

MINUTES
CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2008

George Idelson, President of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association (CPCA) convened the meeting at 10:15am. He introduced Joshua Hart and Carol Phelps, candidates for a vacancy on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3C04. Hart and Phelps gave introductory statements and encouraged residents to vote at the ANC 3C04 meeting on June 16 (7:15pm at the 2nd District Police Station).

Idelson then distributed ballots for the election of CPCA Officers. (The ballots were tallied after the meeting and the following individuals were elected: George Idelson, President; Peter Espenschied, 1st Vice President; Len Oliver, 2nd Vice President; Joan Buchanan, Recording Secretary; Jean van der Tak, Corresponding Secretary, and Barbara Goff, Treasurer. Also elected were: Idelson and Ann Hume Loikow, as Delegates to the Federation of Citizens Associations of DC; and Idelson, Greg New, and Carol Phelps, as Delegates to the DC Federation of Civic Associations.)

Idelson then introduced Paul Strauss, who has been one of DC's two Shadow US Senators for nearly 12 years. Strauss gave an historical overview of shadow appointments, noting that "shadow" is a parliamentary term meaning "in waiting." In the US, many territories had Shadow Senators until they achieved statehood. Although Strauss has no vote and no funding, aside from funds provided by DC (through a voluntary income tax check-off system), he is admitted to the Senate chamber, where he sits in the Vice President's gallery, and he is a super delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. He said he plans to lobby Obama on DC voting rights. Strauss noted that the last voting rights effort failed in 1993, when DC was in financial straits, but he feels more optimistic about the current effort since the city is in a stronger financial situation. He noted that the strategy to designate two new House seats (one in Utah, another in DC) may politically neutralize the issue. Strauss added that Democratic gains in the White House and the Congress would offer new hope for meaningful DC representation in both the House and the Senate. He further noted that currently much of the Senate's work on DC is limited to the appropriations process. DC votes in the Senate would give us a role in appropriations and the power to participate in filibusters.

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Idelson thanked Strauss and reported on several neighborhood issues. Stop and Shop has filed a zoning application on plans for the proposed new Giant project at Newark Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Giant/Stop and Shop would hold a public meeting at 6:30pm on June 11 at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. Idelson also reported that the McLean Bible Church asked the BZA for a continuation of their appeal to use the Uptown Theatre on Sunday mornings. The hearing, he noted, had been moved to July 29.

Participants thanked Idelson for his efforts on behalf of CPCA.

Following adjournment at 12:30pm, the guest speaker and ten or so attendees had an end-of-year lunch at the nearby Nam Viet restaurant.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Buchanan, CPCA Recording Secretary