



HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

"Working Together for a Better Community"

www.hillcrestDC.com

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Hillcrest Community Civic Association

Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 6, 2007 Minutes

Hillcrest Recreation Center

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Noon

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Williams at 10:05 a.m. There were 9 board members in attendance, our newsletter Editor and members arrived over the course of the meeting.

Inspirational Period

Chaplain John Hawkins read a State of Happiness inspirational message. The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Williams asked the membership to thank Mr. Hawkins for his outstanding service with new messages each month. The membership applauded.

Approval of Minutes

In the absence of Secretary Yvonne Dupree, Carrie Thornhill read the minutes of the September 1, 2007 Membership meeting. Mr. Anderson moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neal and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Monica Evans, Richard Evans reported that last month's balance was \$6,008.35; there was \$513 collected in income for the month; expenses totaled \$1,965.52 for the month; leaving a balance of \$4,555.83 in the bank as of October 6, 2007. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Gertrude Saleh seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

The President's Report

President Williams noted that the Board congratulated Mary Ross and her committee for a successful Blessing of the Trees; the resignation of Membership Chair Viola Bowen and the need for a successor; Holiday Decoration contest in December; October 24th CM Kwame Brown hearing on Poplar Point; October 24th WMATA hearing on Bus Line 30 cancellation or reduction at St Francis

Xavier School at 6:30 p.m; ANC 7B meeting on October 18th ; PSA Meeting on October 17th; Palisades/Hillcrest dinner on November 13th at the German Embassy. She also noted planned speakers as follows:

November – Mayor Adrian Fenty instead of Dan Tangerlini

December – Holiday Party

January – Thomas Hampton, Insurance, Banking and Securities

February – Michelle Rhee, School Chancellor

March – Focus on Home Improvement Contractors

Legislative Committee Chair Virgil McDonald noted that the board is soliciting questions to send to Mayor Fenty in preparation for his responses during his visit at our November meeting.

Information Committee Chair Willard Poteat presented Ms. Mtewa to report on the **Francis Gregory Library**. She announced: the Oct 20th Fall Festival at 12-4 p.m. with tables for \$15; Young Adult Chess Program on Oct 13th at 11:00 a.m.; Computer Training for Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.; Financial Planning Class on Nov 10th sponsored by M&T Bank; Visit from the DC Poet Laureate during Library Week. She also noted minor renovations may cause a brief closing of the library.

Mr. Poteat presented Ms. Thomas who announced that Paula Spaulding is the new president of the 24 year old professional community theatre, **Serenity Players**. “Living Fat” is the new play being presented at The ARC on October 26, 27, 28th at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. respectively. The low price is \$15 regular and \$10 for seniors.

President Williams presented **ANC 7B** Vice Chair Robin Martin. Robin reported that last month’s speakers talked on the subject of Circle Parks and rain gardens at last month’s ANC meeting. She announced Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development Neil Albert and the Coalition for East Washington as the October 18th speakers. She invited everyone to attend.

Environmental Committee – Mary Ross invited all of her committee members to come to the front of the room with her so the membership would know all who was responsible for the Blessing of the Trees event. They included: Pastor Senger, Mary and Phillip Hammond, Robin Martin, Kenneth Burke, Rita Lewis,

John Hawkins. The membership thanked them by applauding. Mary noted they want to hear from the community about what it will take to make this event what families and the community want; \$1400 has been cleared to date; contributions are still being encouraged and a few souvenir booklets are still available.

Lt Netter and Willard Poteat collaborated on introducing the **new Assistant Chief Diane Grooms** with accolades and treasure stories. Astn Chief Grooms has served in the 4th, 5th, 3rd & 1st Districts. She is now in charge of the Patrol Services Bureau which has responsibility for schools, outreach, and patrol supports. She indicated she will do her best for you and your community; DC does well in community policing as compared to other jurisdictions; she will build on what works and change what doesn't. She is on a crash course to learn the 6 & 7 Districts since she has not worked in them; 6 DC is challenging; manpower in 6D was down 65%; looking carefully at staffing, what officers are doing; new ways to patrol including foot beat, bikes, etc; she and her people will be accessible, accountable, responsive, proactive and give a deeper level of outreach. She noted that we have a great team in Commander Contee, Inspector Anderson and Lt Netter.

PSA 606 Report

Lt. Netter drew everyone's attention to the crime report which was distributed. He noted the Neighborhood Watch Conference on Mission and Responsibilities on October 20th at Hillcrest Recreation Center at 12:00 noon.

Guest Speaker Clark Ray, DPR

President Williams presented our Guest Speaker for the day by noting the importance of maintaining the beautiful Hillcrest Recreation Center which the community lobbied long and hard for over many years. She noted effective leadership was required and Clark Ray was the new appointee.

Mr. Ray commended Diane Grooms and Commander Contee both of whom he has worked and was so impressed by MPD that he became a Reserve. He noted that he is qualified to be in this position given his Masters in Sports Administration, his work in Neighborhood Services in Wards 5, 2 and 8 and he is a 20 year resident of DC. At DC Parks & Recreation, he is responsible for 79 centers yet found no plans for maintenance, staffing, nor furnishings. He is aggressively pursuing the development of such plans. There is much work to be done to rebuild the department's capacity and acquire the funding he needs to make it happen. He will be responsive, will ask for help; he is committed more to

quality than quantity. He gave out his cell phone number and encouraged people to call him directly about problem areas. In response to a suggestion that may be Allen Lew might assume responsibility for the recreation centers, he noted the Mayor and City Administrator are big on consolidation of government functions like maintenance of the trees should be handled by one unit of government not several so maybe this principal will apply to facilities maintenance like schools and recreation centers. He also noted he would be back in November when the Mayor comes to speak to HCCA.

Community Concerns

- Cutting off people who do not pay their dues from Newsletter
- Need to assess overall state of Hillcrest
- Slippery sidewalk on Erie Street
- Sewer, gas smells in area- Washington Gas and WASA coming on October 16th at 7:00 p.m.

50/50 Winner

Clark Ray was recruited by Richard Evans to pick the winner who was the Honorable Ward 7 Council member Yvette Alexander. She won half of the \$72 pot. She donated the full amount back to HCCA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. and the City Council Roundtable commenced with Chairman Gray and Ward 7 Council member Alexander.

Respectfully submitted:

Carrie L. Thornhill, FVP For Yvonne C. Dupree