

CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting December 6, 2016

In Attendance: Ruth Caplan, Elizabeth Ferenczi, Ann Hamilton, John Korbel, Margaret Lenzner, Karen Lightfoot, Rick Nash, Gina Polidoro, Mark Rosenman, Susie Taylor; Sarah Handwerger, advising.
Absent: Phil Eagleburger, Jennifer Ward.

Ruth Caplan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Minutes of the Nov 1 Board meeting were approved. Ruth proposed Tuesday, Jan 10 for the **next Board meeting**. In light of possible conflicts with other community meetings, it was agreed to confirm this date later by email. [*The next board meeting was held on Monday, January 9.*]

Fire Station. Ruth reported the very successful celebration of the 100th anniversary of Cleveland Park's **Fire Station, Engine 28**, on December 4, congratulating everyone who helped and especially Mark Rosenman and Jennifer Ward for their excellent organization of the event. It was estimated that it drew more than 500 participants including many families with children. An association of retired firefighters reported that this was the best event ever held for FEMS.

Federation of Citizens Associations. Ruth reported on the Federation's annual holiday party that she attended with Susie Taylor and George Idelson. Awards were given and Attorney General Karl Racine spoke about his office.

Treasurer's Report. Rick Nash noted approximately \$685 in dues revenue received since the last report and about \$1100 expended. It was agreed that any surplus of funds contributed for the Fire Station event by several other community organizations will be held in CPCA's budget for future community events.

Membership. A second USPS mailing to encourage renewals will go out in January; so far, there has been one letter sent by email and one by USPS.

Audio system. John Korbel reported on his research to enable CPCA to purchase an audio system. With Jennifer's assistance, he selected a package of components that will cost less than \$1000. The Board authorized John to spend up to \$1000 and Gina Polidoro agreed to store the system at her house.

CPCA brochure. Ruth asked the Board to approve reprinting the CPCA brochure with changes only to the membership fees. Gina reported that she had found a box of brochures, possibly as many as 500. It was agreed that Ruth will email a PDF of the brochure to Board members so they can review it and make suggestions for improvements before a decision is made about reprinting. Margaret Lenzner agreed to take responsibility for plans.

Rosedale Conservancy. Ruth said that she received and emailed to the Board the Minutes of The Rosedale Conservancy's November 16 board meeting from Ruth Pollak, who represents CPCA as an organizational member on the Rosedale board.

Washington International School (WIS). Elizabeth Ferenczi reported on the meeting of CPHS Architectural Review Committee (ARC) about proposed plan revisions for a **new building** at Washington International School (WIS), noting that CPCA Board member Phil Eagleburger is on the ARC and could provide more information. As to the question of CPCA's role in this, it was noted that CPCA might not add much to what other organizations (*e.g.*, CPHS, Tregaron Conservancy, ANC3C) will contribute.

Hearst Park. Gina reported on DC's plans for an **outdoor swimming pool** at Hearst Recreation Center. She said Friends of Hearst Park, primarily a listserv, is in favor of the pool; they note that a pool could occupy part of the underutilized tennis courts area and claim that good design can mitigate neighbors' issues. Another group, Neighbors for Hearst Park (NfHP), with about 120 members (mostly residents south and east), claims that the pool would destroy the park, damage historic oak trees, that the planned pool is too small to be meaningful, hydrology and environmental studies do not support a pool at Hearst, and questions DC's ability to properly maintain a pool at Hearst. They favor an alternative site in Ward 3 for an outdoor pool and seek to remove the city's current budget earmark for the pool at Hearst.

The lack of community involvement in planning concerned most Board members. It was noted that there was no prior notice to the community of plans for the pool, and that Mayor Bowser said it was Councilmember Cheh's initiative. It was agreed that CPCA should hold a community meeting in early 2017 to learn more about plan specifics, site conditions, and possible alternative sites. Gina and Rick agreed to organize a meeting hopefully in January 2017. Ideally, this meeting should be held at a time when parents of young children could attend.

Ward 3 Homeless Shelter. Ruth gave an update on the city's plans for a Ward 3 temporary shelter for families at the 2nd District MPD site on Idaho Avenue – which is outside CPCA's borders but might impact Cleveland Park residents. She said there is a "small window" for community input. It was noted that the shelter plans were sprung on the community without prior notice, as with the pool plans. At the last meeting of the shelter advisory committee (of which Ruth, Ann Hamilton and Pam Korbel represent CPCA), the facility was described as a new six-story building occupying most of the police parking lot south of the station building, with 50 units and a small toddlers' playground next to the adjacent home. Police parking is to be accommodated on two levels above ground. Possible simultaneous renovation of the police station may be considered. At a meeting with the CPCA representatives, Councilmember Cheh agreed that a day care center was desirable but couldn't be accommodated because of licensing requirements. Although the shelter is supposed to be short-term (90 days), the average stay of homeless families at DC General has been ten months or more. It was noted that the planned facility will require zoning variances for building in the residential zone. After discussion, the Board agreed that a CPCA membership meeting about the shelter

should not be scheduled yet, since many other meetings (advisory and community) are planned. It was agreed to reevaluate this later.

Topics for Future Membership/Community Meetings. Ruth noted the intention to organize a **January** meeting on the proposed swimming pool for Hearst Park, and that Susie Taylor is making plans for a **February** meeting on the revision of the city's Comprehensive Plan. Ruth suggested that a **March** meeting could feature Young Voices for the Planet, a series of short films about youth making a difference, perhaps on a Sunday afternoon when neighborhood kids could attend. Others suggested other activities for kids, including a contest for similar local activities.

Name change. A brief discussion of changing the name of CPCA noted that it would require changing the Articles of Incorporation, which could be complex (see bylaws). Some preferred CP Community Association, some CP Civic Association.

Other business. Ruth Caplan distributed a fact sheet on **leaf blowers** in DC, prepared by Quiet Clean DC (QCDC). Susie Taylor reported on a meeting including CPCA, CPBA, and new ANC commissioner Emma Hersh, where progress was made toward the goal of opening a **Farmers' Market** by April that would happen on Saturday mornings on the west side of Connecticut Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Lenzner, Recording Secretary