

**Columbia Heights Civic Association  
August 13, 2007 General Membership Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:**

John Antonelli  
Sara Collins  
Geoff Gerhardt  
Mike Harvey  
Peter C. Jones  
Sarah McKinley, Secretary  
Ed Miltenberger, President  
Linda Palmer, Treasurer  
Joan Rineberg, Board Member

Ed Miltenberger called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Linda Palmer moved that the group approve the minutes of the June 11, 2007 and the July 9, 2007 general membership meetings. Peter Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Linda Palmer reported that the group has \$584.08 in the bank with no outstanding bills and 48 paid members. There has been no financial activity since the last meeting.

**Update on Street Light Project**

Geoff Gerhardt reported that there had been no activity on this project since the group members had learned that there was no funding available from NCAC during the fall funding round. However, Sarah McKinley urged the group to move forward to formulate a street light plan, as it takes many months to prepare a project for submission to NCAC for funding. We also anticipate that we will be eligible to participate in following funding round, next spring.

The group agreed that the changes the committee made to the street light map provided by the NCAC should be shared with Mike Harvey, who is getting involved in the project. Mike will transfer the changes onto the second map

provided by the County and then Sarah McKinley will turn the map in with the package of materials (due in September). Geoff said he believed that Dana Schlichtmann had the map and we should contact her. In addition, Joan Rineberg offered her help in contacting Alan Kennedy about the work he had down to validate the County's NCAC map of our parks. Both maps should be forwarded to Sarah McKinley for inclusion in the package for the County.

### **PEG Grant for Walter Reed Fence**

Ed Miltenberger reported, as part of his "President's Report," that he and Sara Collins prepared a preliminary report on our plans, which was turned into Arlington County. Mike Harvey also took hundreds of pictures to demonstrate exactly why we need a new fence, which will be used with the proposal. Our association needs to contribute perhaps 20% of the total cost. At \$90 per foot (one high estimate) covering about 550 feet of fence, the project would cost about \$50,000, with \$10,000 as our share. However, Ed notes that many PEG projects in the County are funded with far less community contribution.

Ed Miltenberger will set up a meeting with Mike Harvey, Sara Collins and Sarah McKinley to work on the grant proposal. We will also seek letters of support from the Commons of Arlington and Arlington Village Boards.

### **PEG Grant for Landscaping S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street**

Peter Jones has also submitted an application for a PEG grant to fund landscaping of 16<sup>th</sup> Street along the Walter Reed park side of the street. He wants letters of support. John Antonelli moved that the Board prepare a letter of support, with copies sent to Parks & Recreation, supporting the project. Linda Palmer seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously. Sarah McKinley will draft the letter with Peter. It was agreed that the letter would not need to be approved by the entire organization, but could be signed by Ed Miltenberger and forwarded to the County when finalized.

### **Response to CHCA Letter re: Landscaping at Walter Reed Center**

The group reviewed a response that Arlington County forwarded to CHCA to our letter outlining problems with landscaping at Walter Reed Community Center. Peter Jones pointed out discrepancies and inconsistencies in the letter. However, instead of focusing on a formal rebuttal, John Antonelli suggested that the group consider a different approach. He suggested that we invite County representatives to come to a meeting at the Park to discuss this issue. At that time we could present to the County our own "five-year" plan, which is what we want. Sarah will draft a response to the county inviting them to such a meeting. Ed

Miltenberger will check with County staff to determine the best date. It was decided that we would focus on inviting Arlington Board Member Favola, along with Members Ferguson and Zimmerman, to this meeting. John Rineberg suggested a meeting during the week at 4:30 p.m. might be suitable time; Ed will check with Arlington Board members to determine the best date and time for them.

### **NCAC “Wish List”**

Sarah McKinley reported that the group has a lot of work to do to complete the assignment that NCAC gave to the neighborhoods over the summer. One part of that is updating the “maps” of our area. The second was creating a neighborhood civic association “wish list” for planning purposes. This list should be as inclusive as possible. The group identified the following items to be included:

- Curbs and gutters on all streets that don’t already have them (11<sup>th</sup> Street, for example).
- Updated street lighting throughout the civic association.
- Sidewalks on streets that still need it, of reasonable widths (possibly 2-3 feet).
- Sidewalk replacement where needed.
- New fencing around the Walter Reed Community Center.
- Revamped lighting on the grounds of Walter Reed Community Center to shield neighbors from glaring light that reduced property value.
- Adding lighting and landscaping to the Cleveland Street park.
- Landscaping for the strip of county land on Walter Reed and 13<sup>th</sup> Street and creating a “pocket park” in that space.
- A commitment from the County that the green space on Columbia Pike at South Courthouse will remain “green,” as previously agreed, maintaining public access to this space.
- Traffic calming on S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street and South Garfield, to protect school children coming to the park.
- Safety crosswalks on Columbia Pike and Scott Street, and also on Walter Reed Drive at the entrance to Walter Reed parking lot.

### **By-Law Proposal**

Sarah McKinley presented a change to the by-laws that was prepared by herself and John Antonelli, based on the discussion at the July 2007 meeting. At this meeting, the discussion focused on “privacy provisions” in the proposal, with some members arguing that it needed to be revamped to be more specific in what the Board could approve to be forwarded to the official archives. It is anticipated that Geoff Gerhardt will have amendments to the by-law provision at the annual

meeting in September. In addition, the group has the ability to table the by-law amendment until a future meeting if the group cannot agree on wording. The group approved the existing language to be considered at the annual meeting. This proposal will be mailed to members 30 days prior to that meeting.

### **Report from Nominations Committee**

Ed Miltenberger reported that the Nominating Committee, consisting of Joan Rineberg and John Antonelli and himself, had met and confirmed a slate of nine candidates for seven positions on the board for the next annual meeting in September. Those candidates are: Geoff Gerhardt, Ron Haddox, Mike Harvey, Sarah McKinley, Ed Miltenberger, Linh Ong, Linda Palmer, Joan Rineberg and Dana Schlichtmann. This slate will be forwarded to CHCA members in the annual mailing.

### **Preparations for Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held September 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Walter Reed Community Center. Ed Miltenberger and Linda Palmer will prepare the mailing to members. They will meet on Saturday, August 18, at 9:30 a.m. to prepare the mailing. Ed has invited Jim Whitaker from CIPRO to discuss activities in our area, including the schedule for the closing of the Giant supermarket, access to Peapod service and access to the pharmacy.

### **Adjournment**

Ed Miltenberger adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Sarah McKinley