

CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
Membership Meeting
February 21, 2013

CPCA Business Meeting

CPCA President Susie Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

After a motion duly made and seconded, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2013, membership meeting.

Susie Taylor offered updates on several issues of concern to Cleveland Park residents:

Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project. Work on the traffic lights and crossing at the intersection of Connecticut and Ordway is almost complete, but the timing countdown needs to be corrected. Installation of the midblock crosswalk, formerly scheduled to begin in January, now has a DDOT target date of June 1. Other pending items include the street light arms, street furniture and, importantly, the strategic plan for which money has been set aside.

Cleveland Park Village. There have been a number of "meet and greet" events, including one at City Fitness at which 49 people showed up. Possible office space locations are being reviewed, and the goals for volunteers and fundraising have almost been achieved. Some 50-75 applications were received for the position of Executive Director, which had been narrowed down to four excellent finalists; a final selection was expected within a week, and services are expected to begin in April.

Rewrite of Zoning Regulations. The Georgetown Citizens Association had met with the Office of Planning and succeeded in getting some provisions customized to the specific circumstances of Georgetown. CPCA is working with CPHS to see if a similar customized approach should be developed for Cleveland Park, especially with respect to parking, the overlay, accessory dwelling units, and non-residential uses. Progress would be reported back to the membership.

Parking Regulations. At the January membership meeting, DDOT had promised to keep CPCA informed of progress, especially with respect to Visitors Parking Permits and Residential Parking Permits. There had been no further word to date, but the Northwest Current had an article about the establishment of a panel to review parking regulations. CPCA would be following up.

Announcements: Susie Taylor, Peter Espenschied, and Ann Loikow reminded participants of three upcoming events -- (1) Feb. 12 - DC Federation of Citizens Association open meeting with Dr. Gridlock, (2) Feb. 28 - City Council annual performance oversight hearing on Office of the People's Counsel, (3) Feb. 28 - Ward

3 Democrats forum of At-Large candidates for the City Council, and (4) Mar. 6 - City Council annual performance oversight hearing on Office of Planning.

Taylor also noted that several members of the CPCA Board of Directors would be cycling off the Board at the annual meeting in June, and encouraged members to run or to suggest others who might do so.

New Business. Members commented on several issues -- the sandbags around the Metro ventilation grate on the east side of Connecticut Ave., which presents both an aesthetic and a safety problem; the clogged drain on the west side of Connecticut Ave., which creates either a mud puddle or a skating rink; and traffic/pedestrian challenges at the intersection of Connecticut and Porter.

The business meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm. After a short break, the program began.

CPCA Program: Taxation Without Representation -- Is Statehood the Answer?
Anthony Williams, Former Mayor of the District of Columbia

After President Taylor's introductions, Mayor Williams spoke spontaneously and interestingly about many aspects of his career and the history of DC's relationship with the U.S. Congress. He compared the District to other major capitals around the world, and considered options for enhancing the franchise and self-determination.

Mayor Williams' talk was followed by a lively discussion, which touched on the economic sustainability of the District, payment for the shadow representatives, reducing the federal tax paid by DC residents, the political feasibility of a Constitutional amendment, the demographic implications of the various alternatives, and the need for a massive lobbying effort by the District. Mayor Williams stressed the need for a professional study, properly resourced, that would take a rational and dispassionate look at the various options.

It would be virtually impossible to capture Mayor Williams' fascinating talk and the stimulating exchange that followed. Anyone who is interested in learning more should listen to the podcast, which is available at <http://tinyurl.com/azeetkz> and also on the CPCA web site at <http://tinyurl.com/ajercav>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.