

061007 CPCA MINUTES

PRE-ELECTION FORUM
CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
AND FOREST HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
CLEVELAND PARK LIBRARY

CPCA President George Idelson opened the meeting at 10:15 am. There were 80 people in attendance. Mr. Idelson explained that the forum would be comprised of three panels: candidates for the Board of Education President; candidates for ANC 3C contested races; and the candidates for the Ward 3 Council slot.

The three candidates for School Board President (Robert C. Bobb, former City Administrator; Timothy L. Jenkins, former UDC Interim President; and Laurent Ross, former Director of the DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program) made brief introductory statements and responded to four questions posed by Mr. Idelson: (1) who should run the school system; (2) how would you solve the special education problem; (3) how would you deal with vocational rehabilitation; and (4) what would be your first steps to improve the quality of education in the city. There followed questions from representatives of parents groups at Wilson High School, Deal Junior High, and Eaton and Murch Elementary Schools. These respondents asked the candidates their opinions on charter schools, how to assure coordination between the School Board and the Superintendent, the budgetary implications of the master plan for elementary schools, and the lack of coordination between budget and hiring decisions at the school level. The candidates fielded these questions in the brief time available for discussion.

Peter Espenschied moderated the panel on the ANC 3C races. The candidates were: Dia Black, incumbent (ANC 3C01) v. Avner Shapiro (absent); Deborah Jane Lindeman, incumbent (ANC 3C02) v. Gloria E. Day represented by a stand-in; Bruce Beckner, incumbent (AC 3C05) v. Gregory Hair; and Catherine S. May, incumbent (ANC 3C08) v. Shelley Cohen. Each candidate made introductory statements outlining the concerns of their single member districts (i.e., zoning, parking, traffic and pedestrian safety)

Finally, FHCA president George Clark introduced the two candidates for the Ward 3 Council seat, Democrat Mary M. Cheh, a GWU law professor, and Republican Theresa Conroy, an educator. Following introductory statements, Cheh and Conroy responded to questions submitted by members of the audience. The questions focused mainly on development issues and the proposed Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Idelson adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Buchanan
CPCA Recording Secretary