

## **Candidates for 2020 Election to Board of Directors Cleveland Park Citizen's Association**

### **Isaac Bowers (new)**

My wife and I moved to Cleveland Park in 2011 because we loved its proximity to Metro and downtown; walkable, tree-lined streets; unique local businesses; and easy access to Rock Creek Park. Our appreciation has deepened as we have learned about the area's character and history and met our diverse and accomplished neighbors. We have chosen to raise our family here (Eliot is now almost 4 and Maxine is almost 2). I would like to serve on the Board because I believe that as citizens we can have the most impact closest to home. I will work cooperatively to preserve and improve our community. I hope my various perspectives – as a father, former environmental and land use attorney, and current Executive Vice President of the family real estate business – will be useful.

### **Elizabeth Ferenczi (renew)**

I have lived on lower Macomb Street for the past seven years and served for four on the CPCA Board. Originally from New York City, our family moved permanently to Washington in 2007. We did a great deal of research before choosing to live in Cleveland Park, prioritizing a strong, walkable community where we would know our neighbors. My special interests are schools and education, and I look forward to the upcoming renovation of John Eaton. I have a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Teaching from Columbia Teachers College. I worked for over 15 years as an elementary school teacher and as an admissions director. I currently direct the sponsorship of and scholarship programs for The Hope for Children Fund which serves vulnerable children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In Washington I volunteer as a Reading Boosters tutor at Eaton and as an adult ESL teacher at The Washington English Center. On the CPCA board, I have learned a great deal about citywide and local issues. I support sensible growth in our neighborhood and believe I am well positioned to act as a bridge between those who would preserve Cleveland Park as it is and those who envision a more lively and densely-populated neighborhood that is attractive to singles, young families and sustainable businesses.

### **Tom Miller (renew)**

After serving abroad for most of my career as a foreign service officer with the Department of State, I finally moved into our house in Cleveland Park in 2016. My wife, Eleni, and I love the historic nature of the neighborhood, the greenery, the proximity to amenities within walking distance, the easy bus or metro ride to most events, and most importantly our great neighbors. This has been a draw for my three sons and my four

young grandchildren who take every opportunity to visit. I spent most of my career at State analyzing foreign cultures and institutions and then designing educational and exchange programs as well as messaging campaigns to promote mutual understanding and support of U.S. policy. I retired from the State Department two years ago and now have time to teach at George Washington University and to serve on two boards devoted to public diplomacy. I also volunteer to assist at the Village. After receiving an M.A. in English as a Second Language from the University of Minnesota, I became a Fulbright Professor at the University of Karachi in Pakistan and for years advised ministries of education and universities abroad on effective educational policies. I welcome the chance to serve on CPCA's board and will make every effort to help Cleveland Park adapt to the challenges and opportunities the city has to offer while preserving the features that make the neighborhood so unique.

#### **D. Todd Pearson (renew)**

My wife and I have lived in our neighborhood for the last eight years. We were attracted to Cleveland Park because of its historical character, walkability, proximity to transit, retail amenities, and strong community. We initially moved into the Kennedy Warren and purchased a home on Cathedral Avenue two years later. We have four children: two will attend Eaton in the Fall, where my wife serves as the Home and School Association co-treasurer, and two attend Washington Latin. I am interested in joining the CPCA board to help preserve the qualities that attracted my wife and me to Cleveland Park and to ensure our community and commercial corridor remain vibrant. I have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Information Systems from Virginia Tech and a MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. I am Senior Vice President of Acquisitions and Development with the B.F. Saul Company. Some of my recent projects include the renovations at the Kennedy Warren, Park Van Ness, and a mixed-use development in Rockville, MD. While I know adding a "developer" to the CPCA board may be concerning for some, I believe I can bring a unique perspective. My work has been focused on building consensus within communities, mixed-use smart growth development, and creating vibrant retail environments. I am extremely knowledgeable of the local residential and commercial real estate market and efforts to foster successful neighborhood communities. I believe we can do some things to support our commercial corridor but I think our biggest strength is our historical charm and authenticity.

#### **Michael C. Rifer (renew)**

My wife, Tara, and I moved to Cleveland Park in 2014 after many years abroad. In my professional life, I work in international development, with USAID. We bought a beautiful project on Rodman Street and have spent the past six years making this house and this community into our home. These days, I experience Cleveland Park principally from behind stroller, while chasing our daughter Maya (3) around on her scooter or taking our daughter Aurora (1) out for a walk. My abiding interest is in making Cleveland Park a

warm, welcoming, and accommodating community for young families, and I have a keen interest in not only our schools and our parks, but also our sidewalks and crosswalks. I want families like mine to envision Cleveland Park as their long-term home, and the kind of community they want to raise their kids in. From my position on the Board, I have strived to help CPCA become more attuned to the needs and priorities of young families, and a better representative for this growing segment of our neighborhood. But I also believe that CPCA can play a key role in helping Cleveland Park look forward as much as it looks back—particularly in a post-COVID world. I believe, for example, that we can renew our commercial corridor in a way that repositions Cleveland Park as a modern, walkable, welcoming, vibrant urban oasis, while preserving our unique historic character.

### **Susan Shinkman (new)**

In 2012 I moved from Philadelphia to Washington, DC to accept the position of Director of Civil Enforcement at the Environmental Protection Agency. Although I had lived in DC before, Glover Park, Capitol Hill, Dupont Circle, I decided to try an apartment on Connecticut Avenue, in the Kennedy-Warren building. While I had expected the neighborhood to be interesting, I was pleasantly surprised at how much it had to offer. The diversity and convenience of commercial establishments; the variety of residences, single family homes and apartments; and abundant greenery for walks, made me realize that I wanted to stay here. I would like to work with CPCA to ensure that these advantages remain and grow. I have been particularly attracted to the Cleveland Park Library, which is already providing substantial services to the community, but seems to have potential for even more. I began volunteering at the library when I moved here and since I retired from EPA in 2017, I have been volunteering as a docent at the Library of Congress. As a lawyer, I represented the city of Philadelphia for many years, and understand the political and financial challenges facing neighborhoods trying to represent their interests within the city structure. At EPA and at Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection I worked on a wide variety of environmental issues. I hope that my experience, and genuine interest in using my time in retirement to help keep Cleveland Park vibrant, would be helpful to the CPCA Board.

### **Sauleh Siddiqui (renew)**

I have lived in the Washington area since 2007. My wife and I bought a condo at Ordway and Connecticut in 2013 after living on Porter Street in 2011. We did a great deal of research before choosing to live in Cleveland Park, prioritizing public transit, walkability, restaurants, and proximity to outdoor activities. I am a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and was trained as an applied mathematician at UMD, College Park. My area of research is understanding how we can incorporate mathematical optimization into multidisciplinary decision-making in areas such as energy, healthcare, public health, and urban issues. My interests relevant to Cleveland

Park include transportation, housing, and making our community sustainable. I have volunteered in Baltimore elementary schools for the past 5 years, and look forward to continuing that activity in DC as well. I hope I can provide a perspective of someone who believes Cleveland Park can continue its tradition for being a community welcome to all, and a place that thrives for community engagement that can be a model for others.

**Jennifer Ward (renew)**

My husband Bob and I moved to Macomb St in Cleveland Park in 2004. Our two kids, Conor (12) and Bridget (8) were born here, and attend school in the neighborhood at Maret. We love that our neighborhood is urban and walkable. Our daily strolls to Connecticut Avenue make me grateful for the quality services and retail that our businesses provide to our community. Watching my kids run through the paths of Tregaron and Rock Creek Park inspires gratitude for the natural beauty and green spaces in our neighborhood. My career has been focused on information technology, and I am currently a director of solution engineering at Salesforce.com I have held various volunteer positions at my kids' school and am currently coaching Girls on the Run. I have served on the CPCA board since 2015 and in past years have served as Vice President and Recording Secretary. I believe that through public service in the CPCA I am helping our neighbors connect and our neighborhood thrive.