

Cleveland Park Citizens Association
Membership Meeting
March 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order in the Cleveland Park Library at 6:45 pm by Gina Polidoro, President. About 25 people were in attendance.

Gina introduced Mike Matthews, Mayor Bowser's new Ward 3 liaison. He encouraged citizens to contact him with their concerns at 202 341-7706 or by email to Michael.matthews@dc.gov.

Gina reported that Gilbane & Perkins Eastman, a design-build team known for incorporating technology in design, has been selected for the Cleveland Park library renovation. (For more information, go to <http://dclibrary.org/node/47830>.)

Mark Rosenman reported that progress is being made towards an agreement with Coppi's Organic Restaurant with the assistance of a mediator from the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.

Gina announced that Pamela Korbel will head the nominating committee to select candidates for next year's CPCA officers. She welcomes suggestions. The slate will be announced prior to the vote at the annual meeting in June.

Susie Taylor reported that the Connecticut Avenue Coalition Committee (CCC), consisting of representatives of ANC3C, Cleveland Park Business Association, Cleveland Park Historical Society and others, holds public meetings every month. CCC's mission is to support and invigorate Connecticut Avenue commerce.

Susie said that the Uptown Tap House has closed since new owners of the property, including the Macklin apartments and retail, plan to redevelop. She said that potential tenants for the Dino's space say the rent is too high at \$60 p/S.F.

Susie reported that while many of the planned improvements to the avenue's infrastructure have been accomplished, the water drainage problem by the Metro station on the east side of Connecticut has yet to be addressed. Money is available but the several agencies and landlords have not agreed on a solution. Plans to rationalize the Newark/Connecticut intersection are on hold pending the library renovation. She said that Councilmember Cheh has been very helpful.

Ruth Caplan introduced the panel to discuss **how our community can respond to climate change**: Tommy Wells, director of DC's Dept of Environment and former Ward 6 Councilmember and recent mayoral candidate; Gwen Wright, CPHS board member and Montgomery Co. MD Planning Director; Chris Weiss, Executive Director of the DC Environmental Network; and John Macgregor, Chair of DC Climate Action Project.

Ms. Wright asserted that "Cleveland Park is a green neighborhood", with accessibility, transit, preserved green space, and preservation and retrofitting of existing buildings. She recommended energy audits, pointing out that the top energy wasters are non-insulated walls, poor seals, ducts and poor windows. She said that Montgomery Co.

allows solar panels on street-facing roofs. She praised new stormwater management techniques for public areas and private lots, car-sharing and increased availability of car charging stations. She encouraged urban farming and farm-to-table restaurants, and tree planting.

Mr. Weiss lauded Mary Cheh's efforts, especially for the ban on Styrofoam containers that will go into effect next year. He said the City Council approved Renewable Portfolio standards in 2005 requiring that 11% of electricity sold in DC comes from renewable sources by 2022; the new goal is 40% by 2025. Another goal of the Environmental Network is to prevent the merger of Pepco with Exelon, which three councilmembers and the Office of People's Council oppose. He said that Exelon has a track record against renewables, with 80% of its energy from 23 nuclear reactors. He said that DC ratepayers are likely to have to pay for decommissioning old reactors, and that poor and middle income ratepayers will be most impacted by the merger. He urged citizens to learn more about this via www.powerdc.org, and to object to the merger through letters to the Mayor, Councilmembers and the DC Public Service Commission.

Tommy Wells said that DC needs to respond to climate change by planning for intense storms and rain. Tidal surges will produce flooding especially in SW, downtown and Georgetown. He advocated for green roofs, more trees, and amending building codes to accommodate increased flood plains. He said DC's aggressive stormwater management including 13 miles of tunnels to prevent sewer overflows into the rivers. To minimize greenhouse gas from energy consumption, he said his goal is 50% renewable energy sources by 2032 and 80% by 2050. He said DC is a leader in energy star building, and highlighted the \$1.2 billion project to bury power lines to minimize storm impacts.

John Macgregor advised residents to listen to FEMA and have emergency supplies at hand. Micro-level mitigation involves saving energy by lowering thermostats, turning off electronics when not in use, limiting water usage, reducing carbon footprint by minimizing meat in diet, and avoiding use of cars. At a community level, he encouraged citizens resist the Exelon/Pepco merger because Exelon is primarily an owner of power plants, from the mid-Atlantic to Chicago, and makes money by selling power. Exelon always opposes renewable and conserving measures, and its goals are in conflict with the goal of minimizing energy consumption.

In answer to questions, Mr. Wells said the new library could be designed to be a "net zero building." Even if Congress fails to act, Wells said that cities are the leaders on climate change. Macgregor said that even though the Congress is ineffective, the Federal government is doing a lot to reduce energy use. Wells acknowledged that DC government contracting is "horribly broken", that public projects are undermined by the procurement process. To counter that, he said that his department gives money directly to DDOT to ensure sound contracting. He encouraged us to use the library renovation to reach as far as possible to aggregate infrastructure improvements beyond the new building. WGES was recommended for sourcing 100% of energy from windpower.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary