



"Working Together for a Better Community"
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Minutes HCCA General Membership Meeting ***April 7, 2007***

HCCA President Karen Williams called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Immediately following, Chaplain John Hawkins delivered an inspirational reading.

Minutes of the February meeting were read by Donna Lewis Johnson and approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Evans reported that HCCA has a balance of \$4,316.09 at Wachovia Bank. She noted that the expenses include a \$20.00 fee for a returned dues check. The membership accepted the treasurer's report.

President's Report: Reporting on today's board meeting, Karen Williams announced the following:

- HCCA will hold a fund raising meeting on April 17th at Holy Comforter Church to discuss approaches for supporting HCCA's expenses.
- The board approved \$200 to support T-ball at Hillcrest Rec Center.
- The board is still researching electronic membership cards and ways to increase the collection of dues.
- Vincent Spaulding will be HCCA's official liaison with NCRC.

Ms. Williams invited Linda Jackson and Mary Ross to the podium to discuss pending education and environmental projects, respectively.

Linda Jackson presented the board's proposal to purchase sports equipment for HCCA's adopted school, Anne Beers. The general membership approved a motion to donate up to \$400 for sports equipment.

Mary Ross presented the environmental committee's proposal to conduct a Spring Clean-Up project on May 16, 2007, involving all 3 public schools in Hillcrest. Under the proposal, schools may compete to win a \$200 grand prize and a \$100 second-place prize. Students may enter a poster and essay contest. Contest winners would receive a savings bond, valued at \$100 and \$50. The general membership approved a motion to allocate \$450 for the Spring Clean-Up project.

Mary also reported that the Blessing of the Tree project will take place on the first Saturday in September.

Information: Willard Poteat announced that HCCA member Dennis Logan became ill last Sunday during church service but is now at home and recovering nicely.

Mr. Poteat introduced Ted Risher of NCRC, who spoke about the Town Center Development Strategy and Design Master Plan for Skyland Shopping Center. Mr. Risher's remarks focused on the Planned Unit Development, security, opportunities for Local Small Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and community engagement. A question-and-answer period followed.

Lessie Owens-Mtewa of the Francis Gregory Library announced the following library activities: flea market book and bake sale, beginners knitting classes, computer training for seniors, American Red Cross CPR course, and the Big Read book discussion of Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Elise T. Nicholls of the Washington Seniors Wellness Center spoke about the center's full complement of services and activities and encouraged older Hillcrest residents to use this neighborhood resource.

Gertrude J. Saleh with Serenity Players announced auditions for the theater company's spring workshop.

Chief Three-Feathers announced that the granddaughter of Hillcrest resident Delores Pryde will represent D.C. at the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Robin Marlin announced that she is circulating a petition to stem truck traffic in her neighborhood and that she will be testifying at a council oversight hearing on April 25th on traffic issues.

Committee Reports

Recreation: Boyle Stuckey reported that T-ball practice will begin on April 10th and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00, at Hillcrest Rec Center. HCCA will donate up to \$200 for uniforms.

Mr. Stuckey affirmed HCCA's commitment to increase youth participation at the rec center. He introduced Lindsey Jackson, president of the Teen Council.

Linda Jackson put out a call to Scrabble enthusiasts. She is hosting a meeting on April 19th at 6:30 p.m. to form a Scrabble club.

Legislative: Virgil McDonald reported on plans for the upcoming Ward 7 Democrats Councilmember Candidates Forum. Co-sponsored by HCCA, the forum will be held on April 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., at either Kelly Miller Middle School or another location in the ward. All 18 candidates have been invited. Fourteen have responded affirmatively, as of the meeting. Virgil will notify Kathy Chamberlain as soon as the location is determined so that she can post the complete information on the HCCA Web site. HCCA has already agreed to contribute \$100 to support the forum.

Mr. McDonald also reported that Sue Ward of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare will be the guest speaker at the HCCA general membership meeting in May.

Garden Tour: President Williams reported that the annual garden tour is tentatively scheduled to take place on June 16th. The garden tour committee will provide more details once they finalize them.

PSA 606 Report: Lt. Ronald Netter provided copies of the current sixth district crime report. He encouraged the membership to be proactive in the fight against crime and conveyed the incoming police chief's philosophy of proactive policing. He introduced Lt. Douglas and Acting Inspector Kevin Anderson.

Guest Speaker: Deborah A. Gist, the D.C. state education officer, spoke about the mission and framework of the D.C. State Education Office (SOE). The office promotes learning for District residents of all ages by providing access to education information, resources, and services. She spoke in detail about pending education reform legislation and the SEO's role regarding policy, research and analysis. Questions and answers followed.

50/50 Winner Pick: Richard Evans coordinated the 50/50 raffle. Another person picked a winner.

Comments by Council Chair Vincent Gray: Chairman Gray spoke about recent legislative activity regarding education reform, school modernization, HPV immunization, Medicaid reimbursements, the Verizon Center, and Skyland Shopping Center. He entertained questions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Lewis Johnson
Recording Secretary