

**Columbia Heights Civic Association
April 9, 2007 General Meeting
Minutes**

Present:

John Antonelli
Sara Collins
Geoff Gerhardt
Ron Haddox, Board Member
Peter C. Jones
Alan Kennedy
Sarah McKinley, Secretary
Ed Miltenberger, President
Linh Ong, Board Member
Linda Palmer, Treasurer
Joan Rineberg, Board Member
Dana Schlichtmann, Vice President

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. This is the same status as last month. We have one outstanding bill of approximately \$168 to be paid, which was the cost of a map of our civic association area.

Minutes of Past Meetings

The group approved the minutes from the March 12, 2007 meeting. Linda Palmer moved that they be accepted without amendment, seconded by Linh Ong. The motion passed unanimously.

Sarah McKinley also presented sets of minutes from five meetings in 2005 that were never posted on the CHCA web site. She suggested that the group approve these minutes to allow them to be posted on our web site to fill in the historic gap. Linda Palmer suggested that Sarah forward the electronic versions of these five sets of minutes to current board members, who would review them and forward their comments to Sarah by 6 p.m. this coming Friday. Sarah would be authorized to make any corrections and forward them to Ron Haddox to be posted on the web site. Sarah also agreed to look for additional sets of "lost minutes" from Reggie Nixon and others to include in this e-mail correspondence. Linda made a formal motion that the group approve this plan, seconded by Sarah McKinley. It passed unanimously.

President's Report

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

1. On March 13, 2007 members of CHCA met with Ram Sarma and Angela Courtney, county employees working with the Neighborhood Conservation Area Committee (NCAC), to discuss lighting in our area. They reported that the eastern portion of our civic association area has sufficient lighting, but the western portion, which includes streets with single family homes, has deficient lighting. (See separate report on lighting proposals.) A proposed project from CHCA and funded through NCAC could provide 50 new Carlisle-style lights.
2. The Safeway will be torn down by July. The owners propose street level retail shops, 15,000 sq. feet of office space and over 200 apartments above that. The project is being constructed under the Form Based Code.
3. The Giant will be demolished by November, and the store will officially be closed by September 30. Hefner Architects of Alexandria are working on detailed plans for the building, while J.C.A. Architects of Reston will design the interior of the Giant store itself.
4. The Multi-use Committee evaluating county options for existing school land has made its recommendations. The eight-acre site encompassing the Library and Career Center on Walter Reed Drive are not recommended to be sold or leased. It could be renovated or have reconstruction with underground parking, but the land will be dedicated to public use, which could include office space for various Arlington School programs. It is likely that some programs now housed at Arlington Mill will relocate to our neighborhood.
5. Neighborhood Day, sponsored by CPRO, is scheduled May 12. There will be a trolley and parade. Our civic association has been invited to be part of the parade. We would need to put together a banner. No volunteers offered their services at the civic association meeting.
6. The deadline for free trees offered by Arlington County was the previous week, but it would probably still be possible to obtain trees. This year the county is offering Black Gum and Fringe trees. Peter Jones described the Black Gum as less desirable because it produces balls that drop to the ground and have to be cleaned up.
7. The deadline for CHCA to express interest in a Parks Enhancement Grant (PEG) is May 15. Ed Miltenberger suggested that we write a grant to fund new fencing between Walter Reed and the neighboring residential communities of Arlington Village and The Commons of Arlington. The group approved this plan. Ed will write the letter expressing interest to the County to meet the May 15 deadline. Ed and Sarah McKinley will work on the actual grant proposal, which is due in the fall.
8. Maps of our civic association, provided by the NCAC, were placed on our web

site by Ron Haddox.

9. The annual Blues Festival will be held on June 17 on Walter Reed Drive next door to the Cinema N Drafthouse.
10. On May 5 the County will sponsor the “Pike Bike & Hike.”

Civic Federation Report

John Antonelli provided a report of the last Arlington Civic Federation meeting. The last meeting was “Budget Night,” which looks at the County’s budget for the coming year. Because of the complexity of this document, the group relies on the Civic Federation Committee Report. What is of interest were the recommendations that the Civic Federation supported. This included no support for a proposed environmental fee, no support for year-round support for the emergency winter shelters, no cost of living increases for some county workers, and only a 1.5% COLA (instead of a 2% COLA) for school personnel. The Civic Federation wanted the line held on fee increases for water, sewer and trash service.

The Civic Federation also passed a resolution regarding the Arlington Public Space Master Plan, but it only covered school land at the Wilson School site, and all references to South Arlington were deleted from the resolution. For that reason, John Antonelli, as one of our delegates, voted against the resolution. At this point the recommendations of the Multi-Use Committee (see discussion in the President’s report) will be discussed at the next School Board Meeting to make a determination about future use.

An ad hoc group of citizens has been meeting to discuss these issues. John Antonelli has been attending these meetings. This coming Thursday they are meeting at The Broiler at 7:00 p.m. The Civic Federation has meetings in May and June, then goes on vacation until the fall, when it opens the fall season with Candidates’ night.

Street Light Report

Dana Schlichtmann and Geoff Gerhardt are leading the effort to forge a plan for new street lights for our neighborhood. This past month they conducted a second survey of our area, using the map of street lights provided by NCAC. They identified numerous discrepancies with the map, which they will forward to the NCAC.

The next step will be to come up with a plan for an initial proposal. It will focus on the west end of the civic association. Sarah McKinley will help write the proposal once they have come up with a plan of what is feasible.

Other members offered to update the County maps of our area provided by NCAC. Ron Haddox agreed to update the map on traffic calming. Alan Kennedy will review the map for parks. Sarah McKinley will update the map for sidewalks and gutters.

Letter to County regarding Upkeep of the Grounds at Walter Reed

The draft letter to the county about trees and other plantings at Walter Reed, which has been drafted by Peter Jones, Reggie Nixon and Charlotte Cleary, is about ready to be sent. It was agreed that Ed Miltenberger will send this letter to board members, Reggie Nixon, Peter Jones and Sara Collins for one last review. Comments will be forwarded by this coming Friday at 6:00 p.m. Then the board has the approval of the membership to send the letter. This motion was put forward by Sarah McKinley, seconded by Joan Rineberg, and passed unanimously.

Letter regarding Towing at Westmont Shopping Center

Sarah McKinley is drafting two letters regarding aggressive towing at Westmont Shopping Center, based on talking points approved at a previous CHCA meeting. These letters will be sent to the owner of Westmont, and to shop keepers at that mall. Sarah will forward these drafts to the CHCA board next week, with final comments due the following Friday. Ron Haddox will get the name and mailing address of the Westmont owner. Sarah made the motion that the group approve the final version of the letter in this manner. Joan Rineberg seconded the motion, and the group approved the motion unanimously.

Update on CHCA Raffle

Ron Haddox, Linh Ong and Joan Rineberg have been working on a raffle to raise funds for CHCA. We now have three prizes: bike tune-up from Papillon Bike Shop, dinner for two at LA Bar & Grill, and movie tickets from Arlington Cinema N Drafthouse. We will sell tickets for \$2 each. Those signing up as new members of CHCA (membership to extend through the 2007-2008 year), at a cost of \$10, will receive one ticket free.

The tickets will be sold at the "Home Show," organized by CPRO, to be held at the Walter Reed Community Center on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the first two Farmers Market Sundays in May. The drawing for prizes will take place on May 20 at 12:00 noon at the Farmers Market.

Ron and Linh passed out tickets to members present to sell. Members also signed up to staff our booth at the Home Show. Sarah McKinley will help produce a flyer/poster for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. Sara Collins moved that we adjourn, seconded by Linda Palmer, and the measure was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Sarah McKinley, Secretary