

## CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPT 19, 2013

Cleveland Park Citizens Association's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Helen Chamberlin officiated the membership meeting in the absence of President, Susie Taylor. The meeting was podcast and will be posted to the CPCA website.

Chamberlin introduced the new members of the 2013/14 Board of Directors, which included herself, Gina Polidoro and Margaret Lenzner. She also acknowledged returning board members.

A motion was made and second by John Chelan and members approved the distributed June 20 meeting minutes.

Chamberlin provided an update on the Cleveland Park Village communicating that they are 120 members strong and during the month of August, doubled the number of "discrete member services" – mostly drivers and some social activities.

Engine Co. 28 is estimated to be reopened by year-end 2013. Chamberlin acknowledged that CPCA, the Cleveland Park Village (CPV) and the Cleveland Park Historical Society are interested in hosting a "welcome back – Open House joint-event once the firefighters have settled back into their new house. This is an opportunity to provide CPCA members and other residents with an inside view of the renovated fire house. This event will be separate from any plans by the Mayor or DC FEMS. Last remaining big construction project is digging up the side driveway to install plumbing for the water recovery system and gas lines. The water recovering system will include burying a 500 gallon holding tank in the back lot. The recovered water will be used to clean the fire truck and other apparatus. Also a gas powered generator will be located in the back of the station.

Chamberlin reported on the Giant/Cathedral Commons Construction project in Board Member, Ann Hamilton's absence – The construction management committee met September 9. Utility lines (water and power) are being installed on Idaho Street and then along Wisconsin Avenue. This process hopes to be completed in the next 3 or 4 months before winter season is upon us. The construction continues on the above-ground Giant; and developer Bozutto is signing leases with retailers including Raku restaurant, Starbucks, Sun Trust Bank and Barcelona Wine Bar. Hamilton will continue to monitor the Cathedral Commons project.

Rick Nash expressed concern about the unfortunate tree trimming under utility wires, and suggested this might be an issue for CPCA.

John Korbel reported for the **Finance Committee**:

Revenue was less than the FY 2013 budget projected, but expenses were also lower. The FY 2014 budget will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Discussion about membership – our dues is low, so why don't we have more members? We have only about 400 members; should we solicit members through the Cleveland Park listserv, which has more than 10,000 subscribers?

Helen Chamberlin reported that Sidwell Friends School Exhibit/open house entitled “The Beauty of Learning” which will display early American School Artifacts from the Richard Lodish Collection. Sidwell has invited its immediate neighbors and the open house is scheduled September 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 6 from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Kogod Arts Center.

Our next CPCA membership meeting is scheduled on October 17 and will feature DC Councilmember David Catania, Chair of DC Councils Education Committee. He will focus on public education, which we hope will attract parents of school age children.

Since parking in the evening near the Library is difficult, it was suggested that the meeting location be changed on occasion to a location where parking is easier.

Ruth Caplan, CPCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President reported on the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Project and the possible modifications to the Connecticut Avenue service lane. A Seattle model designed to be shared by drivers and pedestrians was suggested. George Idelson said we were promised a work plan, and most residents who attended the DDOT meeting with planners [on Sept 12 -?] did not understand the four options.

Caplan encouraged CPCA members to be active in understanding the DDOT plans which offer four separate plans based on their study findings. We've heard from a large group of citizens' who want to see the service lane removed and in its place café' seating and wider sidewalk. The CP businesses and many residents are opposed to removing the side street and Caplan urged residents to voice their opinion. Helen Chamberlin suggested that CPCA could look into whether or not they could provide additional information to members at a separate meeting.

George Idelson raised the issue of the Zoning Rewrite and urged citizens to attend and testify at hearings to be held this Fall, Case 806A. The schedule and requirements for submitting testimony are on the Zoning Commission website. Two topics of particular interest to Ward 3, parking and accessory dwelling units, will be the subjects of hearings on Nov 12 (parking) and on Nov 14 (accessory dwelling units). The hearings will be held at the Zoning Commission, 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW. In response to a request, Helen Chamberlin agreed to include a written report on the Zoning Rewrite at the October 17 meeting.

Chamberlin said that Gina Polidoro will be working to see if the CPCA can have a place at the table for the DC planning renovation process of the Cleveland Park library.

The membership heard from a representative of the Drug-Free Youth, Department of Health: Promote. Prevent/ Protect. Who expressed a desire to present their materials to the membership at a later time. Their materials were placed on the registration table.

Ward 3 DC Councilmember **Mary Cheh** was introduced and welcomed. Ms. Cheh said she used to be a Cleveland Park resident and recognizes residents' "deep-rooted concerns" for the neighborhood.

She said that \$5.7M has been allocated for the CP library renovation in FY 2015 and more in FY 2016. DCPL does its own building and involves neighbors especially through library "friends" groups. Cheh confirmed that the fire station should be substantially completed by October and operational before 2014.

She referred to [streetscape improvements] in Woodley Park, between Macomb and Porter, and Tilden to Albemarle, and described "green teams" to clean streets and sidewalks and plant in tree boxes. Oversight depends on who gets the contract, apparently to be determined politically outside of our community. [NB CPBA has been awarded a "Green Team" grant and is actively working on this effort.]

The Giant/Cathedral Commons Project, Cheh said the project was supposed to take 22 months.

There was a request for public recycling bins locally. It was pointed out that the National Mall needs recycling and question of whether DC could influence that process

Cheh said DC Attorney General (AG) should be a non-partisan, elected position. DC residents may be able to vote for DC Attorney General in November 2016. Voters decided to elect AG in 2014, but Cheh said there has been "no hint of interest" by potential candidates. She wants to ensure quality, fears unsuitable candidates, and wants to qualify the Hatch Act to excuse DC's attorney general.

Leila Afzal, former ANC Commissioner, commented that DDOT was great in planning and implementing Connecticut Avenue safety improvements but that a change in DDOT personnel, "the train is going down the track without community input." Cheh said community must be specific about what we want her to do. Afzal said that the Office of Planning and DDOT seem not to be aware of each other in zoning rewrite plan. Cheh acknowledged problems. She said DDOT was supposed to deliver parking plan to the Council last Spring.

After DDOT told Cheh of plans to change RPP and Visitor Parking Permit policies recently, the Council voted to not change those permits. She stated that DDOT is not thinking comprehensively about parking: "There's a notion that parking and zoning are strangers to one another." In response to a question, Cheh said she doesn't know if DDOT will shelve the new plans. Mark Rosenman referred to a "horrendous" community meeting with DDOT last week. He also pointed out that Cathedral Commons will have very serious implications for Cleveland Park and existing business community.

Cheh mentioned the lack of DDOT regulation of newspaper boxes, which present problems of safety and aesthetics. She said that content cannot be censored, but DDOT can and should impose standards and possibly limit the number of boxes through a lottery.

Asked if she would support a letter to Zoning Commission (ZC) regarding community concerns about new zoning regulations, Cheh said that ZC was outside of Council jurisdiction. When asked why the elected Councilmembers have no say in zoning regulations, Cheh said that ZC is determined to be the expert in that area.

Ruthanne Miller spoke in support of ZC expertise, asserting that its independence protects ZC from being corrupted, that its members have total integrity and are not bought by developers. Ann Loikow pointed out that zoning commissioners represent federal as well as local interests.

The meeting was adjourned by 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lenzner  
Recording Secretary