

Minutes of the June 2003 Executive Committee Meeting of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2003
Location: 2nd District Police Station, Auditorium
3320 Idaho Avenue, NW; Washington, DC 20016

Cleveland Park Citizens Association (“CPCA”) President George Idelson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 p.m. The following members of the Executive Committee were present: George Idelson, Peter Espenschied, Ann Loikow, Donald A. Fishman (incoming), Ana Aldama, Gregory New, Gilpin Walker, Mary E. Lofton-Manning and Isabel Furlong, ex officio. The following guests were also present: Barbara Beelar and Justin Quick

I. Approval of Past Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes available of the last meeting of the CPCA Executive Committee.

II. CPCA Website Demo

The first order of business was a general overview of a possible CPCA website by Barbara Beelar and Justin Quick, webmaster. Mr. Quick is webmaster for the Hearst playground site. The proposed CPCA website is to include, among other things, an archive of meeting minutes, an events calendar, notices of upcoming meetings, and some form of directory of “business circle” members. The executive committee engaged in a spirited discussion of how much prominence to give to the latter. The consensus held that a simple listing, without links, would suffice for now.

III. Calendar of 2003-04 CPCA Meetings

The next order of business was a discussion of meeting dates for CPCA general association meetings and executive committee meetings for the 2003-04 year. The executive committee elected to start the calendar year of general association meetings in September 2003, alternating, where possible, meetings between Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings. The following tentative dates were selected for general association meetings, to be held if possible at the Cleveland Park Library. (Note, the final revised calendar appears at the end of these minutes) :

2003-04 General Association Meetings

1. Saturday, September 13, 2003
2. Tuesday, October 7, 2003
3. Saturday, November 1, 2003
4. Tuesday, December 2, 2003
5. Saturday, January 10, 2004
6. Tuesday, February 3, 2004
7. Saturday, March 6, 2004
8. Tuesday, April 6, 2004
9. Saturday, May 1, 2004
10. Tuesday, June 1, 2004

003-04 Executive Committee Meetings

The committee agreed that executive committee meetings would be held on the Wednesday night of the week following the week of the general association meeting. (For instance, following the September 13, 2003 general meeting, the executive committee would meet be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2003.) With accessibility a consideration, the executive committee decided that the 2nd District Police Department Auditorium would be the primary site for executive committee meetings, with the Hearst School as a back-up site.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The next order of business was a report from the CPCA treasurer, Ana Aldama. Ms. Aldama reported that CPCA's current account balance was \$5,396. The association's expenses included \$324 of postage costs during for the second half of the year. The association earned \$940 of income from membership dues during the months of April, May and June to date. Mr. Idelson requested a full budget report for the September executive committee meeting and a budget projection, to include \$500 for website development and maintenance and \$2000 for membership promotion.

V. Secretary's Report

The next order of business was a report from the incoming CPCA secretary, Don Fishman. Mr. Fishman reported that his responsibility for drafting minutes would begin with the June 2003 general association meeting (concluded), the present executive committee meeting, and all subsequent meetings for the 2003-04 association year. Mr. Fishman requested that members who have drafted resolutions for meetings send such resolutions to him via e-mail or diskette so that he can incorporate such resolutions into any final minutes.

V. Membership Building

The next order of business was a discussion of possible ways for CPCA to increase its membership base during the 2003-04 year. The group discussed outreach methods such as letters from existing members, brochures advocating the benefits of being a CPCA member, advertisements in the *Northwest Current*, and the new CPCA website.

VI. CPCA Bylaws

The next order of business was a discussion of whether CPCA should do a general review of its current bylaws with an eye towards possibly updating them. President Idelson has the current version of the bylaws in electronic form. Gregory New has a previously-compiled list of items to possibly change in any updating of the bylaws. Mr. Idelson offered to take the lead in initiating a review of the bylaws in terms of current needs of the association.

VII. Membership Renewal

The next order of business was a discussion of CPCA membership renewals for the upcoming 2003-04 CPCA association year. Mr. New offered to help out with the mailing of renewal forms to all CPCA members in advance of the September 2003 meeting.

VIII. Sidwell Friends Expansion

The next order of business was a briefing by Mr. Idelson of Sidwell Friends School's planned expansion. Sidwell Friends will be making a presentation to the District's Board of Zoning

Adjustment regarding the planned construction. Mr. Idelson and Ms. Beelar had just come from a meeting with representatives of the school about the planned project. No CPCA action was taken on this matter.

IX. Cathedral Foundation Matters

The next order of business was a presentation by Mr. Espenschied of ongoing negotiations between representatives of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation (the "Foundation") regarding ongoing Cathedral Foundation issues such as payments to neighbors affected by the National Cathedral School gym construction, future Close construction, and possible underground parking for Cathedral tour buses. The Foundation is seeking community support for low-interest, tax-free municipal bonds to be awarded by the DC City Council for the Foundation's benefit. Mr. Espenschied's proposed resolution was approved for sense only, with abstentions by Mr. Fishman and Mr. Idelson. The final version, (see EC-R1-061703 below) was circulated before the ANC meeting and approved by Ms. Aldama, Ms. Furlong, Mr. New, Mr. Espenschied, Ms. Loikow, Ms. Furlong and Mr. Idelson. Mr. Idelson was to present it to the ANC and follow up with letters to the Council.

X. City Property Tax Matters

Finally, Ms. Loikow made a presentation regarding an issue which may come before the DC City Council that would reduce the cap on sequential year real property tax increases from 25% to 10%. [Subsequent to the Executive Committee meeting, Bill 15-303, the "Owner-Occupant Residential Tax Credit Act of 2003," which proposed this reduction, was introduced and made part of the July 10 hearing.] Ms. Loikow moved the attached resolution EC-R2-061703, and the executive committee passed the attached resolution by a vote of 4 to 2.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald A. Fishman and George Idelson

EC-R1-061703

Whereas, community leaders within the National Cathedral neighborhood -- saddened, but informed, by a long history of bad relations with the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation (the "Foundation") and the National Cathedral School For Girls -- are desirous of cementing a more productive relationship for the future;

Whereas the Foundation is seeking community support for low-interest, tax-free municipal bonds;

Whereas such bonds are not an entitlement, but a privilege which may be bestowed by the city;

Whereas said community leaders have proposed that support for such bonds would be contingent on the Foundation's entry into an enforceable, negotiated agreement to undertake certain major improvements of benefit to the community as well as the Cathedral; and

Whereas such improvements should include, in part, underground parking for tour buses, adherence to the Olmsted limit of 14 percent lot occupancy on the Close, and a prohibition on construction of redundant school facilities on the Close.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Cleveland Park Citizens Association calls upon ANC3C and the Council of the District of Columbia to deny bond approval unless and until such a negotiated agreement is reached.

EC-R2-061703

Resolved, that the Cleveland Park Citizens Association urges the DC City Council to reduce the cap on sequential year property tax increases from 25% to 10%.

(Note: the following letter was sent and copied to all Council members on 06.39/03)

Cleveland Park Citizens Association
George Idelson, President
3035 Newark Street NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-362-4279
g.idelson@verizon.net

June 26, 2003

Aseem K. Nigam
Senior Manager, Revenue Bond-Enterprise Zone Program
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 317
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Revenue Bond Application for the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation

Dear Mr. Nigam,

On June 17, 2003, the executive committee, on behalf of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association, resolved to oppose the application of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation bond application for the National Cathedral School athletic center. The resolution follows:

EC-R1061703

Whereas, community leaders within the National Cathedral neighborhood -- saddened, but informed, by a long history of bad relations with the Cathedral Foundation and the National Cathedral School For Girls -- are desirous of cementing a more productive relationship for the future, and

Whereas the Foundation is seeking community support for low-interest, tax-free municipal bonds, and

Whereas such bonds are not an entitlement, but a privilege which may be bestowed by the city, and

Whereas said community leaders have proposed that support for such bonds would be contingent on the Foundation's entry into an enforceable, negotiated agreement to undertake certain major improvements of benefit to the community as well as the Cathedral, and

Whereas such improvements should include, in part, underground parking for tour buses, adherence to the Olmsted limit of 14 percent lot occupancy on the Close, and a prohibition on construction of redundant school facilities on the Close; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Cleveland Park Citizens Association calls upon ANC3C and the Council of the District of Columbia to deny bond approval unless and until such a negotiated agreement is reached.

I would appreciate your making CPCA's action a part of the record for this application. It is our hope the situation will change, enabling us to endorse the bond. At such time, we will apprise you.

Sincerely,

George Idelson

cc: Councilmember Kathy Patterson

" Linda Cropp
" Harold Brazil
" Phil Mendelson
" David Catania
Stephen Rippe
Elizabeth A. Pierce, Esq.

(Revised) 2003-04 CPCA General Meetings

1. Saturday, September 13, 2003 – 10:15 am (Library upstairs)
2. Saturday, October 4, 2003 – 10:15 am (Library downstairs)
3. Saturday, November 1, 2003 – 10:15 am (Library downstairs)
4. Tuesday, December 16, 2003 – 6:30 pm (Library downstairs)
5. Saturday, January 10, 2004 – 10:15 am (Library downstairs)
6. Tuesday, February 3, 2004 – 6:30 pm (Library downstairs)
7. Saturday, March 6, 2004 -- 10:15 am (Library downstairs)
8. Tuesday, April 6, 2004 – 6:30 pm (Library downstairs)
9. Saturday, May 1, 2004 – 10:15 am (Library downstairs)
10. Tuesday, June 1, 2004 – 6:30 pm (Library downstairs)

(Revised) Executive Committee Meetings

1. Wednesday, September 17, 2003, -- 7 pm (Police Station)
2. Wednesday, October 8, 2003 --7 pm (Police Station)
3. Wednesday, November 5, 2003 – 7 pm (Police Station)
4. Wednesday, January 14, 2004 – 7 pm (Police Station)
5. Wednesday, February 11, 2004 – 7 pm (Police Station)
6. Wednesday, March 10, 2004 – 7 pm (Police Station)
7. Wednesday, April 14, 2004 – 7 pm (Police Station)
8. Wednesday, May 5, 2004 – 7 pm (Police Station)
9. Wednesday, June 9, 2004 – 7 pm (Police Station)
(tentative)