

061209 MINUTES OF CPCA

MINUTES
CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 9, 2006

George Idelson, CPCA President opened the meeting at 10:25am. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Idelson advised that the focus of the meeting, which was co-convened with the Forest Hills Community Association and the Woodley Park Citizens Association, was on the agenda of the new DC Council. Council Chair-Elect Vincent Gray and Ward 3 Councilmember-Elect Mary Cheh presented their views on the issues facing the Council during the next two years.

Gray began his PowerPoint presentation by reviewing the accomplishments of the outgoing Council (Council Period 16). They include: a master facilities school modernization plan; increasing the DC living wage to \$11.75 per hour, rent control; establishing a smoke-free city by January 2, 2007; expanding community access to health care; Medicaid eligibility expansion; Departments of Disability and Youth Rehabilitation Services; passage of the Homeless Reform Standards Act; developing the Department of Local Small Disadvantaged Business Enterprises; establishing a Commission on Poverty, inclusionary zoning and property tax relief initiatives; a youth development plan; development projects, and Council salaries. Gray advised the Comprehensive Plan passed Council first reading on December 5th and is slated for second reading on December 19th, with a March 1 implementation date to allow for additional input from the new Mayor. The Council passed a number of last minute amendments to the Plan, including one that calls for a study group to evaluate the feasibility of a Planning Commission for DC. Gray advised that during the transition to Council Period 17, there will be new-member orientation and a Council retreat to discuss the Period 17 legislative agenda, and he is currently considering issues related to staffing, committee assignments, expanded technology, policy and fiscal analysis, communications, and use of the Wilson Building. Gray anticipates that the new Council will deal with education, workforce development, Medicaid, malpractice liability, records expungement, economic issues related to the West side of the City, housing patterns, homeland security and Congressional issues (e.g., voting rights, continuing budget autonomy, Metro funding).

George Clark, FHCA President, fielded audience questions on an array of issues, including authority of the Planning Commission, open meetings and transparency, emergency medical services, renovating or rebuilding the main library, and board and committee appointments

Cheh advised that she is currently working on logistical issues (hiring staff, looking for local office space slated to open at the end of December) and is awaiting her committee assignments from Council Chair-Elect Gray. She plans to establish a Ward 3 leadership council. Cheh is working with outgoing Councilmember Kathy Patterson to assure a smooth transition on such issues as the Wilson High School pool and the Tenleytown Library, and she has been talking with Mayor-Elect Adrian Fenty about Ward 3 infrastructure issues such as recreation centers and roads. Cheh advised that she is meeting with the Director of Transportation later in the month to ascertain plans for roadwork. Among her major interests on the new Council will be contracting and procurement to enhance fiscal integrity, education, and workforce training.

John Goodman, WPCA President, moderated audience questions, including concerns about bridge construction and its impact on traffic at Connecticut and Devonshire, the Comprehensive Plan, the impact of inclusionary zoning, and how to fix the Department of Consumer Regulatory Affairs.

Idelson adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm and encouraged attendees to come to the next CPCA meeting on December 11, which will feature a progress report on plans for the Newark Street Giant and related development on Wisconsin Avenue.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Buchanan CPCA Recording Secretary