

CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Membership Meeting

November 15, 2012

Decisions Taken: The membership approved the Resolution on the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2012 as proposed.

The meeting took place at the Cleveland Park Library Community Room, with twenty-two people in attendance, including a representative of Councilmember Mary Cheh's office.

CPCA President Susie Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. She explained that ANC Commissioner and zoning rewrite task force member Nancy MacWood would begin the session with a presentation on zoning regulations, to be followed by the CPCA business meeting.

ZONING REWRITE: Where Does It Stand and What You Need to Know.

Susie began the discussion with some background, noting that CPCA had sponsored a panel on zoning issues in 2011. She placed the "moving target" that is the ongoing rewrite of D.C. zoning regulations in the context of the Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the D.C. government in 2006, that sets out a vision for land use and development within the District for twenty years. The zoning rewrite process was undertaken, beginning in 2007, so that zoning regulations "are not inconsistent" with that plan. The new regulations are expected to be voted on in 2013. She called attention to a Zoning Regulations Review Fact Sheet provided to the meeting by the Office of Planning, but regretted that no one from that office had agreed to attend.

Nancy MacWood took the floor at 6:47. She stressed that zoning "has everything to do with your quality of life" and described four areas of change that she believes are particularly relevant to Cleveland Park.

1. Reductions in the number of off-street parking spaces required for multi-unit dwellings, private schools, and buildings in Transit Zones.
2. Easing of restrictions on "accessory dwelling units" and raising of size and height maximums for garages and accessory dwelling units.
3. Permission of more categories of "nonresidential uses" in the home, such as cleaners and shops.
4. Cleveland Park overlay: the Office of Planning would add new uses to the "preferred businesses" on the ground floor in the Cleveland Park commercial corridor. The Office of Planning has consistently said that it won't change the overlay, but that it will be merged with other zoning regulations.

There followed a lively question and discussion period, which focused on defining areas of responsibility within the city government, the importance of neighborhood involvement and citizen feedback, inconsistencies between new zoning proposals and the Comprehensive Plan, and the necessity of tailoring the new regulations to preserve neighborhood character. President Taylor said that CPCA will sponsor a public meeting on the Cleveland Park overlay in early 2013 and that the CPCA Board will discuss recommendations for a community response to the new zoning proposals.

CPCA BUSINESS MEETING began at 8:20.

Resolution on the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2012

President Taylor gave background on the Act and summarized the changes proposed by the CPCA resolution. She pointed out that Councilmember Graham put together the task force to amend the Act without any representation from Ward 3. Last June, citizens were given only twenty-four hours to prepare comments on the proposed amendments. Their criticisms focused on two areas: the ANCs' power to nullify voluntary agreements between individual establishments and citizens' associations and the small size of the area from which protests can be registered when ABC licenses are renewed. Yet when the Act was released from the committee it contained no changes.

Taylor stressed that there is still time to register comments before the bill comes before the city council on December 4. The CPCA resolution asks for two new elements:

- (1) allowances for community input when licenses are transferred
- (2) prohibition of employees drinking on the job.

At 8:32 the resolution was moved, seconded, and approved. The resolution is posted at <http://www.cpcadc.org/meetings/resolutions/>

Updates on CPCA Activities

Connecticut Avenue DDot Streetscape improvement project:

The CPCA is working hard to monitor progress on Connecticut Avenue. The current focus is on restoring timed crossing signals and removing the necessity to push a button to actuate the pedestrian crossing signal.

CPCA web site:

It's up and running, and people are encouraged to join CPCA through the web site.

Cleveland Park Village:

The organization is now half way to its fund-raising goal and hopes to launch services in late winter/early spring 2013.

Giant Food:

The new shopping center has officially broken ground.

Cleveland Park Day:

The festivities broke even financially, as intended, and President Taylor thanked all involved for the day's tremendous success.

Holiday Party:

A party cosponsored with the Cleveland Park Club and the Cleveland Park Historical Society is planned for December 16th.

Announcements

President Taylor provided information about the Cleveland Park Village Community Meeting on November 27, the DDot Parking Summit on December 4, and the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library Book Sale on December 1.

New Business

There was brief discussion of the number of eating and drinking establishments on Connecticut Avenue (said to be twenty-seven), and the question was raised of how existing restaurants feel about that number. President Taylor said that feelings were mixed, and that the CPCA would continue to work with the Connecticut Avenue Coalition on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel S. Cox