

Cleveland Park Citizens Association
Membership Meeting
January 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order in the Cleveland Park Library at 6:30 pm by Gina Polidoro, President.

CPCA Board member Mark Rosenman reported on CPCA's response to the application of Coppi's Organic Restaurant to the DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) for an Entertainment Endorsement and to extend its operating hours to 2:00 AM daily. Mark said that he and Susie Taylor are attempting to secure a voluntary agreement with Coppi's owner to reduce the requested hours of alcoholic sales and consumption and limit entertainment hours and sound amplification. He pointed out that Coppi's Entertainment Endorsement would transfer to a subsequent tenant who might use it for more. Saying, "There's a lot to like about Coppi's", Mark said that CPCA's goal is to allow Coppi's to thrive without encouraging CP to become an "entertainment district".

In accordance with CPCA By-laws, Mark said that a special meeting will be called to vote on a Resolution to approve the efforts by Susie Taylor and Mark Rosenman to achieve a voluntary agreement with Coppi's to bring to CPCA's board for approval or, failing that, to authorize CPCA's board to formally protest Coppi's application at the ABRA hearing set for February 17.

Ann Hamilton read aloud part of CPCA's Resolution of great appreciation to Judy Hubbard, who retired after years as Councilmember Cheh's liaison with Cleveland Park.

Gina Polidoro introduced Tomas Dinges who encouraged us to attend the Talking Transition DC Town Meeting at the Convention Center on January 17, led by the National Institute for Civic Discourse and sponsored by DC Vote and others. For more information, go to <http://www.talkingtransitiondc.com>.

Gina Polidoro introduced Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, who was accompanied by staffer Kelly Whittier. Cheh described city accomplishments, initiatives and needs, and her part in them:

- she introduced legislation for instant run-offs in council elections, pointing out that the upcoming election in Ward 8 with 22 candidates could be won by a candidate with only a very small vote margin;
- many DC firehouses have been renovated and reopened;
- budget allocation for local street paving has been increased substantially;
- Klingle trail progress has been frustrating, mainly due to delay for environmental impact analyses – bids are due today for \$3M project to take 18 months to complete;
- many schools have been modernized - Murch is next with about \$20-30M still needed;
- Connecticut Avenue CP streetscape project has \$750,000 left for "furniture", tree boxes and signs; anticipate 2017 funding for solution to eastside drainage problem;

- Cheh led effort to restore Rose School historic building (which was to be sold) for use as eight classrooms connected to Deal MS;
- Cheh to appoint two reps to committee to choose architect for CP Library;
- Cheh sponsored effort to prevent violence at Zoo's annual event.

Cheh said she has a full plate of responsibilities as chair of three committees: Transportation & Environment (DC WASA, DPW, DDOT, DMV), Parks & Recreation, and General Services. She warned that recent budget problems will force cuts. She described two new ideas: a death with dignity law to allow assisted suicide, and an idea for District Beautiful to improve all the DC public space parks, etc.

Questions from the audience elicited these responses:

- CP Library renovation funding, thought to be too low, is now higher at \$18.5M;
- John Eaton ES needs improvements, but Cheh pointed out that it is not pressed for space and has many of out-of-boundary students, unlike Murch, Key, Janney and others that are bursting with only in-boundary enrollment;
- enforcement of sidewalk snow shoveling requirement law doesn't go into effect until 2016 but seems to be having positive effect now;
- planning for \$10M improvements to Hearst recreation property continues, might include outdoor swimming pool, both upper and lower soccer fields will be retained;
- plans for implementation of solid waste law to require DC composting by 2017 are still vague, though all DCPS schools are required to compost vegetable waste;
- compost material that used to go to Delaware now goes to PG Co. site;
- DC is required to identify vacant city land for food production via gardening;
- DPW is making plan to get rid of unsightly, impeding newspaper vending boxes;
- DC zoning rewrite is "in flux", and Council has nothing to do with zoning;
- questions about establishing community broadband like DC Net should be addressed to Office of Technology;
- excess salt left on streets is result of overreaction to recent icy road conditions after inadequate preparation for prior snow;
- eliminating the reversible rush hour traffic lane on Connecticut Ave. through CP to improve safety and use of CP commercial area would slow commuter traffic.

Cheh spoke at some length about public schools, saying that reform has not been as successful as hoped for. She recommended that DCPS look at successful charter schools and replicate what works there, do less testing and more teaching, provide pre-K for all DC children, and reach out to homes to proactively encourage early language acquisition among youngest children. She said that overall testing results have improved partly because more high performing students have enrolled in DC public schools.

Ms. Cheh was applauded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary