

## **Minutes of the December 2003 Meeting of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association**

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 16, 2003  
**Location:** Cleveland Park Library  
3310 Connecticut Avenue, NW; Washington, DC

Cleveland Park Citizens Association (“CPCA”) President George Idelson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm. This was the first evening meeting of the 2003-04 CPCA year, a new scheduling experiment this year.

### **I. Approval of November 1, 2003 Minutes**

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the November 1, 2003 meeting of the CPCA. A motion to approve such minutes was moved and unanimously approved.

### **II. Real Estate Property Tax Issues**

The next order of business was a discussion of whether to adopt a resolution approved by the CPCA executive committee in June 2003 favoring a reduction of the cap on sequential year real property tax increases from 25% to 10% (Resolution EC-R2-061703). The City Council is scheduled to consider such proposal in January 2004. However, since the June 2003 CPCA executive committee meeting, other related events have occurred. Namely, Councilmember Mendelson (D – At Large) has proposed a reduction of the cap on sequential year real property tax increases from 25% to only 20% along with an increase in the homestead exemption applicable to all homeowners living in their residences. Mendelson’s proposal would allow the tax relief to be spread more evenly among all of the city’s residents.

Peter Espenscheid described the executive committee resolution and moved for adoption of the resolution in its current form, without any changes. CPCA members engaged in general discussion about the matter, including Mendelson’s proposal. The association approved the executive committee resolution favoring a reduction of the cap on sequential year real property tax increases from 25% to 10% and recommended that the executive committee look into the matter further.

### **III. Updates on Neighborhood Matters**

Mr. Espenscheid then talked about the National Child Research Center (NCRC)’s proposed expansion of its school on Highland Place, which proposal now sits before the DC Zoning Commission. Mr. Espenscheid reported that the record is now closed, with only final briefs from the parties to follow. ANC 3C voted the previous evening to reiterate its opposition to the expansion plans.

Education Committee Chair, Barbara Beelar, then described a “chaotic” traffic situations on 37<sup>th</sup> Street NW near Tilden Street between Sidwell Friends School and Hearst School. A working group, assembled by CPCA, of neighbors, representatives from both schools, two ANCs and DDOT, has been formed to consider several ideas to help alleviate the situation.

Bonnie LePard, president of the Friends of Tregaron Foundation, then discussed a new proposal put forward by the owners of the fourteen undeveloped acres of the Tregaron property to build homes on such land. The Tregaron estate is a twenty-acre wooded parcel between Macomb Street and Kingle Road, west of Connecticut Avenue. The Washington International School owns six acres of the Tregaron estate and leases use of the remaining fourteen acres. The owners of the remaining fourteen acres are now actively seeking to develop the 14 acres with 18 custom homes designed to blend into the site, underground garages and a new road, or to sell the property outright. Ms. LePard reported on a meeting

with the community and the developers on Friday, December 12, 2003. CPCA will continue to monitor this matter.

#### **IV. CPCA Website: ClevelandParkIsUs.org**

Bob Andrew, webmaster and president of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association, then led the group through a tour, using a PowerPoint presentation, of CPCA's new website. Mr. Andrew, together with Mr. Idelson, helped design and build the new website. Mr. Andrew explained the organization and navigation of the site and explored a few pages within the site for the association to see. The website, frequently updated with news, is designed to be a community resource on neighborhood issues as well as CPCA meetings, minutes, resolutions, officers, bylaws, etc.

#### **V. Mark Plotkin**

The next order of business was a presentation by WTOP-AM political commentator and local political speaker and activist Mark Plotkin. Mr. Plotkin has been very involved in the movement for DC voting representation and the upcoming first-in-the-nation presidential primary of January 13, 2004. The primary is an attempt by the District to generate national news regarding the District's lack of voting representation in the U.S. Congress. Mr. Plotkin spoke, with a lot of humor mixed in, about the history of the District's fight for statehood or voting representation, including the District's "Taxation Without Representation" license plate, the history of several failed federal legislative efforts to grant the District voting representation, and the birth of the District's primary. Mr. Plotkin also spoke about the current Tom Davis (R- Virginia) proposal to give the District voting representation in the House while giving Utah an extra voting representative as well.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald A. Fishman and George Idelson