

**Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
July 3, 2004**

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by President Vincent Spaulding. The minutes of the June 5th meeting were read and approved as read. Vince noted to the body that the position of Recording Secretary was still open but that Linda Jackson would be taking minutes for this meeting.

Dennis Logan presented the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as read.

The President indicated that this was a unique meeting in that there was no speaker today. The focus was on internal concerns of members to provide input to the Board for the retreat on July 17th. He indicated that we would take the information discussed today and refine it in order to plan for future activities to move the organization forward.

He mentioned that our sister organization – Palisades Community Association – was having their annual fourth of July parade in which Hillcrest members march and encouraged any one wanting to participate to meet at the home of Kathy Chamberlain to carpool to parade.

Mr. Spaulding also reported on vacant positions – recording secretary, treasurer and membership chair, because Nelson Smith moved from the neighborhood and Mr. and Mrs. Logan were retiring. He noted that we had over 300 households represented in the Association but only about 20 people are actively involved in running the association. He thanked Dorothy Asher(?) for her dedication in picking up the refreshments from Safeway every month and setting them up for our meeting and Steve (?), manager of Safeway for that company's ongoing contributions. Ms. Asher (?) also extended thanks to the Deli Staff.

Mr. Spaulding noted that he was going to ask Harold Brazil to speak at our August meeting on his accomplishments in moving the Skyland project forward. He also noted that Pastor Burke would moderate a discussion with both Brazil and Kwame Brown so members could get information from the candidates on the reasons why we should consider each of them for the Council at Large seat.

Mark Johnson reported that Neil Stanley was the new recreation director for DC and that he was meeting with him about improvements. He noted that the old building is down and the new recreation center is going up, along with landscaping. He announced a July 8th meeting at Ft. Davis Recreation Center at 6:30 at which time there would be a discussion and community could give input on the programming that would be a part of the new Recreation/Community Activity Center.

Faith Lyles reported on the success of the Chicken and Fish Fry at which \$726 was raised on behalf of HCCA. She also noted that this month was the beginning of the 50/50 fundraising. It was decided that it would be better to wait until the end of the meeting to pick the winner to keep members present throughout the duration.

Willard Poteat introduced the Safeway Manager, Steve (?) and he noted that if there was any product that Hillcrest residents have found in another Safeway and would like to see in Good Hope that we should let him know. He noted that sales of upscale wines were up in the store and beer sales were not that good so the fears of some community residents have seemingly not materialized. He also noted that Starbucks would open the second week in August and there would be a sit-down area and bar stools.

PSA Lt. Netter announced a July 11 crime seminar and picnic at the 6th District Satellite substation at Good Hope. It was moved, seconded and approved that HCCA provide \$100 to the PSA to support this event.

Linda Jackson reported on the Neighbors Through Art program, including brief information on the tentative program and she announced that Don Murray would be assembling a panel. She also noted that the HCCA had provided a donation in the past to support the reception after the program and the planning committee would again ask for a donation at a future HCCA meeting to defray such costs.

Yvette Alexander of the Penn Branch Association and a resident of Ward 7 introduced herself and a number of other candidates who were running for DC Delegate. She noted they needed to get signatures on their positions in order to qualify for election.

Marvin Bowser reported on the House and Garden Tour on June 19th and mentioned that 11 gardens and 2 houses were on the tour and a total of 138 people participated. There was a reception with very nice door prizes and this event raised \$531 for the association even though it was technically not a fundraising event.

Sherry Ways noted there still were T-Shirts available and again thanked Kerry Newman, Tropicana Restaurant proprietor for his donation that completely funded production of the T-Shirts. She also reported that articles about the Garden Tour had appeared in the Post, Washington Times and the East of the River paper. John Harrington was also thanked for putting the articles in PDF format to provide to members at a later date. Kathy Chamberlain requested that anyone having pictures of the Garden Tour send their "best ones" to her for posting on the website. Sherry also indicated that DC Heritage wanted to do a cultural tour of Hillcrest and she will be meeting with them soon. There will also be 2 new articles – New Faces of Hillcrest – and questionnaires will be distributed and pictures obtained for an article in the East of the River and Hillcrest newsletters. If you know someone doing something in the neighborhood, please let her know. She also noted that 3 donations had already been received to fund the brochure on Hillcrest that is currently in production.

Gloria Logan noted that there was a total of 388 households in HCCA membership list and that 5 new members had joined in June. She indicated that the member drive was still on and the goal was to reach 500 households. She urged all members to take an application the President suggested that all members recruit at least one new member.

Linda Jackson reported that she attended a meeting at Anne Beers school on behalf of HCCA, as Education Committee Chair. She noted that Anne Beers is looking for community support for their program and needs funding for more computer equipment and staff resources. She also reported on the desire of the organization Experience Corps to have a representative at our August meeting to discuss their program of tutoring and mentoring for children in grades 1-3. Ms. Lois Berkowitz will be present in August to provide more details for any seniors and retirees who are interested in getting involved in this program.

Vince Spaulding and Pastor Burke provided an update on what is going on with signage in our community. Abusers are now using hurricane nails making it harder to take the signs down.

Vince also noted that there was a vacancy for the Chair of the Legislation Committee and that some on the council were spending too much time on inappropriate legislation, like getting your security system licensed. He thought we needed to have someone stay on top of who is doing the right thing via some type of scorecard and hoped someone would step forward to assume this position.

Kathy Chamberlain presented a report on ANC 7B activities. She noted the zero tolerance signage policy and a resolution preventing the sale of single beers, similar to what Council member Fenty did in Ward 4. She noted that ANC 7B would meet on July 15th at 7PM (which was a follow up meeting to the one on July 1st) to vote on a resolution regarding the reopening of the gas station at 4107 Alabama Ave, SE.

Ann Curtsinger, the new Chair of the Neighborhood Watch Program announced the National Night Out to be held on August 3rd from 7-9 PM at 30th and Naylor Road, which is a combined Naylor Gardens-Hillcrest event. She noted that there would be a short parade starting at 6:30-7PM and that volunteers were needed to help with food and popcorn machines, etc.

Lt. Netter gave the PSA 606 report and indicated that the police are in the neighborhoods more. He said the two top issues in our community now are stolen autos and thefts from autos. He indicated there were still problems with kiddie car thieves and that he will start sending "safety alerts" out on the email again.

Questions were raised about police communications (downtown) and if police could have bait cars for potential thieves. The lieutenant reported that Nextel phones had been provided to the police and that he would provide numbers for all PSAs at our next meeting. He also noted that bait cars are already being used.

Community Concerns segment –

A number of people voiced concern about a group home that was going into the 2600 block of Branch Ave on the corner of Denver St. It was unclear whether or not the building would be owned or rented. It was also noted that there was a house on that same block that was not kept up. Kathy Chamberlain noted that community concerns should be brought to the ANC 7B meeting so commissioners can help with neighbors concerns.

Notes on open discussion. The following summary provides the main issues that were raised. The Board will report back on these issues in September based on Retreat discussions, decisions and activities thereafter.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (not in any priority order):

- Need for more data and information on Hillcrest and communication of same to members and do public relations with groups/individuals external to Hillcrest – e.g. boundaries, demographics of community, etc.
- Need more crime prevention activities
 - Maintain stronger PSA-NWP connection
 - Do Orange Hat Patrol
 - Have activity that will make people mindful of what they leave in their cars, e.g. have a brochure about safety and crime prevention and have a number of people go around the neighborhood and leave brochures on the cars with visible items that attract thieves
- Increase neighborhood beautification activities and keep environment clean
- Increase focus on education including enhanced environment around neighborhood schools and library
- Do more fundraising (see below)
- Increased community pressure for more economic development
- Have more artistic events/cultural events/collaboration/arts education projects
- Educate people to improve their own property and surrounding areas, including abatement of community eyesores
- Need enhanced public safety efforts
- Focus on Postal Service Issues

WAYS TO STRENGTHEN ASSOCIATION/MEMBERSHIP:

Recruit more members and more volunteers

Have low frequency broadcast of meetings

Find ways to get newest members of community together with other members in a social way

Develop a welcome package for new member

Increase Yearly Dues – ask Realtors to join association and to give new buyers a welcome package/information on association.

Have a door to door campaign to reach people who don't/can't attend meetings and have more direct contact (perhaps plan such an effort to follow one of our monthly meetings since attendance is great). Can leave new brochure if no one is home.

HOW TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY:

Do more public relations and use the media more effectively to get what we want

Have many successes – New Recreation Center, Skyland, etc...need to publicize the positives

Do a self-study of member list to determine who comes to meetings according to what topic/speaker is on agenda and develop meeting agendas accordingly.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

Make Garden Tour a fundraising activity

Look at diversifying membership and attracting corporate, business, philanthropic, and lifetime memberships

Do an artistic event where neighborhood/community artists present and sell their work with proceeds going to association

Have more partnership events with other neighborhoods both East of the River and throughout the City.