

CPCA ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19
Ruth Caplan, President

Looking back over the last decades

- CPCA was formed in 1911 and soon after successfully advocated for the fire station which opened in 1916, as the first structure on Connecticut Ave in Cleveland Park.
- In the 1920s/1930s, CPCA promoted commercial development along Connecticut Avenue by advocating for policing, street lights, trees and sidewalks.
- In 1953, CPCA celebrated the opening of Cleveland Park library, after 10 years of advocacy and fundraising by CPCA and others.
- In 1958, CPCA members helped form FONZ, Friends of the National Zoo, in response to the zoo's severe budget problems.
- In 2010, divisive elections around concerns regarding the Giant expansion resulted in the election of a unity ticket. I was honored to be elected to the Board on that ticket.
- In recent years, CPCA has
 - coordinated two successful Cleveland Park Days
 - helped launch the Cleveland Park/Woodley Park Village
 - gotten the mid-block hawk light installed on CT Ave to increase pedestrian access to stores
 - sponsored community meetings on issues of local and citywide concern, ranging from rain gardens to local public safety and postal delivery issues, to citywide affordable housing and public banking, to local/global sustainability and climate change.
- Last year, petition candidates ran for the Board to have greater representation of Connecticut Avenue residents; while none of the candidates were elected then, ...
- Today we have a highly qualified Board running unchallenged and representing real unity from Connecticut Avenue apartments to homes on the hill.

Looking back over the past year, CPCA has addressed local, citywide, national concerns

- We started of the year with a Town Hall in September to hear about issues of concern to the community.
- In October, we held a Candidates Forum for ANC3C commissioners and Ward 3 council candidates. The program was live streamed, as well as podcast.
- In January, we addressed Neighborhood Safety and Crime Prevention with 2nd District Commander Bedlion and learned about Neighborhood Watch and DC Security Camera programs.
- In March, we turned to the global *Climate Crisis: Don't Mourn/Organize!* with international activist/expert Rafe Pomerance,

CM Mary Cheh, and local activist Larry Martin on how we are stepping up in DC.

- In April, we held an all-day Sustainability Fair in conjunction with the CP Library, the DC Dept. of Energy and Environment, and many local organizations.
- In addition to our programs, we created Board committees to
 - pursue ways to involve members remotely via the internet
 - prepare revised bylaws which have been approved by the membership
 - take a deep look at the issue of affordable housing

Challenges ahead - Cleveland Park as a beacon for a just city

- Affordable housing
 - CPCA's focus on affordable housing began with a forum of diverse speakers at our 2018 Annual Meeting.
 - The Board is now very involved in this issue with an Affordable Housing Committee looking at critical questions such as
 - What does affordability mean?
 - What is our role/responsibility in CP? citywide?
- Climate crisis
 - What is our response to the climate emergency?
 - It is important that we don't step away from challenging local topics whether it is solar panels in our historic district or policies promoting sustainable transportation along the Connecticut Avenue corridor.
- Our name: I hope we will become a **community association** to welcome all residents of Cleveland Park to replace our more exclusive sounding "citizens" association. A little history...
 - Early citizen associations were all white and so parallel civic associations were formed in African-American communities.
 - CPCA helped to bridge the divide when Greg New became President of the Federation of Civic Associations. I remember attending the annual Federation luncheon when Greg was given an award of appreciation

Finally, I want to thank current Board members. It's been a pleasure serving with you.

- Jen Ward, who showed us that a busy working mom can still find time to give to the community as 1st VP and who will continue to give of her talents.
- Elizabeth Ferenzci, whose practical wisdom has been a godsend and who has always stepped up when needed.
- Ann Hamilton, for continuing on the Board another year as an essential link to the new expanded Board. Whenever I needed to consult, Ann was there with rock solid advice and a wicked sense of humor!

- Margaret Lenzner, who has been so incredibly generous as a hostess for many of our Board meetings and has been an indefatigable minute-taker as Recording Secretary.
- Barr Weiner, our rock solid Treasurer in whom we can place total confidence as the new President of CPCA for his wisdom and competence.
- John Korbel, who tackled our financial book-keeping, getting us back on track, and who is responsible for our being able to podcast our meetings.
- Alice Kelley, who, from rain gardens to the Sustainability Fair to restoring Melvin Hazen Park, has put CPCA on the front lines of responding to environmental challenges.
- Mark Rosenman, whose years of leadership in the non-profit world has made him an invaluable and wise member of the Board serving on key committees.
- Hans Miller, who has brought his passion about Hearst Park to his work with CPCA and helped with member engagement and bylaws.
- Phil Eagleburger, who has been our essential link to the CP library from the early days of its design to the plaque on the outdoor reading garden recognizing CPCA's contribution to the library.

Now it is time to welcome the new CPCA Board. Much appreciation goes to the Nominating Committee chaired by Margie Siegel, who, working with Bob Ward and Margaret Lenzner, reached out so broadly to find Board members who represent the diversity of Cleveland Park.

As I leave the Board and my beloved Cleveland Park, I do so feeling confident that, under the leadership of each of you on the new Board, CPCA will continue to play a robust role in our Cleveland Park community and in the larger DC community.

not used:

- Virtual participation - technical and social aspects need to be pursued
 - CPCA has wrestled with what it means to be a community
 - gathering together in person vs embracing larger community over the internet