



"Working Together for a Better Community"
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Minutes HCCA General Membership Meeting September 3, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by HCCA President Vincent Spaulding. Chaplain John Hawkins provided an inspirational prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the July meeting were read by Kathy Chamberlain and approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Evans reported that HCCA has a balance of \$5,169.70 in Wachovia Bank.

President's Report: Vince Spaulding reported that:

- award recommendations from HCCA to the Federation of Civic Associations will be: HCCA (civic organization), Vince Spaulding (president), Paula Spaulding (newsletter) and Mary Ross (outstanding member). The HCCA board approved a ½ page ad for the FCA program booklet at a cost of \$100.
- Kimberley Flowers, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, will be invited to speak at the October meeting. At-large councilmember Kwame Brown will be invited for the December meeting. The November speaker is yet to be determined.
- The Christmas luncheon will be held Dec. 3 at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, following the HCCA meeting which also will be held at the church.
- We've met our goal of 500 households in HCCA membership.
- HCCA will donate \$250 to the American Red Cross for hurricane victims (motion unanimously approved)

By-Laws: The next set of bylaws changes were approved unanimously by the membership. The bylaws will be posted on the Hillcrest website when they are received in electronic format by webmaster Kathy Chamberlain.

Committee Reports

Recreation: Vince Spaulding reported that the DPR employees who set up the room for the HCCA monthly meeting did an excellent job. They will be paid up to \$25 each month for setting up the room.

Fund raising: Richard Evans reported that the "Day with the Washington Nationals" was a great success. and that the bus service was donated by Carl Stewart. A bus trip to Charles Town later in September and a crab feast October 8th are being planned.

Membership: Evelyn Primas recognized the new members and reported that there are 324 paid households. Spaulding recognized the efforts of those who pledged to bring in new members and said that the goal of 500 members has been met.

Education: Linda Jackson reported that the Education Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Hillcrest Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. A ward 7 educational Summit is scheduled for October 22, 9am-3pm to develop strategies for increasing participation of our youth in math, science, and engineering.

Environmental: Mary Ross announced that the Fall anti-littering campaign with the local schools will take place October 28. A Fall Park Appreciation Day is scheduled for Saturday October 29th, another walk through Fort Circle, similar to the one in July. Mary reported that a "Blessing of the Trees" festival is being planned for sometime in May 2006.

Legislative: Brandi Williamson reported that the committee will be reporting on legislative accomplishments of current councilmembers who are running for mayor. She distributed a report on Linda Cropp.

Hospitality Committee: Donna Coley-Trice introduced herself as the new Committee Chair.

Public Safety: Anne Curtsinger and Willard Poteat attended training by DCEMA on disaster preparedness. They will be presenting the training to the Hillcrest neighborhood in the next couple months. The Emergency Corps manager would like an Emergency Corps program to be established in Hillcrest and would like it to be the model program for the city. Anne stated that Insp. Bigelow will email the crime statistics for PSA 606, so they can be posted on the Hillcrest website.

PSA606: Sgt. Harvey, PSA 606, distributed a summary report showing the number of crimes in most categories are down, but the detailed report accompanying the summary contradicted that conclusion. There was much discussion about speeding, especially by dump trucks, on Branch Ave and the lack of enforcement. Residents complained that the photo radar car is seldom present and Officer Cunningham has been ordered to curtail his use of radar to ticket speeders. There was also much discussion about the lack of enforcement of the DO NOT ENTER signs during rush hour. Sgt Harvey encouraged residents to attend the PSA 606 meeting.

Guest Speaker: William Howland, Director, Department of Public Works. Mr. Howland outlined the major responsibilities of DPW—solid waste, parking enforcement, and fleet management. He described new technology for identifying “boot-eligible” cars and a crackdown on the use of out-of-state tags by DC residents. He reported that abandoned cars are being removed more quickly, and outlined the new policy on parking meters for handicapped persons. He believes that DPW will do a better job of keeping Pennsylvania Ave clean than VMS did. He recognized that DPW needs many more SWEEP inspectors to do the work that needs to be done throughout the city. Vince Spaulding emphasized the need to have at least 10 inspectors per ward. There was a discussion about leaf collection and the merits of raking vs. bagging.

Community Concerns: Some residents complained of not being informed of meetings about the proposed new townhouses near Gainesville St and Southern Ave. Vince Spaulding explained that these meetings were meant to inform the developer of the information they need to present to the community and the questions they need to be prepared to answer. The meetings with the community will be held soon so that all residents can be informed of the developments and can voice their opinions.

Neighborhood Service Coordinator: The new Ward 7 Neighborhood service Coordinator Johnny Gaither was introduced. He can be reached at 645-6196, Johnny.gaither@dc.gov

Council member Gray’s Report:

- He will emphasize the need for improved healthcare in the upcoming term, pushing for the new medical center, and an improved HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment program
- There are 5 new principals in ward 7 public schools
- \$700K will be spent to design the new Francis Gregory Library and he will work to get money into the capital budget for construction

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Chamberlain
1st VP