

**Columbia Heights Civic Association
Minutes
November 13, 2006 General Membership Meeting**

Present:

Ed Miltenberger, President
Dana Schlichtman
Sarah McKinley
Ron Haddox
Joan Rineberg
Linh Ong
Linda Palmer
John Antonelli
Deborah Albert
Laura Booth
Geoff Gerhardt
Jeff Ristwell
Jayne Michaud
Allen Muchnick
Alan Kennedy
Kathy Harris-Thomas

Presentation of Walter Reed After School Program

Kathy Harris-Thomas, Community Recreation Program Supervisor, was invited to discuss mentoring programs at the Walter Reed Center. She discussed the program for after school care for children. Laura Booth and Ed Miltenberger previously had met with Kathy, as well as Regina Richardson, to discuss the tutoring program. Kathy does programs at Walter Reed, Carver and the north side after school programs. Currently the center has 60 elementary aged children Monday through Friday. On Wednesdays the program begins at 1:00 p.m. This is a free program.

Kathy suggested that we begin the mentoring program after the first of the year. The best tutoring time is between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Other possibilities for civic association involvement include support for a computer lab, a book drive, and attempts to find tutors fluent in Spanish, and those with diverse ethnic backgrounds (particularly Caucasian workers). Regina Richardson is the person in charge of the program every day.

NCAC Update

Sarah McKinley provided an update of the NCAC program, which has faced serious financial shortfalls over the past year. The NCAC has suspended its regular rounds of grants to neighborhoods. However, there is a possibility that the county could offer \$100,000 grants for efforts that don't involve engineering work. For our neighborhood this could focus on replacing street lights. Most in the group were supportive of this approach. Geoff Gerhardt offered to do a survey of unworkable street lights to target those that need replacing first.

Westmont Shopping Center

Ron Haddox raised the issue of aggressive towing at Westmont Shopping Center. He suggested action by CHCA to alert owners of the Westmont shops, as well as shoppers. He also suggested contacting the police to make sure that the company doing the towing was following proper legal procedures. John Antonelli suggested that CHCA send a letter to the police and the owner of the shopping center, as well as to shop owners.

Arlington Heights Civic Association, which is the group directly affected, is also unhappy. Ron Haddox suggested contacting AHCA first to see what action they were taking, to allow us to join their efforts.

Sarah McKinley moved, and Linda Palmer seconded, a motion that CHCA contact AHCA to find out what they were doing, and to prepare a letter from our group, to be sent to the owner of the shopping center and the proprietors of the shops, informing them about the problems with towing. Ron Haddox will be responsible for drafting the letter. The motion passed. Ed Miltenberger agreed to contact AHCA on behalf of our group.

Concerns with Walter Reed

The group discussed the very positive response the group received from Walter Reed about problems with buses idling out front, as well as concerns about the bright lights. Reggie Nixon has been our contact with the Center. It was agreed that we would put our letter, and the Walter Reed response, on our web site. Ron Haddox will take care of that.

Treasurer's Report

At the end of October CHCA had \$620.85 in the bank, with several bills outstanding. The Treasurer reported that, when the bills were paid, we would have

\$331.45 remaining. However, we recently gained two new members, bringing our membership total to 36.

Civic Federation

John Antonelli is a member of the legislative committee of the Arlington Civic Federation. The next meeting will focus on transfer development rights. John moved that we support the resolution that was currently before the Civic Federation, or something that was more restrictive. Sarah McKinley seconded the motion. The vote: 7 yes, 1 no, 4 abstain.

Publicity for CHCA Meetings

At the beginning of the meeting Peter Jones arrived, complaining that he had only learned of the meeting ten minutes before it was to begin. At this point in the meeting Geoff Gerhardt suggested that we improve publicity for the meetings. It was agreed that members should receive e-mails with an agenda one week before the meeting, as well as the day of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.