

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
June 7, 2003

Minutes

Pastor Senger called the meeting to order at 10:07. Chaplain Hawkins gave a reading on Freedom, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved on a voice vote.

Dennis Logan's Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of \$1182.03, was approved on voice vote. First VP Vince Spaulding reported that the Board:

- supports the text amendment for zoning criteria and urged attendance at the Zoning Commission meeting on the 9th;
- voted to send a letter to support on Carrie Thornhill's appointment to the Board of Education;
- will endorse the ANC's action concerning the nuisance property at 3608 Alabama Avenue; and
- will invite Neal Albert to the July meeting and sponsor a crime forum at the August meeting.

Marvin Bowser discussed the upcoming garden tour. Membership chair Gloria Logan said there are 394 households registered, and introduced visitors.

Members gave Carrie Thornhill an ovation for her appointment to the DC Board of Education. She asked Members' prayers for the "serious commitment and huge job" she will undertake, but said that the Education Committee will need a new chair. She displayed a flyer for an upcoming show at Anne Beers, and upon a suggestion from Gloria Logan, moved that HCCA take a full page ad in the program. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Public Safety chair Ed Wilhelm said that negotiations continue over the Clancy's license, with a status hearing coming on July 23. He said that a "roll call" hearing is coming up on June 18 related to the Alabama Express liquor license, and moved that HCCA oppose the license renewal, particularly in light of other liquor outlets in the area. The motion was approved on a voice vote. ANC 7B Chair Kathy Chamberlain urged Members to report any adverse activities around the Clancy site in advance of the status hearing, and said the Alabama Express matter would probably result in a voluntary agreement related to littering and maintenance of order. She reported that the National Park Service donated 500 plants for Twining Square, and asked Members to march in the Palisades parade on July 4th.

Pastor Burke, for the Environment Committee said the Casey Tree Foundation would have an information meeting on the 26th. For the Legislative Committee, Kwame Brown

said he is doing additional study of how Council votes affect the East of the River community.

Pastor Senger noted the presence of 6 MPD officers and introduced Commander Dandridge, who spoke of increased crime in PSA 608 impacting PSA 610. He said the biggest issues are theft from autos and thefts inside stores – sometimes from dismissed managers. He said that MPD met with the PG County State’s Attorney and that border patrols will be brought back. He introduced the new substation chief deputy, Inspector Maupin, who answered questions from Members.

Dennis Logan announced that Night Out Against Crime would be held August 5 from 7 to 9 pm, at 5 locations throughout ANC7B. He said Naylor Gardens had agreed to join with Hillcrest again, and has identified 30 block captains for Neighborhood Watch.

Vince Spaulding introduced Leonard Foxwell of the Downtown Business Improvement District, who discussed plans for the Downtown Circulator, which will provide bus service for residents, commuters, and tourists traveling within the downtown core. The buses will be environmentally friendly, and the first of four bus routes (K Street and the 7th-9th-Street loop) is planned for mid-2004.

Mr. Spaulding then introduced Arthur Finch of the Public Service Commission, who discussed the PSC’s regulatory activities, which include oversight of pay phones – an issue in the Skyland complex. He said that removing phones requires making a legal case that they are a nuisance or a source of criminal activity. However, he said, new pay phones can be blocked if there is “saturation” in the area. He provided a number (626-5120) and website (DCPSC.org) through which nuisance or criminal activity can be reported.

Nat Thorp of the Palisades Association reported on a plan for more regional aircraft using Reagan National Airport and urged HCCA to send a delegation to a June 19th meeting on airplane noise concerns.

Members were reminded of the “Neighbors Through Art” musical program, 2 pm July 12 at the MLK Library. Howard Ways reported that the strategic communications committee will present a plan and budget in August to the Board and Members; he urged that Members contact the media to correct stories that don’t reflect the character and concerns of the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 with 48 Members and guests present.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Smith
Recording Secretary*