reports**

Fundraising: Committee member Peggy Fleming announced the May 15 CharlesTown trip, as well as a Fish Fry on June 5 from 12-3.

Information: Mr. Poteat asked for volunteers to help with the newsletter, and announced a number of April community events. He introduced Yavoeka Young of Main Street Anacostia, who discussed the Anacostia Cherry Blossom Festival.

Parliamentarian: Rev. Burke delivered a briefing on Robert's Rules of Order, emphasizing that Members should speak only once to a motion on the floor.

Recreation: Mark Johnson said the Rec Center is due for completion in August. He introduced Ms. Preston from Ft. Davis Rec Center, who discussed current activities.

Education: Carrie Thornhill announced that Linda Jackson will become chair of the Committee. She then raised the DC Council's Education Committee vote to maintain the existing education governance structure until 2006, then revert to an all-elected Board of Education. The action was taken without community input. She will prepare a letter to the Council objecting to any decision on the long-term status of the Board without consulting the community.

Environment: Mr. Spaulding announced the hazardous waste pickup at Penn Branch.

Legislation: No report, but Mr. Spaulding said the Council's education vote is a good illustration of why leadership for this committee is needed.

ANC7B: Kathy Chamberlain said Barbara Savage has filled the vacancy created by Jim Byers' resignation, and will be sworn in on April 15. She said the ANC will testify at the Skyland hearings and has repeatedly supported the HCCA position.

Public Safety/Crime Report: Capt. Henry said crimes, including stolen autos, were down slightly. He presented plans for consolidation of PSAs into new "clusters" that will align more closely with "natural neighborhood boundaries." PSAs 605 and 606 will cover the

HCCA area. He discussed reassignment of officers, stressing that force levels refer to “actual bodies,” not those on sick leave. In response to questions from Members, he said that MPD makes deployments on the basis of daily reviews of crime reports, and that some issues are handled jointly with other District forces such as the Park Police. To a Member who questioned 911 procedures, he said that communications staff must ask specifics so a “lookout” can better identify perpetrators. He then introduced Lieut. Ronald Netter, new PSA 606 commander, who said he would stress better education (on matters such as not leaving articles in cars) and communications. He said the traffic-calming recommendations would be enforced, with appropriate prioritization.

### **Guest Speaker**

Pastor Senger introduced guest speaker, At-Large Councilmember David Catania. He discussed his legislation for controlling prescription drug costs, including a comprehensive approach to purchasing and requiring pharmaceutical companies to disclose marketing costs.

Mr. Catania also discussed investment in transportation – especially light rail between the Sousa Bridge and Bolling AFB – to attract new private investment East of the River. He also discussed four proposals for cracking down on reckless driving, including jail time for a second offense and making it illegal to flee law enforcement.

In response the questions from Members, he said he had co-signed the Skyland condemnation bill and was working with NCRC to “make it happen.” And he agreed that parents should be held accountable for damages done by minors.

### **Community Concerns**

Chair Vincent Gray said that the Ward 7 Dems had named Phil Hammond as winner of its Lorraine Whitlock Award. Linda Jackson asked for volunteers for the Education Committee. Kathy Chamberlain asked for volunteers to work in Twining Park on the first Tuesday of each month, in the morning.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm, with 55 Members and guests in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nelson Smith  
Recording Secretary*