

Minutes of the Columbia Heights Civic Association  
June 20, 2005 General Membership Meeting  
Prepared by Sarah McKinley

Members Present: John Antonelli, Sarah McKinley, Ed Miltenberger, Phil Bailey, Reggie Nixon, Linda Palmer, Jane Scruggs, Sara Collins, Geraldine Jones, Peter C. Jones, Laura Schneider.

Others Present: Allen Muchnick, Tim Lynch (CPRO), Richard Tucker (presenter), Sergeant Marc Jenkins (presenter), Jim Murray.

Sarah McKinley volunteered to take minutes. Reggie Nixon moved to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2005 meeting, seconded by Phil Bailey, which were approved unanimously by the group.

The group agreed to amend the published agenda by removing the report from the nominating committee, which will meet over the summer and prepare a slate of candidates by the end of July. As provided in the by-laws, this committee will inform members of this slate at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting in September. Sarah McKinley is working on an updated list of current CHCA members upon which the committee can base its search. Members of the nominating committee present were: Linda Palmer, Reggie Nixon, Sarah McKinley and John Antonelli. Committee members agreed to meet at Sarah McKinley's house at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6.

Sergeant Marc Jenkins presented a report on crime in the area. Crime overall continues to be low, although there was a recent murder under investigation. Sgt. Jenkins reported, however, that this event was not a random act of violence and that an arrest was expected in the near future. He asked for the neighborhood to identify the three "worst" traffic areas in the neighborhood, which would be monitored. Members present identified 16<sup>th</sup> Street next to the park as one trouble spot. Peter Jones warned that children were racing down Garfield onto 16<sup>th</sup> Street on their bikes to go to the park, which poses a serious problem. The police are doing bike patrols, and urged neighbors to call police if they see juveniles hanging out, which is bound to happen when school lets out in June. Sgt. Jenkins urged neighbors to call 703-228-4141 with parking complaints.

Richard Tucker gave a powerpoint presentation on Arlington's form-based code, which governs development on designated sections of Columbia Pike. He also provided color copies of the form-based code for all members present, and guided the group through the maps in the report and the color-coding, which defined what kind of development could take place within designated blocks. His report included computer simulations of the kind of development that would take place, and the advantages to the community of having the code in place. Members voiced a number of concerns, including the allowed height of buildings, impacts on traffic and the lack of affordable housing in the code. There was

also discussion of light rail options along the Pike which, while not part of the form-based code, is a related concern. Other concerns were raised about the lack of grocery stores in our area, despite the obvious need for additional stores due to increased development and population. Discussions of the form-based code will continue at CHCA meetings.

Ed Miltenberger updated the CHCA on a report based on 115 responses to the survey concerning the existing dog park in Towers Park. A public meeting the previous Thursday night was well attended. The overwhelming response was in favor of keeping the dog park. The County will allow the lights in the tennis court to remain on through most of the evening to accommodate the dog owners.

Reggie Nixon and Sarah McKinley will meet later this month to put together a number of options for neighborhood improvement projects, to be voted on by members and assigned “priority” levels for action. These options will be sent to members prior to the annual meeting in September to acquaint members with the NCAC funding process and allow them to consider our options as a neighborhood. Reggie and Sarah will make a formal presentation at the annual meeting in September, at which time neighborhood members will be able to vote on priority improvement projects.

The next general membership meeting of the CHCA will be held on September 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Arlington Village office. The agenda will include: NCAC options and priorities; and election of officers for the coming year. We will also accept memberships from existing and new members for the 2006 year.

Ed Miltenberger moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Reggie Nixon.