

**Columbia Heights Civic Association
Minutes
July 9, 2007 General Membership Meeting**

Present:

John Antonelli
Peter C. Jones
Sarah McKinley, Secretary
Ed Miltenberger, President
Linda Palmer, Treasurer
Joan Rineberg, Board Member
Dana Schlichtmann, Vice President

Change in Agenda

Linda Palmer offered a motion to modify the agenda to move the discussion about archiving or creating an historic "time capsule" of CHCA materials, including minutes, to the end of the meeting under "new business." John Antonelli seconded the motion and the group voted to accept the change in agenda.

President's Report

Ed Miltenberger reported that two raffles sponsored by CHCA had netted over \$400, which would be earmarked as community contributions toward a new fence surrounding the Walter Reed Community Center. Our civic association, within the past month, had participated in the Blues Festival, as well as sponsored a table at the Home Expo at Walter Reed Community Center in April.

Ed asked the group for their feedback about these events. Comments from the group included:

- The need to do more planning for raffles.
- The need for "take-away" materials, such as a brochure about CHCA. It was suggested that Charlotte Cleary might be willing to take on this task.
- Having fewer items at the table to purchase, which had been confusing. Having a raffle machine for the benefit of children in the crowd did not add much, and probably won't be repeated.
- The need for more interaction with the crowd. Training for CHCA workers would help create greater comfort in reaching out to individuals in the crowd, asking for memberships and donations.

Ed asked whether the group wanted to staff a table at the Arlington County Fair. This suggestion was generally turned down, in part because of the long hours that would have to be covered, and the fact that a majority of people coming to the fair were not from our neighborhood (or even Arlington County). The group recommended that we prepare for next year's Home Expo instead.

Treasurer's Report

Linda presented the Treasurer's Report. As of July 9, 2007, the group had \$584.08 in the bank, no outstanding bills and 48 paid members. From the Blues Festival we grossed \$149.50 after paying \$75 for the bonsai trees, netting \$74.50 for the day. CHCA now has \$451.50 earmarked for matching grant money for the fence around Walter Reed park.

Report on Lighting

Dana Schlichtmann reported that the group is still working on a proposal for street lighting for the neighborhood. Geoff Gerhardt, who has taken leadership of the project, has been out of town. She is waiting for Geoff to return to continue work on it. It was decided that the group would move forward with formulating a plan, even if CHCA is not able to ask for funding until next year.

Update on NCAC

Sarah McKinley reported that the Neighborhood Conservation Area Committee (NCAC) had made a decision that this fall's funding cycle would only include projects that had been shelved two years ago when the funding cycle was suspended. CHCA would not be able to submit a proposal for funding until the spring of 2008, at the earliest. However, at that time there was a very good chance of funding because, as a new community, CHCA would have points in our favor in that funding round.

PEG Grant

Ed Miltenberger and Sara Collins have done some research on Parks Enhancement Grants (PEG) for Arlington County. Ed has copies of successful grants from last year that will help us fashion a project, including guidelines on how much (or what percentage) of the project will be expected to be borne by the community. Toby Smith, a mentor on this grant process, has suggested that whatever the price of the fence, the community should contribute about 20% of that cost.

Ed and Sara also gathered a number of brochures about options for fences and can share that with the group. It was suggested that Jill Lewis from Arlington Village

be recruited to provide photographs, an essential part of PEG grants. Sarah McKinley volunteered to help write the grant. John Antonelli said he was also willing to help with grant writing. The group also discussed the possibility that the Boards of Directors for both the Commons of Arlington and Arlington Village be asked to make contributions and write letters of support.

Nominations Committee

Under the CHCA bylaws, the group needs to prepare for the September annual meeting, which includes an election of a new Board of Directors and representatives to Arlington committees. John Antonelli moved, and Dana Schlichtmann seconded, a motion to appoint Ed Miltenberger, John Antonelli and Joan Rineberg to serve as the nominating committee. This motion passed unanimously. The slate of candidates that they identify must be sent to all CHCA members at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. The deadline for creating that slate will be August 10, 2007.

Old Business

We discussed two items of old business. The first was the letter sent by CHCA to the County Board concerning landscaping and grounds issues for Walter Reed Community Center. John Antonelli explained that the process usually was for Board Members, when they receive letters of this kind, to forward the document to the appropriate heads of divisions, with a response from that division going back to the County Board. At that time the Board would respond to the community association.

The second letter, drafted and approved by CHCA, dealt with predatory towing practices at the Westmont Shopping Center. This letter had never been sent. However, the issue may have been resolved because there was no evidence at present that predatory towing was now taking place. John Antonelli offered a motion that we consider the issue moot, which was seconded by Peter Jones. Sarah McKinley moved to amend the motion that the issue simply be tabled until the September meeting. Dana Schlichtmann seconded the amendment. The group voted and approved the amendment to the motion. Sarah McKinley called for the motion, Joan Rineberg seconded. The group unanimously approved the motion to table consideration until the annual meeting.

New Business

Ed Miltenberger proposed that CHCA archive old minutes, and other materials of historic importance, with the Arlington Public Library, which has initiated a program to preserve materials from local organizations. He explained that this

issue was separate from any decisions about posting minutes on our web site, which was not discussed by the group at this time. Ed has been in consultation with library officials, who recommended that the group make this a part of their bylaws so that archiving would continue, as a structural issue, into the future.

It was agreed that John Antonelli and Sarah McKinley would draft a by-law revision, which would be included in the package sent to the general membership in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

Joan Rineberg moved that we adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m., seconded by Dana Schlichtmann and unanimously approved by the group.

Minutes were prepared by Sarah McKinley