

**Cleveland Park Citizens Association
Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

At the outset, Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3) addressed the meeting saying, "It's my understanding that the DDOT recommendation will not be to close the service lane." CPCA President Susie Taylor added, "There's not enough information to make a decision."

Minutes of the October 17 meeting were accepted.

Membership

Ann Hamilton reported a "huge rash" of membership renewals, some perhaps due to the service lane controversy.

Outreach to apartment buildings is limited; Helen Chamberlin said she would try to get Quebec House to put CPCA membership information in its newsletter.

Cleveland Park Village

Susie Taylor reported that the Village has more than 80 members, and more than 120 trained volunteers. Listserve chatter has highlighted the multi-generational nature of CP's residential population; the Village is a wonderful opportunity for mixed ages to work together.

Engine Company 28

DC Fire & Emergency Management Services hopes to complete renovation of the fire station so the fire and emergency workers can return by the end of December.

Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Project

CPCA continues to work with DDOT to implement the remainder of the \$1.5m streetscape improvements.

Zoning Re-write

The Zoning Commission is considering the new zoning regulations proposed by the Office of Planning (OP) after several years of effort. CPCA will testify at ZC hearings re: Overlays and Parking on November 13th and 19th.

OP had promised there would be no changes to overlays. The recent draft, however, contains numerous changes e.g. "Neighborhood Commercial Overlays" are now called "Neighborhood Mixed-use Zones". Susie Taylor pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan only contains the term "Neighborhood Commercial Overlays". If the term is changed in the zoning regulations, the connection to the Comprehensive Plan, the "touchstone" for zoning, is lost. The Overlay is the enforcement mechanism for the CP Historic District. The Historic District has "no teeth" without the overlay. CPCA is collaborating with CPHS to respond to the proposed changes.

CPCA will also testify on new parking regulations in the zoning proposal. Susie Taylor described her preference for multi-modal parking solutions tailored to specific neighborhoods, e.g., in CP, the need to take into consideration the abundance of schools

and the steep hill west and east of Connecticut Avenue's commercial strip that discourages walking for many residents.

ABRA - Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Administration

Mark Rosenman reported on his outreach to other citizens associations re: CPCA's demand that ABRA notify the associations when a "substantial change" in a license is to be considered. He noted that the DC Code enumerates 18 conditions designated as "substantial change", and that ABRA has recently granted Entertainment Endorsements without notifying citizens groups of the applications. CPCA wants to support local businesses, but ABRA licenses should reflect agreements between the businesses and their residential communities. He said that CPCA's goal is to ensure that such decisions are not made without community input in the future – "a license for a full 'entertainment endorsement' is way broader than a particular establishment might want to provide."

Website

Ms. Taylor reported that there were 301 "hits" to the CPCA website from unique visitors in September; the most visited pages were "Farmers Markets and CSA's", "CPCA Boundaries", and "Cathedral Commons". In October, there were 354 unique visitors.

Announcements

Ms. Taylor announced that CPCA, CPHS and the Cleveland Park Club will host a holiday party, featuring Santa, on Sunday, December 15, from 3:30 to 5:30 at the CP Club.

Resolutions

1. The CPCA **Work Plan** for FY 2013-14 (October 1 – Sept 30) as presented to the membership on October 17 was approved by voice vote.
2. CPCA's FY 2014 **Budget** as submitted by Treasurer John Korbel on October 17 was approved by voice vote.
3. There was considerable discussion of the proposed resolution regarding the **2013 DDOT Transportation Study**, focusing especially on possible changes to or elimination of the service lane on the east side of Connecticut Avenue between Macomb and Ordway Streets.

Gabe Fineman asked why we believe DDOT has expertise beyond transportation, asserting that DDOT's goals are only for pedestrian safety and to enable traffic flow. Ms. Taylor agreed, saying that DDOT's handling of this issue indicates they lack the necessary expertise. Embry Howell suggested that the consensus of neighborhood concern seems to be to avoid damage to local businesses, and she urged a rigorous study of economic impact. It was suggested that traffic speed on the service lane could be moderated by humps to alleviate safety concerns, and designated handicapped parking spaces could improve the service lane for patrons with special needs.

Ms. Taylor pointed out that the DDOT Study provided only four options for the service lane, and did not include any proactive initiatives such as performance parking and RPP.

Evelyn Idelson asked if the proposed resolution was all that CPCA could do address parking issues. She pointed out that, in April 2010, \$250,000 was allocated for a study of how best to improve the Connecticut Ave streetscape, and that now DDOT has proposed only possible elimination or reconfiguration of the east side service lane.

Ms. Taylor said she “was floored and pleased” by Mary Cheh’s appearance and announcement. She added that the proposed CPCA resolution was crafted as a road map to guide future consideration.

Jeremy Spector, saying he was “agnostic” about the service lane, said DDOT should produce as much information as possible about both sides of the issue including analysis of any positive impacts of widening the east side sidewalk. Susan Lihn, a business owner, said the service lane question is “all about parking.”

ANC3C Commissioner Nancy MacWood remarked that the proposed Resolution included provisions that are not within DDOT’s jurisdiction, adding that “this process has revealed a much more complicated process than DDOT is up to.”

Amendments to the proposed Resolution were made, discussed, and voted on. The Resolution that was approved by the membership by voice vote (and e-mailed subsequently to Ms. Kelly Peterson at DDOT) will be posted on the CPCA website.

New Business

Mr. Fineman asked about the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Porter Street, and asked why NB drivers on the avenue are prohibited from turning left onto Porter. He pointed out that drivers who need to go west from Connecticut Ave. turn left at Ordway and often use 30th Street to access Porter Street WB. He suggested that safety along Connecticut Ave. in CP could be improved by allowing drivers to turn left onto Porter St. Ms. Taylor said that change had been proposed by DDOT initially but has since mysteriously disappeared.

Ms. MacWood said that the Zoning Commission’s meetings to hear public testimony re: zoning re-write, ended on November 19, and that the ZC will meet on December 9 to discuss how to move forward. She added that there is no relief to citizens’ anxiety.

Ms. MacWood also said that proposed changes to the height limits for DC structures should matter to CP and communities outside downtown DC. She said that the position of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is to maintain the building height limit (130’), but the DC Office of Planning and the Mayor want to raise the downtown height limit to 200’ and remove any limit outside the “old city”. Ms. MacWood said that residents who want to object should contact Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary