

CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting April 7, 2014

In attendance: Susie Taylor, Ruth Caplan, Helen Chamberlin, John Korbel, Clark Madigan, Chris Fioravante, Jeff Davis, Ann Hamilton, Gina Polidoro, and Margaret Lenzner. Mark Rosenman was absent

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm at Susie Taylor's house.

The Minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting were approved.

Chris Fioravante reviewed statistics of **website visits** in March:

- 451 unique visitors, up 60%;
- 1119 unique page views, up 65%;
- visits peaked on March 20, the day of the CPCA Mayoral Candidates Forum;
- top five pages visited were Giant main page, Giant update #6, farmers markets, Giant update #5, and Our Neighborhood.

Chris proposed a new form to consolidate membership renewal and new members. It was agreed that next year's Membership Committee should decide whether and how to include on the form opportunity for members to sign up for how they want to be involved. Ann Hamilton suggested that a Board member must agree to follow up with volunteers for a particular topic if that topic is to be on the list of options.

Ann Hamilton reported on current **membership**: 248 member units of which 168 are households of two or more persons, and 69 are singles. The total number of members is 416 currently, and 138 previous members have not renewed. It was agreed that CPCA's credibility in the community and with the DC government depends on membership numbers. John Korbel suggested that we should focus on what we do and reach out for more members if we need more revenue.

It was unanimously agreed to donate \$304.83 for sound equipment at John Eaton.

Helen Chamberlin reported that she reached out to the Mayor's office and to DC FEMS to schedule an open house **of Engine 28** on a Sunday, pointing out that there are only a few opportunities since we must avoid May 11 (Mother's Day), May 18 (Village event), and Memorial Day weekend. Helen said she would inform the Board as soon as a date has been scheduled.

Susie Taylor reported on several **vacancies in the CP commercial district**: Pulpo's and Lavandou spaces are vacant, and the landlord of the Dino's space is asking \$60 p.s.f. triple net. Susie continues to pressure DCRA on relaxing its interpretation of the restaurant cap, suggesting that six months should be the maximum allowed for a landlord to keep a restaurant occupancy permit for a vacant storefront. Margaret Lenzner pointed out that CP restaurants struggle now because of increased number of restaurants citywide

especially in redevelopment areas. Susie Taylor said that she, Councilmember Cheh and all other stakeholders continue to urge DC to complete the streetscape improvements.

Ruth Caplan offered the proposal to **promote composting**, including Compost Cab's discount offer for CPCA members. Caplan said she would track Compost Cab customers who qualify for the CPCA discount. John Korbel said the Compost Cab offer is trivial, and Chris Fioravante said CPCA should not vet businesses. It was agreed that CPCA will simply advertise the discount. Susie and Ruth will notify CPBA businesses about using Compost Cab. The Board voted to accept Caplan's proposal as amended – see attached. *Subsequently, the Back Yard Compost Workshop was scheduled and announced for Sunday, April 27 at the Cleveland Park Club. This was in lieu of an April membership meeting.*

**The next regular Membership meeting, scheduled for May 15**, will include a presentation by DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC WASA) about plans for **renovations at the Ft. Reno pumping station** that will significantly increase water pressure to many houses in our community where pressure reduction valves will have to be installed. The May meeting will also include a business meeting at which the **slate of next year's officers** will be presented. Helen Chamberlin who is being nominated for President will not be able to attend. Voting on the slate will occur at the **Annual Meeting on June 19**. *On April 16, Ann Hamilton emailed to members a letter from Susie Taylor announcing the Back Yard Compost Workshop on April 27 and the May 15 Membership meeting, as well as a recap of the library meeting – see second attachment.*

Susie Taylor reported that the **ABRA** coalition has not yet met. She said that a letter she received from ABRA said that citizens/civic associations will now be authorized to enter into agreements with licensed establishments even if no protest had been previously registered.

Regarding the controversial **Zoning Re-Write**, Susie Taylor said that the appointment of Ellen McCarthy as Director of the Office of Planning leaves everything unclear.

Gina Polidoro reported on the meeting of the **Friends of Cleveland Park Library's meeting** with Jeff Bonvechio, facilities director, and other DCPL officials on March 29. She described the presentation and discussion as "excellent". After a site survey is completed in 2014, DCPL will decide whether to renovate or construct anew. Bonvechio said that there was \$15M in the budget for the CP project, and the number may be changed in the new fiscal year budget that the Mayor is due to announce next week. Gina will contact Bonvechio to find out what amount is in the new budget and how CPCA can encourage an increase.

Gina said that Danna McCormick is working with her to identify and install an interactive plug-in for a "community board" on the CPCA website.

It was announced that there will be a celebration of the **Cleveland & Woodley Park Village** on Sunday, May 18, 4-6 pm at the Broadmoor with Cokie Roberts as special guest speaker.

Ann Hamilton reported on **Cathedral Commons**, saying that construction on the south (Giant) block is moving quickly, and the new CVS there is scheduled to open by September.

A meeting of the committee for the **usage agreement** of National Cathedral School's athletic facility is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23.

Retiring Board members were reminded that Pam Korbel of the **Nominating Committee** needs their job descriptions for the positions being vacated. Volunteers have been identified for new Board members. It was agreed that Board meeting times might be changed for next year.

Clark Madigan volunteered to host the Board meeting on June 2 at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary

Attachments:

1. Caplan Proposal: Making CPCA a Model for Sustainability – Promoting Composting
2. Susie Taylor's April 16, 2014 e-mail letter to CPCA members

## Ruth Caplan's Proposal:

### Making CPCA a Model for Sustainability: Promoting Composting

Goal: Following up on CPCA's successful panel on composting at its February community meeting, CPCA will seek to maximize composting in Cleveland Park from the backyard to the front porch.

#### Program:

- Backyard composting
  - Hold composting workshop at Cleveland Park Club on backyard composting with visits to two nearby compost sites
  - Provide educational material on how to compost on our website and at CPCA meetings
- Promote commercial composting for those who don't do their own composting
  - Compost Cab is already providing commercial compost pick up in Cleveland Park and, to the best of our knowledge, at present is the only commercial pick up service in this area
  - If other commercial companies initiate a program, CPCA will let the community know about these services as well.

#### Specifics re CPCA & Compost Cab

- CPCA will not "partner" with Compost Cab and Compost Cab will not promote CPCA on its website or in its press releases or through social media
  - Note: This is what they had offered.
- CPCA will let its members and the larger community know about the service being offered by Compost Cab and the specific incentives it is offering
  - density discounts: for every 25 new subscribers in Cleveland Park, everyone's monthly cost will be lowered from \$32 to \$30/month; for every additional 25 subscribers, cost will be lowered by \$2 until cost reaches \$16/month at 200 subscribers
  - referral incentives: for every 3 referrals of people who have used the service for 3 months, subscriber gets one month free service
  - 50% CPCA member discount: all current and new CPCA members will get 50% off their first month, i.e., \$16
    - This will serve as incentive for people to join CPCA
      - After July 1, will apply to 2014/15 membership when our new membership year begins
- CPCA will make this information available by
  - sending an e-mail to our members
  - posting on the Cleveland Park listserv, including CPCA new member discount (see below)
  - providing information on our website along with other information about composting
  - providing flyers at membership meetings
  - making flyers available if people want to distribute to their neighbors
  - writing a letter-to-the-editor to NW Current about our promotion of backyard and commercial composting as a follow up to our community meeting
- CPCA (Ruth) will verify membership for Compost Cab when they get request for member discount, using up-to-date membership list.
- CPCA (Ruth) work out with Compost Cab how to verify new members requesting discount
- CPBA: Susie and Ruth will write to Susan Lynn and Jane Tracey, co-presidents of CPBA, to tell them about our following up on the February meeting on composting where Jeremy Brosowski of Compost Cab was on the panel. Let them know we are informing the community about the availability this residential service and about his interest in meeting with CPBA businesses



April 16, 2014

Dear CPCA Members,

We owe a big vote of thanks to the John Eaton Elementary School for hosting our April 1<sup>st</sup> **Candidates' Forum**, to Mark Plotkin for his fine performance as moderator, to John O'Leary for donating his time and equipment for the sound system, and to the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Police for watching over the area ensuring the safety of the candidates and participants. More than 200 people attended and many had a chance to direct their own questions to the candidates. The forum gave the community an opportunity to flesh out various candidates' positions in what was a large and disparate field. Thank you to all who attended and to all who helped make the forum a success. In recognition of John Eaton's contribution to CPCA and the community, CPCA will donate new sound equipment for use by the school.

In February, CPCA hosted a well-attended community meeting on **composting**, from our backyards to neighborhood collection. In response to the interest generated, CPCA's Greening Committee is developing next steps. As a first step, we will host a community workshop on backyard composting, using food scraps and yard waste. The workshop will provide instruction for "do it yourself" back yard composting. **We will provide this workshop in lieu of an April membership meeting.** The next membership meeting will be the third Thursday in May, May 15.

**BACK YARD COMPOST WORKSHOP**

**Composting Made Easy**

**Hands-On Teaching by Meredith Sheperd**

**Love & Carrots**

**4:00 pm to 5:30 pm**

**Join CPCA President Susie Taylor at**

**3301 Highland Place NW**

**Bring your friends!**

**RSVP to [staylor@cpcad.org](mailto:staylor@cpcad.org) (appreciated but not required)**

The May meeting will be full of information! First, CPCA's nominating committee will present a slate of candidates to serve as the Board of Directors for next year. Our leadership is elected at the June annual meeting and serves for a one-year term.

Second, DC Water is responsible for our drinking water, wastewater collection and treatment, and fire hydrants. It is in the midst of a ten-year \$3.8 billion capital

improvement program. And recently, some of us were notified by DC Water that the Fort Reno Pumping Station is about to undergo renovations. This will result in an increase in **water pressure** to many houses in our area. In some cases this increase will increase household pressure from 11 pounds per square inch (psi) to a whopping *80 psi*! Those affected should have recently received an information packet from DC Water explaining the need to install a pressure reduction valve. Please join us on May 15<sup>th</sup> for a meeting with DC Water. Despite the deadline specified in the packet, representatives from DC Water have assured us that a May 15<sup>th</sup> information meeting is within the deadline for action on pressure reduction.

**DC WATER**  
**Geyser Prevention Workshop**  
**(or what you need to know about pressure reduction valves)**  
**With:**  
**Emanuel D. Briggs- Manager, Community Outreach**  
**DC Water**  
**Thursday, May 15, 2014**  
**Cleveland Park Library ~ First Floor Meeting Room**  
**6:30 pm to 7:15 pm**  
**Business meeting and additional program (TBA) to follow**

Looking back again, on March 29<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the DC Public Library officially introduced the process by which the **Cleveland Park Library** branch building will be renovated or rebuilt. Friends of the Library hosted the meeting. Jeff Bonvechio, DCPL Director of Capital Projects and Facilities Management, and Jennifer Giltrop, DCPL Director of Public Services, led the presentation. See the CPCA website for a summary of the lively discussion that followed.

Key points made during the presentation and discussion were:

1. The project will either be a renovation or a rebuild, depending on the outcome of several design due-diligence surveys conducted this summer.
2. The building will be a stand-alone library facility.
3. It will be about three years before the new library is completed.
4. There will be a much smaller interim library located as conveniently as possible.
5. DCPL's website will include updates on this project and invite questions and comments.
6. DCPL seems to care what the community thinks and wants. We are going to be vigilant that this remains the case.

Finally, our Nominating Committee is busy identifying **CPCA's leadership team for 2014/2015**. If you have any interest in helping this important Association continue its efforts to educate the community, engage its membership, and strive to enhance Cleveland Park's quality of life, please contact any member of the committee to learn more:

Pam Korbel, Chair [PKorbel261@aol.com](mailto:PKorbel261@aol.com)  
Jeff Davis [sjrhDavis@verizon.net](mailto:sjrhDavis@verizon.net)  
Trish Savage [tSavage2737@comcast.net](mailto:tSavage2737@comcast.net)  
Leila Afzal [leila.afzal@verizon.net](mailto:leila.afzal@verizon.net)

See you at the compost workshop on April 27<sup>th</sup> and/or at the May membership meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Best regards,

*Susie*

Susie Taylor and the CPCA Board