

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
August 7, 2004

Minutes

HCCA President Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. Chaplain Hawkins delivered a reading of Psalm 121 followed by the pledge of allegiance. Dennis Logan's Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$3,063, was approved on a voice vote.

Spaulding introduced the new recording secretary Karen Williams, and praised both Williams and Monica Homan Evans of the Legislative Committee for stepping forward to fill these positions. Spaulding then reported on the morning's Board meeting, stating that the outcome of the recent board retreat would be reported at the September meeting, and asking Mark Johnson to report on the upcoming HCCA 15th anniversary celebration. Ads for the program booklet will be \$100, \$50, and \$25 for a full-page, half-page, and quarter-page, respectively. To be listed as a patron will cost \$10-25. The point of contact is Faith Lyles. Tickets for the celebration can be purchased from any board member.

The board agreed on the expenditure of \$300 to support Neighbors Through Art, a joint program with the Palisades Civic Association. The board also agreed on the expenditure of \$300 for a singer at the anniversary celebration.

Committee Reports

- Mark Johnson, Recreation Chair, asked everyone to complete a survey form regarding programs for the new Hillcrest Rec. Center. There will be additional meetings with DC Parks and Recreation to discuss what the community would like in programs.
- Willard Poteat reported that the Safeway Starbucks will open in about a week. He introduced Bruce Jones of the Capitol Citizen newspaper who in turn explained the importance of the newspaper to neighborhoods in east Washington, and the importance of obtaining ads for the newspaper. Subscriptions are \$8/year. Spaulding suggested that he place a notice in the Hillcrest newsletter.
- Gloria Logan reported membership of 393 households, including 5 new ones in the past month. As a result of the notice placed in the recent newsletter, \$240 was collected in past dues.
- Linda Jackson, Education chair, introduced Lois Berkowitz who heads Experience Corps, a program in which adults 55 and older tutor, mentor, and assist in classrooms of DC elementary school students. Call 797-1150 or email dcinfo@experiencecorps.org for more info.
- Phillip Hammond, Environmental Chair, reported that pickup sticks are still available at \$25, and that there will be a Fall Cleanup sometime in September. He asked residents to clean in front of their houses and remove illegal posters.
- Monica Holman Evans, new Legislative Committee member, introduced herself and invited others to join the committee.
- ANC7B Chair Kathy Chamberlain announced that the 6th District police would be guest speakers at the August 19th ANC 7B meeting. She made a motion that the community support a permanent photo radar camera on Branch Ave, either at the Branch/Erie intersection or between Alabama and Pennsylvania Ave. The motion passed without objection. The matter will be brought before ANC 7B at the August meeting.
- New 6th District Cmdr. Robin Hoey, and new 6th District Substation Inspector Alton Bigelow introduced themselves and invited the membership to attend the next ANC 7B meeting where they will

have more time to discuss community issues. Lt. Ronald Netter, PSA 606, distributed the crime report for July, which showed an increase of 14 crimes from June, mostly in the area of burglaries and robberies. Community members voiced concerns about traffic enforcement, illegal vending, and failure of police to stop those placing illegal advertisement posters in the neighborhood.

Community members complained that it was too difficult to hear what was being said and that a public address system was needed. Phillip Hammond agreed to look into the cost of such a system.

Guest Speaker

Harold Brazil, Councilmember at Large, discussed the status of the Skyland redevelopment project and the legislation that has been passed to date, granting eminent domain and providing financing for the purchase and preparation of the site. He discussed the positive impact of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative on east Washington, particularly in areas near the river. He reviewed legislation that he and his colleagues have introduced to address juvenile crime, particularly car thefts. He voiced support of vocational education in DC public schools, and said he would support a traffic light and photo radar cameras on Branch Ave.

At-Large Candidate Statements

Councilmember Brazil and at-large candidate Kwame Brown were each given 8 min. to tell citizens why they should vote for them in the September 14th primary. Brazil emphasized his accomplishments (as described above), and the importance of having an experienced councilmember who has the seniority that has earned him the chairmanship of the Economic Development Committee and the importance of this committee to the community.

Kwame Brown emphasized that we need a “full time, on the job” councilmember who is from east DC, and Hillcrest in particular. Having knocked on doors of hundreds of residents, he knows the issues. He strongly supports Skyland redevelopment and in fact testified at recent council hearings in support of Skyland legislation.

Sam Brooks, another at-large candidate was given 2 minutes to talk to the group. He referred to his website www.electsam.com

Community Concerns

- Reminders about candidates’ forums in August
- Speeding and traffic concerns

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Chamberlain
Vice President*