

Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Park Citizens Association
Cleveland Park Library, Downstairs Meeting Room

Saturday, January 5, 2008

*“AGING IN PLACE”: Is this an idea whose time has
come for Cleveland Park?*

CPCA President convened the meeting of approximately 110 people at 10:15 am, opening with announcements. The next CPCA meeting will take place February 7 on the subject of Pedestrian Safety. Jill Bogard, president of the “Friends of the Library” announced that her group will hold its annual meeting on January 19 at the Library and will feature Chief Librarian, Ginnie Cooper. Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh announced that she will convene a hearing on the quality of utility services in DC on February 9.

Idelson noted that the Aging in Place (AIP) movement probably began in 2001 in Boston’s Beacon Hill, where the community formed a nonprofit organization (Beacon Hill Village) designed to provide an array of services that members said, when surveyed, they would need to remain in their homes (e.g., home repair and adaptation, transportation, home health, social services) as they age. Idelson introduced the presidents of two DC AIP “villages,” Geoff Lewis of Capitol Hill Village (capitolhillvillage.org) and Tibby Ford of Kalorama Village (kaloramavillage.org). Both projects are modeled on the Beacon Hill project but structured to accommodate local needs and realities. Capitol Hill members are mostly private homeowners, while Kalorama’s members are mostly apartment dwellers. Both organizations are volunteer-operated (though Capitol Hill has recently hired one staff person), with funding provided by donations and annual membership dues (in the case of Capitol Hill, \$500 per person and \$750 per household).

Idelson then introduced Mimi Castaldi, DC Director for AARP, and Deborah Peeples, Executive Director of Iona Senior Services. Idelson noted that a recent AARP study shows that almost 40% of Cleveland Park residents are age 50 and over. AARP recently held an area meeting on AIPs

and serves as an information resource for AIPs in DC and elsewhere. Peoples advised that Iona has, for years been providing senior services in the greater Washington area, including volunteer casework training, social work, transportation and more. Iona has been assisting the newly formed Palisades Village and is available to help other groups.

Clarence Brown, Director of the DC Office on Aging, and Councilmember Cheh also spoke. Brown applauded the AIP movement and said he would like to see it expand to cover all neighborhoods. Cheh advised that she had arranged for a start-up grant for Palisades Village and has asked the Mayor to provide the Office on Aging with \$150,000 as seed money for other fledgling villages.

Several audience members questioned whether the AIP concept was limited to higher income seniors. Lewis advised that Capitol Hill has a new means-tested subsidized program. If such programs are expanded, he thought they might help people from becoming homeless. It was agreed that AIP programs are of limited service to some seniors, for example, those who develop Alzheimer's, and that such people may be better served by Iona, or eventually by nursing homes.

A number of audience members reported on voluntary neighborhood services for seniors. These include a "cradle to crutches" program at the Broadmoor (sissiecoy@yahoo.com), an array of activities at the Van Ness North coop, and exercise and lifelong learning classes at UDC (mpgaffney@starpower.net). A volunteer working with a new Dupont AIP, suggested that AARP, the Office on Aging, or Iona develop a central listing of all AIP organizations in DC. Such a website would provide contact data, as well as information on how to organize and operate an AIP village.

The audience agreed that it would be timely to establish an AIP program for Cleveland Park. Idelson called for volunteers and asked interested individuals to sign up before leaving the meeting. Judy Hubbard agreed to contact the individuals who signed the interest sheet and to do preliminary legwork to explore this possibility.

Idelson adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Buchanan, Recording Secretary