

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
September 6, 2003

Minutes

Pastor Senger called the meeting to order at 10:03. Chaplain Hawkins read a poem, "A Vision of Hope," and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The August minutes were read and approved on a voice vote. Dennis Logan's Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$902.32, was approved on a voice vote.

Safeway Manager Steve Gray announced a cookout to raise funds for the Whitman-Walker clinic and HCCA. He accepted Members' compliments and concerns, and remarked that Good Hope Marketplace is "the best-managed of any shopping center I've worked with."

Faye Lyles discussed the upcoming Crab Feast and announced an October 11 Flea Market. Vendor space will cost \$25, which will go to HCCA, and there will be a table for direct contributions as well. Gloria Logan said membership now stands at 393, with 3 new households, and that 189 delinquent notices went out in September.

Education chair Carrie Thornhill said there remains a "gulf" between the Board of Education and the Mayor and Council on the FY04 budget, but lauded the orderly opening of schools this year. She said the Randle-Highlands redevelopment seems to be on hold due to budget constraints. She said that the HCCA board had decided to table the voucher issue due to the likelihood of little material effect on the outcome in Congress. And she noted that the Board had voted to invite Superintendent Vance for the October meeting.

Public Safety chair Ed Wilhelm urged Members to scrutinize credit card bills, since the number can be used for fraud even if the card is not lost. On the environmental issue, Mary Hammond reported requests for tree replacement at Minnesota and 25th, and at Good Hope Marketplace. Vince Spaulding discussed the status of requests for historic preservation designation at Skyland, and said a bus would take HCCA members to the September 25th hearing.

Jim Byers reported that ANC7B had voted for expansion of the Wellness Center, for bike lanes on Massachusetts Avenue in Fort Dupont Park, and for improved sidewalks on 30th St. between Minnesota and PA Avenue.

Neighborhood Watch chair Dennis Logan commended Cmdr. Dandridge for making 2500 auto-theft flyers available and urged Members to do their part to prevent thefts. In the crime report, Lieut. Sims said 68 of 85 crimes last month were property crimes. He said that car thieves watch out for long-term parked cars, which accounts for the high incidence of thefts of cars with Maryland plates. In response to questions, he said MPD

will look into reports of illegal street vending, and that the border patrol will be reinstated shortly.

Carrie Thornhill introduced the guest speakers:

- Letitia Lacomba, Acting Administrator of the Youth Services Administration, noted that YSA serves pre-adjudicated, detained, and committed youth up to age 21. She said the Oak Hill detention center has a poor physical plant, a correctional rather than rehabilitative approach, and no substance abuse program – although most residents have substance-abuse problems, leading to a high recidivism rate. She said the Mental Health Department services there are “non-functional,” and that there is insufficient involvement of families. She noted that children’s services are fragmented, and that the system is oriented to legal compliance rather than best practices. She hoped to establish a stronger transition toward independent living, as well as linkages with faith-based organizations.
- Jasper E. Ormond, Associate Director for the Court Services and Offenders Supervision Agency, said that there are approximately 14,000 adults currently under supervision in the community, and that “they are not from another planet – they’re your neighbors.” He said that last year, 2100 people from DC came home to the community, with an average age of 40, having been in prison a significant amount of time. About 75 percent had some form of drug abuse, and a significant number of inmates had been abused or neglected. To stop the cycle, he said we must intervene earlier, and give more support to youth services, education, and recreation options.

In response to questions, the speakers said that the community must be made aware that prevention programs are not there, and that DC has been hypocritical in the lack of investment it has made in drug treatment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm, with 55 Members and guests present.

*Respectfully submitted:
Nelson Smith,
Recording Secretary*