

Minutes of the June 2003 Meeting of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association

Meeting Date: Saturday, June 7, 2003
Location: Cleveland Park Library
3310 Connecticut Avenue, NW; Washington, DC

Cleveland Park Citizens Association (“CPCA”) President George Idelson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:20 a.m.

I. Approval of May 3, 2003 Minutes

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2003 meeting of the CPCA. Vice President Peter Espenschied passed out the draft minutes of the May meeting. A motion to approve such minutes was moved and unanimously approved.

II. Dues Increase

The next order of business was consideration of a proposal to increase CPCA’s dues for the next association year, beginning October 1, 2003. Mr. Espenschied read the motion regarding the dues increase to the members. Dues, currently \$10 for a single individual and \$15 for two individuals in the same household, with businesses treated as a two-individual household, would rise to \$15 and \$20, respectively. Mr. Idelson noted that the association’s principal expense, costs of mailing meeting notices and agendas, had risen considerably since the current dues structure was approved many years ago.

Such a proposal to increase annual association dues requires an amendment to Section II, Paragraph 1 of CPCA’s Bylaws. Pursuant to Section VIII of CPCA’s Bylaws, amendment of CPCA’s Bylaws requires, among other things, (i) reading of such proposed amendment at a previous regular association meeting and (ii) approval of two-thirds of the CPCA’s members. The proposal was read at the May 3, 2003 meeting.

Questions from the floor included whether meeting notices could be e-mailed to members instead of mailed via U.S. mail and the size of CPCA’s current treasury. Mr. Idelson responded that unfortunately not all members have e-mail addresses and that the CPCA had approximately \$5,000 in current treasury funds.

A motion was made to approve the dues increase amendment and amend CPCA’s Bylaws, and the motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

III. Resolution Regarding Reappointment of the People’s Counsel

The next order of business was consideration of a resolution urging the Mayor to reappoint Elizabeth A. Noel as the People’s Counsel of the District of Columbia and authorizing CPCA’s President to transmit such resolution and to present CPCA’s position to the Mayor and the Council (resolution attached). The Office of the People’s Counsel educates District residents regarding utility providers and represents consumers in disputes with such providers. Ms. Noel’s term as People’s Counsel expires at the end of June 2003. Mr. Espenschied read such motion discussed above, and the motion was moved and unanimously approved.

IV. Resolution on PSAs, ANCs and Neighborhood Clusters

The next order of business was consideration of a proposed resolution for CPCA to call upon the District’s Chief of Police to align the boundaries of Police Service Area (“PSA”) 204 with those of ANC3C and the boundaries of PSAs generally with those of ANCs citywide, not with “neighborhood clusters” (resolution attached). Mr. Lars Hyde, a former neighborhood ANC commissioner, made a presentation regarding the importance of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to the District generally and criticized the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) proposal to reorganize the department’s PSAs citywide with the Office of Planning’s

“neighborhood clusters.” Mr. Hydle opposed such MPD proposal and stated that PSAs should be aligned with the city’s ANCs. Mr. Espenschied read aloud the resolution mentioned above. The members engaged in a discussion regarding ANCs generally and MPD’s proposal. A friendly amendment offered by Ann Loikow, Association second vice president, noted that commission boundaries are established by law, based on the recommendations of citizen task forces. The amended resolution was moved and approved.

2003-04 CPCA Officers and Delegates

The next order of business was approval of a slate of officers for CPCA for 2003-04. At the May meeting, CPCA’s Nominating Committee presented a proposed slate of association officers and delegates to the DC Federation of Civic Associations and the Federation of Citizens Associations of DC (see attached slate of officers and delegates). Isabel Furlong, a member of CPCA’s Nominating Committee, presented such proposed slate to the members for election at this meeting. The proposed officers and delegates stood and introduced themselves to the group. A motion from the floor was made to add Richard Bartel as an alternate delegate to the DC Federation of Civic Associations. Mr. Bartel was added to the proposed slate. Ann Loikow and Gregory New then explained the differences between the DC Federation of Civic Associations and the Federation of Citizens Associations of DC. Ms. Furlong moved the proposed slate, including the addition of Mr. Bartel, and the members approved such motion unanimously.

V. Media Panel

The final order of business was a panel discussion featuring (i) Judith Havemann, editor of the Washington Post’s District Extra section, (ii) Davis Kennedy, editor/publisher of the Northwest Current, and (iii) Kathryn Sinzinger, editor/publisher of the Common Denominator. Mark Plotkin of WTOP Radio was expected to participate but he did not attend (because of illness). The three panel members discussed how their respective newspapers covered neighborhood issues. In addition, Dorothy Brizill, editor of the on-line magazine DC Watch, also briefly discussed her magazine’s coverage of District affairs.

Mr. Idelson as well as numerous members of the group asked questions of the panel. Discussion topics included (i) how to get a letter published in the respective publications, (ii) coverage of neighborhood vs. developer issues, (iii) the ability of each publication to find common themes amidst similar neighborhood issues regionwide, (iv) Tenleytown library development proposals, (v) the Northwest Current’s coverage of the US Army Corps of Engineers toxic cleanup in Spring Valley, (vi) the Mayor’s proposal to attract 100,000 more residents to the District, and (vii) the Post’s failure to provide more coverage of District neighborhood issues. With many in the audience still to be heard, members voted to extend the meeting fifteen more minutes to 12:20 p.m. to enable additional discussion.

VI. Adjournment

Members were invited to a “Dutch Treat” end-of-the-year lunch at Nam Viet restaurant immediately following the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m. CPCA will now enjoy its annual summer recess, and CPCA is not expected to meet again until October 2003. (The executive committee subsequently changed this to September.)

Respectfully submitted,
Donald A. Fishman and George Idelson

IV-R2-060703 Resolution on PSAs, ANCs, and “Neighborhood Clusters”

Whereas the Chief of Police is planning to reduce the number of Police Service Areas (PSAs) and vary their staffing, and has been advised by the Office of Planning to align their

boundaries with those of the 39 “neighborhood clusters” rather than the 37 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs);

Whereas ANCs have existed since the mid-70s, are authorized and regulated by District law, consist of elected Commissioners (by more than 95,000 voters in November 2002), and have boundaries, based on the recommendations of broad-based ward task forces, that respect natural boundaries and neighborhood cohesion;

Whereas ANC boundaries are not only established by law, but based on the recommendations of citizen task forces;

Whereas “neighborhood clusters” were created in January 2000 by the Office of Neighborhood Action, with boundaries running across ANCs and with seeming intent to undercut ANCs;

Whereas community policing would be more effective if aligned with ANCs rather than clusters, since ANCs are accountable to neighborhood residents and oriented toward neighborhood interests and values in ways that clusters are not;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the CPCA calls upon the Chief of Police to align the boundaries of PSA 204 with those of ANC3C, and the boundaries of PSAs with those of ANCs citywide, not with “clusters”.

II-M1-060703 Motion to Amend the Bylaws (Dues Increase)

The following amendment to the Bylaws having been previously presented to the membership (in accord with Section VIII of the Bylaws), Section II (Dues), Paragraph 1, of the Bylaws of CPCA is hereby amended to read as follows:

Paragraph 1. The annual dues shall be fifteen (150 dollars for an individual, or twenty (20) dollars for two individuals in the same household, payable at or before the first regular meeting in October, and by new members upon admission to membership. For dues purposes, the membership of a business will be treated the same as that of a household with two individuals.

Adopted by a vote of 10 to 1. (Meets the two-thirds requirement.)

III-R1-060703 Resolution Regarding Reappointment of the People’s Counsel

WHEREAS Elizabeth A. Noel has served the citizens of the District of Columbia with unquestioned integrity, dedication, and diligence as the People’s Counsel of the District of Columbia and has been a strong advocate for the consumers and ratepayers of this city; and

WHEREAS the record of the Office of the People’s Counsel before the Public Service Commission and in forums and hearings throughout the city has earned Ms. Noel wide recognition, respect, and appreciation by the citizens of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS in a period of restructuring and deregulation of utility providers, the role of the Office of People’s Counsel is of particular importance in educating ratepayers as to their choices and in defending the interests of those who are most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS her term as People’s Counsel will soon expire:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland Park Citizens Association urges the Mayor to reappoint Elizabeth A. Noel as the People’s Counsel of the District of Columbia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President is authorized to transmit this resolution and present the Association's position to the Mayor and the Council.

**Cleveland Park Citizens Association
Officers 2003-04**

President

George Idelson

First Vice President

Peter Espenschied

Second Vice President

Ann Hume Loikow

Recording Secretary

Donald A. Fishman

Corresponding Secretary

Jean van der Tak

Treasurer

Ana Aldama

Delegates to DC Federation of Civic Associations

Mary E. Lofton-Manning

Gregory New

Carol L. Phelps

Gilpin C. Walker

Richard Bartel (alternate)

Delegates to Federation of Citizens Association of DC

George Idelson

Ann Hume Loikow

Gregory New

In addition to the above, Cheryl Lampe Tenille has been selected to serve as Assistant Recording Secretary, and Jill McCannon will serve as Assistant Treasurer.

Chairpersons of Standing Committees serve at the pleasure of the President.