

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
May 1, 2004

Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. Chaplain Hawkins did a Memorial Day reading and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The April minutes were approved on a voice vote. The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$231.73, was approved on a voice vote. Treasurer Dennis Logan appealed for participation in upcoming fundraisers, and Mr. Spaulding urged delinquent members to pay their dues.

Mr. Spaulding commended the high community turnout at the Skyland Sec. 108 hearing and at the Council hearing on Eminent Domain. He said a revision of the by-laws will be presented at the June meeting. He announced that the Board had approved Linda Jackson as chair of the Education Committee and Carrie Thornhill as Second Vice-president.

Committee Reports

Fundraising: Faye Lyes spoke of the June 5 chicken/fish fry, and said Nancy Harris is organizing the Charles Town trip for May 15.

Information: Willard Poteat announced a cleanup in Sousa Bridge to Southern Ave. area for May 22.

Garden Tour: Marvin Bowser said tickets for the June 19 event are now on sale.

Membership: Gloria Logan said there are 378 households and introduced 3 new Members. She urged Members to sign up their entire blocks.

Education: Carrie Thornhill said Linda Jackson is recruiting new committee members, and spoke of the Ann Beers NASA partnership, saying that HCCA had supported their application for grant funding for math and science. She said the Mayor's new governance proposal, featuring an elected "State" Board of Education, is an improvement but had not been fully vetted.

Environment: Vince Spaulding urged participation in the May 22 cleanup.

ANC7B: Kathy Chamberlain noted excellent Hillcrest participation in recent Skyland hearings but said the property owners made strong presentations – and said we need to record Council votes. Commissioner Barbara Savage noted upcoming Post coverage of Hillcrest's stance.

Neighborhood Watch: Dennis Logan introduced Lieut. Ron Netter, who noted a drop in crimes and said there is a more "focused" law enforcement strategy. Members commented on the need for speeding abatement; a reduction in police down time; more police visibility at the Ft. Davis rec center; and crackdowns on youth riding small motor vehicles with no tags, and on illegal posting.

Guest Speaker, Recreation Department Director Neal Albert, said "Hillcrest is the most energetic civic association in the District." He introduced Mr. Kumar, project manager for the new Hillcrest Rec Center, who said the work is about 50% done, that the old center will be taken down in about 2 months, and that the builders are happy working in

this neighborhood. In response to questions, Mr. Albert promised security cameras at the site and asked HCCA to designate a group to work on program development.

More generally, Mr. Albert said the Parks and Rec agency has moved from being a “laughingstock” to a place of respect. They are professionalizing staff and are building modern facilities, which they will keep in good shape. He introduced Neal Stanley, Chief of Programs, who said they are researching best practices around the country and evaluating existing programs. He asked the community’s support in building “constructive and holistic engagement of young people” in the area, and expected to come back to the community in the next month for consultation.

Members asked for stronger linkages between the Rec Center and the Wellness Center; suggested a “Friends of the Rec Center” group; mentioned several sites in need of cleanups; and asked about summer camp – for which Mr. Stanley said there was online registration at www.dpr.dc.gov.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am, with 54 Members and guests in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Smith
Recording Secretary*