

CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Board Meeting December 9, 2013

In Attendance: Susie Taylor, Clark Madigan, Ruth Caplan, Gina Polidoro, Mark Rosenman, Chris Fioravante, Jeff Davis, Margaret Lenzner.

The meeting opened with discussion of **membership** challenges, especially the dearth of younger members. Gina Polidoro suggested that that number of neighborhood organizations is confusing for many resident. She proposed that CPCA might set up a community web “bulletin board”, possibly using vBulletin.com, that would offer information about CPCA activities and discussion as well as links to other community groups. She mentioned DC UrbanMom (*aka* DCUM) as an example, though noting we should not allow anonymous posters on a CPCA site.

In contrast to our concern for more young members, it was noted that the 2010 Census indicates a substantial increase in Cleveland Park residents aged over 50, so newcomers are not all young.

It was agreed that the Board should revisit the CPCA mission statement and boundaries at a later date.

Ms. Polidoro said she will meet with Haley Kaufman of DC Public Library Foundation, to learn what DCPL is doing to move forward with renovation of the **CP Library**. Her goal is to ensure that CPCA has a seat at the table when plans are being made. Susie Taylor pointed out that it is difficult to predict DC’s goals, but that the original CP streetscape project should have proved that CPCA and community input are reliable and useful.

Chris Fioravante said there were 284 unique visitors to the **CPCA website** in November. The top five searches were for joining and renewing membership, farmer’s markets and CSA’s, boundaries, Connecticut Ave. streetscape, and resolutions.

It was agreed to ask Trish Savage to update **the farm market/CSA** page. Interest in information on the website doesn’t necessarily indicate widespread interest in a farm market in CP, but Susie Taylor pointed out that such interest was strong before and appeals to Smart Growth advocates. It was noted that the 2012 farm market proposal failed apparently because of objections raised by Brookville grocery store and ANC3C, and that satisfying Brookville’s concerns is key for a future proposal to succeed.

In John Korbel’s absence, the **Finance Report** was presented showing actual year-to-date vs. FY 2014 Budget. It was noted that recent membership dues is about \$1500 less than the \$5000 projected for the fiscal year. Mr. Korbel will be asked why the figures for dues and contributions are irregular -- \$3,582 for dues and \$1,123 in contributions.

Susie Taylor reported that the **fire station renovation** is nearing completion and it should be reopened by the end of January.

Susie Taylor advised that DDOT's transportation study report was released this week, including cost estimates for various options, various conclusions on different components, and much redundancy *c.f.* prior work. As for the service lane, the report said that nothing would be done at this time.

It was suggested that the cost of the Rhodeside & Harwell study should be publicized.

Ruth Caplan raised again the idea of CP being a test community for **composting solid waste**. She mentioned that homeowners and community garden members are reluctant to compost vegetable waste for fear of attracting rats. Ms. Caplan said she would approach Compost Cab about the possibility of organizing a neighborhood deposit and pick up location.

Susie Taylor described plans for the joint CPHS/CPCA **Holiday Party** on Dec. 15 at the Cleveland Park Club. CPHS provides cookies and cocoa, CPCA provides other food, decorations and Santa (John Chelen), and the CP Club is providing "special fun for the kids". Guests are encouraged to bring new or gently-used articles of winter clothing that Ms. Taylor will take to Friendship Place.

Ideas for future **membership meetings** were discussed: a forum for mayoral candidates in March before the April primaries; Mark Rosenman suggested a "taste of Cleveland Park" featuring a few local restaurant chefs for a Winter (Jan/Feb) meeting; and a presentation on composting for April.

Susie Taylor reported on her testimony to the Zoning Commission re: zoning change regulations proposed for overlays and parking. She said the term "Neighborhood Commercial Overlay Districts" will be eliminated and become "Neighborhood Mixed-use Zones". She said there was more interest in her parking testimony, which elicited some questions. Copies of the testimony are posted on the CPCA website.

Mark Rosenman reported on a meeting on November 25 at MLK Library with a number of other citizens/civic associations and ANC commissioners from six wards re: disaffection with ABRA policy. He sent a letter on behalf of CPCA to ABRA requesting that community organizations be notified in advance of local business applications for substantial changes, and be invited to provide input re: all 18 criteria. He received a reply from ABRA today that basically "blew us off". He will follow up with a letter asking for clarification. He said that the groups will continue to work together and may seek legislation challenging details of the December 2012 Omnibus Law.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary