

Minutes HCCA General Membership Meeting June 2, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by HCCA President Karen Williams. Chaplain John Hawkins read an inspirational message, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Donna Lewis-Johnson read the minutes of the May meeting, which were then approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Evans reported that HCCA currently has a total of \$4,140.91 in Wachovia Bank.

President's Report

- Karen Williams asked for a show of hands of those interested in pursuing the idea of membership booklets for HCCA members for a small fee. Practices of other neighborhood associations would be reviewed. HCCA members would be given the option of omitting their names from the booklet. The membership expressed support for the idea.
- The speakers for the upcoming meetings are: July--Crime Prevention Seminar from DC Police; August—Director of DC Parks and Recreation Dept.; September—no speaker, start Blessing of the Trees earlier.

General Information/Announcements

Willard Poteat reported that Dennis Logan is doing well, and introduced a representative of the Internal Affairs Division of the DC Police Department who pointed to forms that citizens should complete when they want to file official complaints about police officers.

ANC 7B: Commissioner Phillip Hammond encouraged citizens to attend ANC 7B townhall meetings. The next meeting is June 21st in which more discussion of the Skyland Shopping Center project will take place. Robin Marlin later announced that Mayor Fenty will speak at the June 21st meeting.

Francis Gregory Library: Miles Steele announced a Jazz Concert to take place at the library on June 23rd. He encourage everyone to attend the speaker series which resumes June 23rd. He also encouraged participation in the many programs offered at the library, including Spanish classes, knitting, and computer classes. Lessie Mtewa later repeated these announcements.

Committee Reports

Education: On behalf of Linda Jackson, Carrie Thornhill encouraged attendance at the Mayor's Town Hall meetings on education. The ward 7 meeting is June 5th at Smothers Elementary School. She also invited people to the Scrabble Club sessions on the 2nd and 4 Wednesdays of the month at the Recreation Center, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Public Safety: Ann Curtsinger announced that the Humane Society is offering a \$2000 reward for information leading to the identification of the person(s) who shot a cat with an arrow last March in the vicinity of the 2400 block of 32nd St.

Recreation: Boyle Stuckey reported that the Department of Parks and Recreation is addressing the issues listed in a letter to them about outstanding work orders (leaky roof, etc.). He announced several June events at the recreation center and requested support.

Environmental: At the request of Mary Ross, Phillip Hammond encouraged participation in the neighborhood cleanup scheduled for Saturday, June 9th starting at 8am. He reminded residents of their responsibility to clean the public space in front and behind their homes, including mowing grass in tree box space, and keeping alleys clean.

PSA606: Lt. Netter distributed crime reports and crime prevention tips. He emphasized the need to take steps to avoid becoming a crime victim.

Guest Speaker: Kim McCall, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Ms. McCall reviewed the responsibilities of HSEMA, distributed material on emergency preparedness, and discussed the importance of preparing for disaster. She displayed the contents of a basic go-kit, and advised residents to have one in both their house and car. She encouraged everyone to tour the HSEMA command center on MLK Ave., SE.

The 50/50 raffle was held. The winner, Ken Slaughter, donated the \$41 to the HCCA.

Skyland Shopping Center: Nkosi Bradley of NCRC announced that the project had been handed over to the development team. NCRC's role from here out will be limited to land disposition and tenant relocation. Gary Rappaport of The Rappaport Group, Inc. introduced members of the development team: Carrie Thornhill, representing the Washington East Foundation, Keith Credit representing Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Dean Harrison of Harrison & Malone, and the newest member, Chris Smith and Steve Green of Wm.C. Smith, who has been selected to lead the residential component of Skyland. Vince Spaulding indicated that the Hillcrest community recommended that NCRC select this team from among the 5 respondents to a Request for Proposals. All of the partners are involved in all aspects of the project.

Rappaport reviewed the rationale for the current design of retail and residential. It is necessary to have mixed use design in order to attract retail. The project has been underway for the past 10 years, but the development team was handed the lead role in the past 60 days. The mixed-use design is now the industry standard, and that is why the Skyland model evolved from stand alone shopping center to town center. Chris Smith illustrated this point with an example of another development at Camp Sims in which the retail anchor (Giant) insisted on higher-end residential and increased density before agreeing to locate there. Responding to a citizen concern about the prospects for Skyland apartments being occupied by too many section 8 voucher recipients, Smith stated that W.C. Smith Inc. owns or manages 12,000 rental units, 4,000 of which are in east Washington. Only 5% of these are section 8 voucher units. W.C. Smith manages 2 properties owned by another party, which are predominantly section 8. Smith does not own any section 8 properties. Further, Skyland will be a mix of rental and ownership units. Rappaport said that Target is still a strong contender for the anchor store, but the project could go forward without the anchor, but with smaller stores and sit down restaurants.

The meeting officially adjourned at 12:15, and was followed by the Councilmembers (Gray, Alexander, and Brown) roundtable.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chamberlain