

**Columbia Heights Civic Association
February 12, 2007 General Meeting
Minutes**

Present:

John Antonelli
Barbara Burch (guest from Arlington Village)
Charlotte Cleary
Peter C. Jones
Sarah McKinley, Secretary
Ed Miltenberger, President
Allen Muchnik
Reggie Nixon
Linh Ong, Board Member
Linda Palmer, Treasurer
Dana Schlichtmann, Vice President

Ed Miltenberger opened the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The group approved the minutes of the January 8, 2007 general meeting. Linda Palmer moved that they be approved without change, seconded by Linh Ong, approved unanimously.

President's Report

Ed Miltenberger had a number of issues to bring to the attention of members:

1. February 27, 2007 is the 20th Anniversary of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO). A celebration will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. that evening at the Cinema & Draft House. Everyone who comes will receive two free tickets to the theater.
2. On that same evening, February 27, there is a meeting about the bridge being planned on Washington Boulevard as it crosses Columbia Pike. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Carver Community Center in the Arlington View neighborhood. Ed Miltenberger has been attending these meetings, but he can't come that evening and he needs a volunteer from CHCA to represent us there.
3. Ed Miltenberger attended a meeting of the Multi-Site Committee established for Arlington Schools. This committee is investigating possible uses for the sites of existing county property now being used for schools and other public facilities. One possibility is selling some sites in order to raise money to upgrade some

school facilities, or considering “mixed use” of these sites. The Vocational Center, Wakefield High School, and other sites are being considered for alternative uses. Staubach Company has been hired by the county to prepare a report on financial viability of alternatives. There will be another meeting on February 26, site to be announced. Ed Miltenberger urged members to attend and, if choosing to address the meeting, also submit a written statement to the Committee. The school board members are: Libby Garvey, Chair; Frank K. Wilson, Vice-Chair; Sally M. Baird, Ed Fendley and David Foster. The school board can be reached by e-mail at schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us; FAX 703-228-7640, or postal mail at Arlington Education Center, 1426 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22207, phone 703-228-6015. Open office hours for citizens to visit with school board members are on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (walk-in, with no appointment needed) on days when school is in session.

4. Construction at the site of the current Giant supermarket will probably not begin until next fall, as the company is working on permits and other paperwork needed. In the meantime, the county has formed a Penrose Square Working Group to plan the community square that will be part of the site plan. Dana Schlichtmann has been appointed to that group as the representative for CHCA; Ed Miltenberger was appointed as an at-large member. Tom Greenfield will chair the group.
5. Captain Michelle R. Nuneville, Commander, Operations Division – District 3 of the Arlington Police Department recently made a presentation on security at Arlington Village. Ed Miltenberger urges members to take advantage of any similar meetings that might be planned. He found the information to be very valuable. She can be reached at 1425 N. Courthouse Rd., Arlington, VA 22201, phone 703-228-4097, e-mail mnuneville@arlingtonva.us.
6. Ed Miltenberger provided members with composite pictures of an attacker who has assaulted two women on Four Mile Run.
7. At last Saturday’s Harambee ceremony at Walter Reed Community Center on Black History Month CHCA member Peter Jones was recognized for his community service.
8. Kenmore Middle School will hold a silent auction on March 9 to support the school. Sarah McKinley will send information to the list serve.

Presentation – Living Green

Barbara Burch, a board member of Arlington Village, gave a brief presentation on Arlington County’s “living green” program, which challenges us to use less energy and resources to help the environment. The program is designed for communities as well as individuals and is sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. Her suggestions included using low-energy light bulbs and information on how to stop junk mail. For those who did not attend the meeting, materials and information are available at www.arlingtonenvironment.org. The challenge encourages Arlington citizens and community groups to register for the challenge. Certificates and rewards are provided to

those who do the best job of meeting the challenge.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Palmer, CHCA Treasurer, reported that we have \$240.58 in the bank, no outstanding bills, and 38 paid members. She noted two new members joining since the last meeting.

Civic Federation Report

John Antonelli provided a report of the last Arlington Civic Federation meeting, which he previously submitted to our members via the list serve. Linda Palmer and he attended the last meeting. The most important aspect of that meeting was an information item related to an affordable housing project sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Clarendon, which has been in the works for two years. The "information item" quickly morphed into a resolution by neighbors who want to delay the project. John Antonelli tried to use procedural strategies to stop the resolution, including an impassioned speech about how delays increase costs and are only used to stop the project. He did not succeed to stopping the amendment, but it was weakened as a result of John's actions. The real issue is perceived to be worry over property values by neighbors adjoining the project, rather than any real issues of density or use. It was noted that other new residential buildings of greater height than the proposed project were recently constructed in the area.

Report on NCAC, Lighting

Sarah McKinley reported that the Neighborhood Conservation Action Committee (NCAC) is now moving toward resuming its fall funding cycle. Since CHCA has identified new street lights as a priority, the NCAC will work with us to prepare a plan to put forward in the fall fundraising cycle.

Ram Sarma, the county's lighting expert, has told Sarah that the new Carlisle street lights, which require new underground wiring and conduiting, cost \$5,500 each installed at current sites. His department is prepared to replace as many lights as we can, provided we receive funding from NCAC.

Angela Courtney from NCAC will meet with members of CHCA on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Walter Reed Community Center to discuss the plan for funding and help us identify the first area to identify for funding. Members of CHCA are welcome to attend. Several members expressed an interest in coming to the meeting, including John Antonelli and Allen Muchnik. Dana Schlichtmann will be out of town that day, but Geoff Gerhardt may want to attend.

In the meantime, Geoff Gerhardt contacted Virginia Power about repairing existing street lights that are not working. The company has asked us to get the number on those existing lights so they can do the work. We agreed that CHCA should pursue repairs, as the funding for new street lights wouldn't even be considered until next fall, which could mean that we wouldn't see new lights for another year.

Programs/Plantings for Walter Reed

At the last meeting the group approved Reggie Nixon drafting a letter about the County's handling of tree plantings, which result in dead trees and wasted tax dollars. Over the past month Peter Jones has put together an extensive report, citing specific instances of mishandling of landscaping. His report includes concrete recommendations for action. Reggie Nixon will draft this information into a proposed letter to the County, which he will bring to the next meeting.

Towing at Westmont Shopping Center

Sarah McKinley and Ron Haddox attended the January 23, 2007 meeting of Arlington Heights Civic Association and presented to them the one-page set of talking points about aggressive towing at the Westmont Shopping Center. AHCA supported action and voted to support drafting a letter about this issue, which would be sent to the owners of Westmont and the shop-keepers at that facility. AHCA suggested that CHCA draft its own letter, rather than try to create a joint letter for both groups.

Sarah McKinley brought two draft letters to the meeting, one to go to the owner and the other to the shop-keepers. The letters were very similar. They suggested that new signs be posted at the Westmont Shopping Center, both in English and in Spanish, detailing towing policies and identifying what shops were covered by the parking lot.

The group supported sending the letter. Several made edits on copies of the letter and handed those back to Sarah; others said they would look at the letter and e-mail Sarah with any suggested changes. Sarah McKinley will redraft the letters, incorporating suggestions from members, and bring to our next meeting.

New Business

Ed Miltenberger brought a large, professionally produced poster of our civic association, which had been prepared by a leader of another civic association. We originally thought that the cost would be in the \$45-\$60 range. But the actual bill from Kinko's was \$168.00. He asks that CHCA agree to pay this cost; if not, the individual who ordered the map for us will have to absorb the cost personally. Ed Miltenberger moved that we pay this bill, seconded by Linh Ong and approved unanimously by the group.

CHCA members also considered whether our civic association should officially join CPRO as a member. We were not a member last year, but have been in the past. The group approved us joining.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m. Dana Schlichtmann moved that we adjourn, seconded by Reggie Nixon, approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Sarah McKinley, Secretary