



"Working Together for a Better Community"
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Minutes HCCA General Membership Meeting June 3, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by HCCA President Vincent Spaulding. Chaplin John Hawkins provided an inspirational reading "Decisions are not easy", followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the May meeting were read by Kathy Chamberlain and approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Evans reported that HCCA has a total of \$2,694.33 in Wachovia Bank.

President's Report

- Membership dues are due for 2006; please help recruit new members.
- The recommendations that came out of the HCCA board retreat will be combined with those from the May HCCA meeting and made available to the membership. One recommendation already implemented is the streamlining of meeting agenda to allow more time for community concerns.
- July's meeting will focus on Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention. August's guest speaker will be DC Greenworks and Eco Village on environmental topics such as Rain Barrel, Rain Garden, and Tree Keepers.

Committee Reports

Recreation: Dwayne Marshall, director of the Hillcrest Rec. Center, announced summer youth programs and camps starting in June and July. See the website dpr.dc.gov for more info.

Fund Raising: Richard Evans announced that HCCA is considering sponsoring an afternoon or evening trip to a Nationals baseball game, and asked for a show of interest.

Information:

Skyland: Donovan Padgett of NCRC gave an update on the redevelopment of the Skyland Shopping Center:

- NCRC maintains over 98% site control at Skyland and has obtained title to 91%;
- NCRC is negotiating acquisition and construction financing
- NCRC is making recommendations on a Master Planner for the site; will notify HCCA of selection after it is voted by the NCRC board;
- NCRC has initiated clean-up operations of the site, and has chosen a company to handle relocation activities. Relocation will begin sometime in 2007.

Gregory Library: Lessie Owens-Mtewa, manager of the library, announced a variety of programs, lectures, and other activities taking place during the summer months. A new Director of DC Libraries, Jennie Cooper, will come on board later this summer.

Interstages: Noel Tieszen, Director of Interstages, announced several performances in June by 6th and 7th grade girls from our community, and encouraged attendance and support of the organization.

Ward 7 Arts Commission: Gertrude Saleh announced a June 26th deadline for funding for arts organization. Also announced a performance "The Other River" at THEARC on June 23-24.

Membership: Evelyn Primas encouraged the payment of membership dues. Only half of newsletter recipients have paid their dues.

Education: Linda Jackson gave a brief tribute to Virginia Morris who recently passed.

Environmental: Mary Ross encouraged the membership to purchase ads for the “Blessing of the Trees” brochure. The August HCCA meeting will feature DC Greenworks who will introduce topics on conservation.

Legislative: Charlotte Brookins-Hudson, General Counsel for the DC City Council, gave an informative synopsis about the role of her office and reviewed the process of how a bill becomes a law in DC.

Annual Garden Tour: Marvin Bowser reported the theme of the 13th Annual Garden Tour is “Curb Appeal.” The tour scheduled for June 17th at 11:00 a.m. will cost \$10.00.

PSA606: Lt. Ronald Netter handed out crime statistics and noted the decrease in crime in PSA 606. He announced that the July 1st HCCA meeting will focus on Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention, and encouraged attendance.

Panel Discussion with Principals of Anne Beers, Winston, and Randle Highlands Schools
Education Chair Linda Jackson introduced the representative from each school: LaGrande Baldwin, Interim Principal of Anne Beers; Katie Jones, Principal of Winston Educational Center; and Myra Hines, school nurse for Randle Highlands and Beers. Each representative discussed the challenges they face and the successes they have experienced. HCCA members asked questions about art programs in the schools, enrollment of students from outside the neighborhood and outside the city, the teacher certification process, and whether Winston should become a middle school since we have no middle school in the Hillcrest area.

Community Concerns:

Willie Lynch, representing the DC Board of Elections and Ethics, announced the need for poll workers for the upcoming elections in September and November, and encouraged members to apply.

Council member Gray’s Report:

Vincent Gray, Ward 7 Councilmember listed budget items that benefit the ward (see minutes from May 6th meeting). . He also announced a Baseball Academy for youth, funding for a Youth Violence Prevention program, and new housing construction in various parts of the ward. He announced a boat trip in July for the Ward 7 leadership Council, a Ward 7 picnic in July, and a Ward 7 Night in the Park (Ft. Dupont) on Aug. 12th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chamberlain, 1st VP