

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
June 5, 2004

Minutes

HCCA President Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Chaplain Hawkins delivered a reading on ecology and responsibility; the May minutes were approved on a voice vote. Dennis Logan's Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$1,150.62, was approved on a voice vote.

Mr. Spaulding reported on the morning's Board meeting, commending those who took part in the May 22 cleanup, and urging a strong showing at the Council's June 17th hearing on Sec. 108 approval for Skyland. He noted vacancies in committee chairmanships as well as the Recording and Corresponding Secretary positions.

Committee Reports

- Faye Lyles reported the success of the Charles Town bus trip and said "50-50" fundraisers would be started next month.
- Marvin Bowser discussed arrangements for the June 19th Garden Tour.
- Howard Ways said the Strategic Communications Committee is marketing new T-shirts for \$10, and thanked local merchants for their support of HCCA activities.
- Gloria Logan reported membership of 383 households, including 5 new ones in May. She said the membership drive is still on and urged that "Each Member Bring a Neighbor." She add that 161 members are not current with dues and those who have not paid for two years will shortly be deleted from the rolls.
- Linda Jackson, as new Education chair, said she wants to "change educational life chances for children East of the River." She recognized Principal Anthony Fears of Anne Beers Elementary, who discussed the school's \$20K grant from the National Alliance of State Science Coalitions, which will spur efforts to improve support for science programs in the area.
- Environment chair Phil Hammond said pick-up sticks are still available and HCCA is looking for more "trash walkers."
- ANC7B chair Kathy Chamberlain reported on a talk by Gail Hazelwood, Asst. Superintendent for National Capital Parks East, who promised to work on upgrading Twining Park. She also noted that Councilmember Fenty had gotten passed a ban on single-beer sales in Ward 4 and suggested the same for Ward 7.
- For the Crime Report, Lieut. Netter distributed a "focused law enforcement work sheet" and invited the public to report specifics of crimes, which will help MPD allocate resources. In response to questions, he said that attendance at PSA 606 meetings is down due to losing Ft. Davis as part of the zone, and that as a step toward reducing stolen autos, 4 "bait cars" have been ordered and are now getting LoJac systems installed. Carrie Thornhill presented. Lieut Netter with 8 Nextel cell phones that were provided through the initiative of Gary Duke by the

Washington East Foundation, and will be distributed to police in the local PSAs to improve communication with citizens.

Guest Speaker

Bert Molina, Deputy CFO for Budget and Planning, said that DC's financial picture continues to improve, with a 7th consecutive clean audit, the deficit eliminated, and reserves of \$1 billion (although much of that is encumbered by a large mandated cash reserve requirement).

He said the city is expected to balance its budget this year, with tourism returning to pre-9/11 levels and a robust real estate market generating strong tax revenues. FY05 should see tax reductions as well as increased investment in human services. There will be an increase of roughly 9 percent in spending due to a one-time correction to reflect the true cost of service delivery, with especially strong increases in education and healthcare, as well as renewed efforts to improve recovery of Medicaid costs. He said that DC has gotten "good reviews on Wall Street" through improved bond ratings, leading Congress to consider greater local budget autonomy.

Community Concerns

- A motion to purchase a \$50 ad in the program for Anne Beers' production of "Into the Woods" was approved on a voice vote.
- Additional volunteers were sought for the next effort of Neighbors Through Art, a fall dramatic production focusing on Brown v. Board of Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Smith
Recording Secretary*