

Columbia Heights Civic Association
Minutes of 9/16/09 Special Meeting (1st draft, 11/09/09)

Member Attendees: Ron Haddox, Peter Jones, Jan Kennemer, Sarah McKinley, Ed Miltenberger, Allen Muchnick, Reggie Nixon, Linh Ong, Joan Rineberg

Guests: Valerie Mosley and Kurt Louis of PRCR, Neil Thompson of CPDH, Susan Thompson (Neil's wife)

1) Call to Order: The meeting was held at the Walter Reed Community Center (WRCC) and began shortly after 7:00 PM.

2) Walter Reed Community Center Fence Project. Valerie Mosley and Kurt Louis began this discussion by reviewing the previous CHCA discussion of this project held in March. The consensus is that the project is advancing in the right direction.

* **Fence along Arlington Village:** Arlington's urban forester says that extending the fence along Arlington Village would compromise two mature trees. In addition, extending the fence along Arlington Village would require removing the existing wooden stockade fence on Arlington Village property to avoid an unacceptable four-foot gap between the new fence (a six-foot tall steel picket fence) and the existing fence. Ed will ask the Arlington Village Board to vote on whether to keep the existing wooden fence or to have the County replace it with the new steel fence.

* **The steel picket fence** will have solid (not hollow) steel pickets. A similar fence was recently installed at Drew Model School.

* **Driveway entrances:** The driveway entrance on 16th St S will be widened by three-feet for buses and will get new entrance plantings. The existing driveway entrance on Walter Reed Dr won't be widened since it is already adequate for buses, but a new walkway to access the basketball court will be installed.

* **The existing stone retaining wall** along Walter Reed Drive from 16th St S will be replaced with a new two-foot tall stone retaining wall.

* **A park entrance sign** will be located at the corner of 16th St S and Walter Reed Dr above a stone base. Staff will also research an appropriate nearby future location for a CHCA neighborhood sign.

* **Fences along Walter Reed Drive,** the existing four-foot chain-link fence near the driveway will be replaced with a four-foot steel fence with decorative fence panels (instead of the usual steel pickets) and these will have a tree motif. The existing wooden split-rail fence will remain as is.

* **Both driveway entrances will have three stone pillars (piers)**, and these will have a tulip poplar design overlay.

* **There was consensus** on integrating the tree motif on the fence panels and on the design of the park entrance sign and decorative piers.

3) Penrose Square and Sienna Park Streetspace Modifications: Mr. Neil Thompson of the DCPHD Planning Division briefed us on the issues surrounding upcoming amendments affecting the planned Columbia Pike streetspace in front of the Penrose Square and the Sienna Park developments. The changes are necessitated by the County's use of erroneous Columbia Pike centerline information when these two projects had been approved by the County Board. County staff developed three options for modifying the streetspace. Option 1 would preserve all 8 planned on-street car-parking spaces along Columbia Pike (four groups of two spaces each), Option 2 would provide 6 on-street car-parking spaces as two groups of three spaces, and Option 3 would eliminate all 8 on-street parking spaces to provide a wider and more uniform sidewalk area.

A motion was then made by Sarah and seconded by Reggie for the CHCA to take a position regarding the three alternative streetspace options developed by County staff, and those CHCA members present voted overwhelmingly (5-0 plus one abstention) to support "Option 3", the alternative with no on-street parking along Columbia Pike.

Ed and/or Sarah will communicate our position to the County Board, and Ed will discuss it with the president of the Penrose Civic Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Muchnick, CHCA Secretary