

Minutes of the Columbia Heights Civic Association
May 23, 2005 Meeting
Prepared by Sarah McKinley

Members Present: John Antonelli, Sarah McKinley, Ed Miltenberger, Phil Bailey, Peter McAuliffe, Reggie Nixon, Linda Palmer, June O'Connell.

New Members Present: Geoff Gerhardt, Geraldine Jones.

Others Present: Alan Muchnick, Robert Atkins (Bluemont Civic Association).

Sarah McKinley volunteered to take minutes. The meeting began with a discussion of events that led to the creation of a working group to create a new set of by-laws for CHCA. This committee consisted of: Ed Miltenberger (Chair), John Antonelli, Valerie Emerson, Reggie Nixon, Sarah McKinley, Ron Haddox, Phil Bailey and Mike Gearing. This committee had met every Friday night for almost two months to forge a new set of by-laws.

Special thanks were offered to Robert Atkins (from Bluemont Civic Association) who acted as parliamentarian and consultant to the drafting committee throughout the process.

Ed Miltenberger presented the highlights of the new by-laws, followed by general discussion with members present. The discussion included other members of the committee. Some minor changes were proposed to the by-laws by members, which were unanimously agreed upon. Phil Bailey moved that the group accept the new by-laws, as amended, which was seconded by June O'Connell.

It was determined that the meeting included 10 members in good standing within the CHCA, and the group voted unanimously to accept the by-laws.

Sarah McKinley agreed to make the changes to the document and forward it to Ron Haddox to be posted to the CHCA web site. John Antonelli agreed to send a notice to the CHCA list serve and the Civic Federation with a link to the document on our web site.

It was agreed that the next regular association member meeting will be held on the third Monday of June (June 20, 2005) at the Arlington Village office, if that space is available. Ed Miltenberger will check on space. It was agreed that the topics under discussion at the next meeting will be: a factual presentation on Arlington's form-based code, an update on neighborhood conservation activities, and a report from the police.

The Board of Directors will meet the third Monday in August (August 15, 2005), and our annual meeting will be held the third Monday in September (September 19, 2005).

The group named Sarah McKinley, Reggie Nixon, John Antonelli and Linda Palmer to the nominating committee, which will research and recruit a slate of candidates for the annual meeting in September, to be distributed to the membership 30 days in advance. Peter McAuliffe will provide a full list of current members, with addresses and telephone numbers, to the committee.

Geraldine Jones volunteered to create a survey form to be distributed to members to determine issues of concern.

Sarah McKinley moved that the group remove the "gag" order, imposed over the past several months, which prevented CHCA officers or board members from taking public positions until the CHCA could create and adopt new by-laws. John Antonelli seconded the motion and the members approved the motion.

A discussion of the CHCA's past position on the form-based code, however, may be at odds with the views of the majority of members. Instead of rescinding our position on that issue, however, it was agreed that the group would continue discussions and perhaps conduct a debate on the issue at subsequent meetings to determine the consensus of the group.

Sarah McKinley moved, and Phil Bailey seconded, that the CHCA reinstate the gag order, which would prevent Board Members from speaking on behalf of the CHCA, for the sole issue of the form-based code until the Association Members could vote on an official position at the October, 2005 meeting.

Ed Miltenberger moved that we adjourn the meeting, seconded by June O'Connell. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.