

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

Present:

Charlotte Cleary
Sara Collins
Ron Haddox, Board Member
Peter C. Jones
Alan Kennedy
Sarah McKinley, Secretary
Ed Miltenberger, President
Allen Muchnick
Reggie Nixon
Linh Ong, Board Member
Linda Palmer, Treasurer
Joan Rineberg, Board Member

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

Treasurer's Report

Linda Palmer, CHCA Treasurer, reported that the group had \$200.58 in the bank, one outstanding bill (not yet submitted), and 38 paid members.

President's Report

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

1. The local farmer's market, which is held in the courtyard in front of Eckerd's drug store, is scheduled to open the first Sunday in May. Ed believes there are opportunities for CHCA to become more visible by having a presence there.
2. A "Home Show," organized by CPRO, will be held at the Walter Reed Community Center on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It anticipates having 45-50 booths and has already sold over half of the spaces. The group anticipates a crowd of about 2,000 over the course of the day. Ed reports that CHCA could share a booth with CPRO at this event.
3. Arlington County once again has announced its spring tree program, which supplies free trees to residents. So far only three requests for trees have been received.
4. Ed Miltenberger provided an update 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. A preliminary decision has been made that the Career Center will remain in the same location, as will the Library and the Fenwick Center across from Patrick Henry Elementary School on Walter Reed Drive. It is also proposed that the Wilson School be retained. The southeast corner of The Wilson School property, next to the fire department on Wilson Drive between Courthouse and Rosslyn, may be developed into a 12-story building to generate revenue. A ball field will be maintained. Another meeting will be held on March 26 at 7:00 p.m. at CPRO headquarters on Columbia Pike. Ed noted that there had been a backlash against the process as well as the building proposals from numerous civic groups.

5. CPRO is revamping its web site, starting with small business outreach. Go to www.columbiapikepartnership.com.
6. The annual Blues Festival will be held on June 17 on Walter Reed Drive next door to the Cinema & Draft House.
7. On May 5 the County will sponsor the "Pike Bike & Hike."

Approval of Minutes

The group approved two sets of minutes, from the February 12, 2007 and the December 11, 2006 general meetings. Linda Palmer submitted comments by e-mail with minor corrections and a suggestion of change of format prior to the meeting, which will be incorporated into the final version before being posted on the CHCA web site. The minutes were approved with those changes. Charlotte Cleary moved that the minutes be accepted, Joan Rineberg seconded and the group unanimously approved.

Civic Federation Report

Charlotte Cleary provided a report of the last Arlington Civic Federation meeting.

- The Civic Federation's Parks and Recreation Committee adopted unanimously a resolution supporting outdoor recreational areas at the Wilson School site and urging the preservation of Rosslyn Highlands Park and other school properties, and avoiding construction or other activities that would reduce access and utilization of these outdoor recreation areas.
- The annual Civic Federation Banquet will be held Friday, March 30, at the Arlington Hyatt in Rosslyn. Maureen Bunyan is the speaker. Tickets cost \$52 and can be purchased by contacting Francis Finta or the federation website.
- The County Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue explained the duties of each office. They pointed out that there are new payment options at kiosks at 7-11's in the county and other locations. Arlingtonians can avoid penalties by using e-mail bill notification system. In addition, homeowners will be sent notification if they missed paying property taxes, which will help many people avoid penalty charges.
- The Office for the Elderly and the Recreation Department talked about the many programs available for those 55 and older. The county is opening the old Oak

Spring as an assisted living facility for those over 50. The Elder Readiness Task Force Report is now available on the Arlington County web site. This is a blueprint for an inclusive, livable community ready to meet the increased needs of the elderly for the next 25 years. Those wishing for more information about any of the county's services can call Arlington Agency on Aging, 703-228-1700, or send e-mails to Aarlaaa@arlingtonva.us.

- On March 19 at 7:00 p.m. there is a public forum on the draft plan on transportation. The meeting will be held in the Navy League building. This plan does not include the proposed trolley system on Columbia Pike.

Update on Walter Reed Community Center

Peter Jones submitted a draft letter to Arlington county Board about the poor quality of landscape management at the Walter Reed Community Center. This letter was drafted by Peter and Reggie Nixon. Charlotte Cleary will get an electronic version of the letter from Peter, edit the draft, and e-mail the draft to board members for their comments. The intention is to have a draft by the next meeting that can be voted on by CHCA membership.

Report on NCAC, Lighting

Geoff Gerhardt reported that he had been contacted by Dominion Power, but they needed numbers off the poles in order to make any repairs to street lights. Sarah McKinley reminded the group that on March 13 two members of the county staff, Ram Sarma and Angela Courtney, plan to meet with members of CHCA at the Walter Reed Community Center to begin planning for a proposal to be submitted in the fall funding cycle of the Neighborhood Conservation Action Committee (NCAC). One activity at this meeting will be a trip to several street lights in the area to learn how to read the identifying numbers.

The work on the NCAC proposal can dovetail with efforts the County is now making to create a county-wide master plan for infrastructure. As part of that effort, NCAC staff has presented CHCA and other neighborhoods with detailed maps of infrastructure in our area. Civic associations have been given about three months to work through the material, both to verify the information and to present "wish lists" for future action by the County. She showed the group the package of materials prepared for us by the County, and gave one set to Ed Miltenberger, our President. Ron Haddox took Sarah's CD of the maps that the county provided and will post them on our web site.

Fund Raising for CHCA

Ed Miltenberger pointed out that our group is low in funds and suggested that we begin to think about fundraising efforts. Ron Haddox suggested a raffle, which could be held at

the Home Show at the Walter Reed Community Center on April 21. Items for the raffle could include a movie ticket package from the Cinema & Drafthouse, a bicycle tune-up from Papillon Bicycle Shop, or a new bike. Volunteers for this effort include Ron Haddox, Linh Ong and Joan Rineberg.

Linda Palmer offered to spend some time at the Farmer's Market to talk to residents about joining the civic association. Charlotte Cleary asked if we had written down the reasons for joining CHCA. The group drafted her to work on this.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. Joan Rineberg moved that we adjourn, seconded by Reggie Nixon, and the measure was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Sarah McKinley, Secretary