

CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
Membership/Community Meeting  
November 17, 2016

President Ruth Caplan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church. She reported on several ongoing activities including these:

- **Membership.** CPCA is encouraging members to renew by email and by letters. Currently, 282 individual members have renewed. Since email solicitations are less productive than letter, a second USPS mailing will go out soon.
- **Farmers' Market.** An ad hoc committee, including Board members Susie Taylor and Jennifer Ward plus Jane Treacy representing the CP Business Association, and ANC3C05 Commissioner Emma Hersh, is pursuing possibilities for a weekend street market on Connecticut Avenue.
- **Election reform legislation**, which was discussed by a panel at CPCA's June membership meeting, is moving forward in the City Council. The Judiciary Committee, chaired by Councilmember McDuffie, held a hearing yesterday on the "Citizens' Fair Election Program Amendment Act of 2015" (B21-0509), sponsored by DC Attorney General Karl Racine, for public financing of DC elections.
- **Leaf blower regulations**, a topic discussed in a CPCA community meeting last Spring, are under Council consideration. Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3) called a hearing before the Committee on Transportation and the Environment to consider a bill, with testimony from Chuck Elkins, former director of EPA's Federal Noise Control Program; James Fallows of *The Atlantic* magazine and advocate for quiet communities; and Haskell Small, musician and activist.
- **Ward 3 Transitional Housing family shelter** was discussed at two meetings of the Department of Human Services' community advisory committee on September 20 and October 6. (See notes under Hot Topics at [www.cpcadc.org](http://www.cpcadc.org).) At the next advisory committee meeting on November 30 and at a public meeting scheduled for December 13, architectural plans will be presented for construction of the new facility at the 2<sup>nd</sup> District MPD location on Idaho Avenue. The advisory committee includes Ruth Caplan, Ann Hamilton and Pamela Korbel as representatives of CPCA.

**Library.** Phil Eagleburger described progress on reconstruction of the Cleveland Park Library. In preparation for demolition of the old building, windows have been removed and further disassembly will occur in December. He said the interim library at 4340 Connecticut Avenue NW is considerably smaller, gets a lot of light, and has been well received. The children's programs have not yet been relocated but negotiations are ongoing with All Souls Episcopal Church at Connecticut & Cathedral Avenues.

**Fire Station 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Mark Rosenman announced plans to celebrate the centennial of Cleveland Park's fire station, Engine 28, on Sunday, December 4. Mayor Bowser, Councilmember Cheh and DC FEMS Fire Chief Dean will open the event at noon. Fun for families and food provided by local businesses will follow.

**Other Business.** David Isaacs asked that consideration of the Idaho Avenue shelter be put on the agenda for a CPCA meeting. Another person expressed concern on behalf of cat lovers about Bill 21-386 that would treat feral cats as invasive.

**Mayor Muriel Bowser**, the featured guest for this meeting, took the floor at 7:30 pm. Remarking on DC's continuing prosperity and the need to involve all citizens in that prosperity, she highlighted two years of balanced budgets, capital improvements at public schools to increase capacity, and crime reduction in all categories over the past year. She anticipates hiring a new DCPS superintendent this year and a new police chief early in 2017. With 1000 new residents coming into DC every month, she described affordable housing as a critical issue. She said that the \$100M annually in the budget for preservation and construction of affordable housing is "just a drop in the bucket."

Plans to close DC General's family **shelter** and replace it with smaller (up to 50 unit) facilities in each ward by 2018 are ongoing. Three sites for new shelters have been designed and referred to BZA; designs for three others are in conceptual stage. Citizen lawsuits challenging aspects of the plans in Wards 3 and 5 may delay the 2018 target. She is asking the Council for emergency power to ensure that emergency housing benefits are limited to DC residents during extreme cold.

Noting **traffic** problems caused by infrastructure renovation of Metro and roadways, she pointed out that DDOT's director, Leif Dormsjo, who was in attendance, is on the Metro Board and working with the federal Park Service on the Beach Drive closure in Rock Creek Park. She encouraged citizens to tell him about specific adjustments needed.

Noting that 80% of DC voters, vs. 50% last time, approved the initiative for **DC statehood**, she opined that statehood for DC was likely to meet with many challenges given the November 8 election results. She also pointed out that rollback of the Affordable Care Act under the new administration could mean many DC residents go without **health insurance**. A group has been established in the Mayor's Office to monitor this.

Questions, complaints and comments from the audience about affordable housing, roadways in bad repair, achievement gaps in public schools, the Idaho Avenue family shelter and its impact of John Eaton Elementary School, storefront vacancies on Connecticut Avenue, increased local traffic, and the swimming pool planned for Hearst Recreation Center occupied the rest of the meeting.

Mayor Bowser said that a "test fit" process was being applied to the **shelter** plans where a lot of uses will be on-site. As to who will operate the shelter, Bowser said that a new solicitation will be made after the full scope of operation is determined, noting that currently there is only one provider with the capacity to serve all DC General's needs. Countering one questioner's estimation of 60-70

shelter students at Eaton, Bowser said that most shelter children are younger than school age. As to how 2<sup>nd</sup> D MPD operations will be affected by the shelter, she said the test fit will deal with that.

Regarding how to increase and improve **commercial activity on Connecticut Avenue**, Bowser noted the need for a “commercial champion” from within the neighborhood to make sure DC agencies for planning and economic development coordinate on streetscape.

Harry Martin, speaking for Neighbors for Hearst Park (NFHP), asked the Mayor to “redirect” the plans for a Ward 3 outdoor **swimming pool at Hearst Park**. He pointed out that there was no prior notice to the community when the plans were announced and said the \$6M project would destroy the park. Bowser said the pool was Councilmember Cheh’s priority because there is no outdoor pool now in Ward 3. She agreed to meet with NFHP.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary