

WPCA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
St. Thomas Apostle Church: Woodley Road, N.W.
Recorded by David MacDonald

- I. Call to Order:
President John Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. on June 8, 2006.

- II. Agenda Items
 - A. Establishment of a Quorum: Secretary David MacDonald confirmed the presence of a quorum of seven members of the Woodley Park Community Association Executive Committee - President John Goodman, Vice President Wes Bizzell, the Secretary, At-Large Members Bill Kummings, Elba Morales, Rosemary Reed and Immediate Past President Nour Jurgenson.
 - B. Opening remarks: Goodman stated his preference for informality and said that was how he hoped the Executive Committee would be able to operate. Along these lines, he said that because virtually all Executive Committee votes were unanimous, he would generally just ask for “general consent” to a question, rather than going through the formality of a motion, second and vote. Goodman also suggested that a draft of board minutes be posted on the WPCA website before board approval, in the interest of informing the membership as soon as possible, with approval still required at the next meeting. The proposals were agreed to without objection.
 - C. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the May 10 Executive Committee meeting were approved without objection.
 - D. Committee Structure: President Goodman opened a discussion of the association’s committees and subcommittees with possible reforms to make it more effective and he proposed a reorganized committee structure to the Executive Committee. Stanford in Washington would be a committee, (as it had been previously) instead of a subcommittee. MacDonald and Treasurer Jesus Soriano would co-chair the Administration Committee. The Acorn would be a subcommittee under the Communications Committee, which is chaired by Goodman. An editorial board would be created to guide the Editor of the Acorn on content, to work with Editor Judy Orvos. Liaisons would serve as single points of contact between the WPCA and such entities as the Maret School. ANC Commissioner Stephanie Zobay would give up her position as co-liaison for Oyster School with Margaret Ernst, who would become the sole liaison. He said the Swiss embassy construction subcommittee (Michael Lemmon and Roy Woodall) would deal with issues relating to the construction at the embassy, while the liaison would have a separate, different relationship. Liaison Sally MacDonald would stay on as a neighborhood contact. ANC Commissioner Deborah Jane Lindeman asked why other commissioners were on committees and she was not, noting special efforts to include the WPCA in meetings she had organized and

her work to advance the interests of the association. Bizzell invited her to join the JBG committee. He valued her insights, appreciated her participation and apologized for not inviting her sooner. Commissioner Lindeman then left the meeting. Barbara Ioanes said the Zoo Construction subcommittee was David White's committee and ANC Commissioner Dia Black did not need to be co-chair. President Goodman agreed. He suggested that Ioanes chair the Stanford in Washington committee, which was approved by the Executive Committee. He said the Association should consider if there should be a committee to think about the future of the WPCA and that the Association's bylaws needed to be updated. Stephanie Clipper said the clause in the bylaws on Special Meetings (Section VIII, item C) needed to be clarified. Bizzell said there were a lot of conflicts in other parts of the bylaws. Jurgenson suggested that Goodman confirm that the current chairs and liaisons were willing to continue, and, with that understanding, the Executive Committee adopted without objection the committee structure and appointed the committee and subcommittee chairs as shown on the attached.

- E. JBG Development Activities: Bizzell reported having had numerous conversations with JBG since the WPCA election. JBG had a construction telephone (240-333-3750) to handle questions or concerns about the progress of the project. ANC 3C is to consider the JBG curb cuts application on June 19 and the DDOT Public Space Committee is to hear the curb cuts application on June 22. Anyone could testify or make comments before the committee. The committee could approve the whole application, deny the whole application or approve it with conditions. A question was asked if the committee would consider zoning issues. Board member Elba Morales said the committee did not deal with zoning. Bizzell said the committee would look at traffic and safety issues. Several members raised the issue of pre-7 a.m. truck idling and noisy drivers. Bizzell said his goal was to stop idling of trucks, lining up of waiting trucks, and to have regular washing so dirt was not left on public streets. He noted that while permits had been sought for construction of the loading dock and garage, they had not yet been asked for the proposed condominium building. Zoning Administrator Bill Crews had ruled that the dock and garage were matters of right and would be allowed, but he would examine the condominium issue.
- F. Website: Jurgenson said the upgraded WPCA website would make it possible for the community to get information and for community members to communicate with each other on issues. The WPCA had 520 addresses that included 750 to 800 adults out of the 7,000 population of Woodley Park. Members were invited to tell Goodman, Jurgenson and Zobay what they wanted to see on the website. Goodman said the Executive Committee had approved a contract between WPCA and the website developer at the Executive Committee meeting on May 10 - and that it was terminable by either party. The site developer bills the WPCA up to \$500 a month for time worked and his hourly rate for work on the

website is \$125. There were Google ads on the site for which the WPCA got paid each time a user clicked on them. Jurgenson said she had checked with seven or eight people before selecting the website developer and had sought a basic, simple website. Bizzell said everyone registering on the website will get an email address. Asked if the site developer could attend a meeting to explain what he is doing, Goodman said this was possible but his preference was to ask everyone by email what changes they would like on the website. The Secretary asked if the single letter signed by the web developer was the entire contract. Goodman said two letters were presented at the May 10 meeting and that Tony Nuland reviewed and approved the contract. Clipper said the documents relating to the website arrangement should be on file with the Secretary.

- G. Stanford: Ioanes explained the background to the Stanford expansion project, beginning in January 2004 when she was WPCA President. Stanford bought the existing building in 1988 but by 2004 had outgrown the space. Ioanes formed a committee that included herself, Ronnie Rosenwasser, Tony Nuland, David White and Clipper, with ANC Commissioner Allen Hahn, later joined by ANC Commissioner Dia Black. The committee and Stanford negotiated conditions and restrictions that limited further expansion beyond taking over the neighboring Thai Town restaurant. Tony Nuland prepared a draft agreement that would include Stanford not purchasing other properties in the neighborhood, limiting functions to those that are in place now, and as little noise and dust as possible during construction. An art gallery was planned in the front of the Thai site. Sally MacDonald noted that students were not allowed by Stanford to have cars if they wished to be admitted into the Washington program. Stanford project manager Wayne Kelly then presented a brief history of the project and listed delays that the project was experiencing. He said WPCA members were welcome to observe construction. The current plan was for the first floor to be ready for students by September 2006. The projected date for completion of construction was February 2007. It had taken 2.5 to three years to get permits. Stanford in Washington Director Adrienne Jamieson was unable to attend because she and a student group were at the Chinese embassy and would be leaving for China in the morning.
- H. Other Business: ANC Commissioner Stephanie Zobay reported that overcrowded Oyster and an under-used Adams Morgan school had tried to meld but it did not happen. Discussions were being held about possible future arrangements to help both schools with separate programs. Such an arrangement was a chance for Oyster to keep its bilingual Spanish-English program. Ioanes said the reason that Oyster was overcrowded was the admission of too many out of boundary students. She said the school was built for pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade. There were now 430 students in a school with a capacity for 350. Ninety percent of the out of boundary children were Spanish. Less than 200 of the children were in the boundary

of Woodley Park. Ten percent of Woodley Park's population was considered to be Spanish speaking.

- I. DC Comprehensive Plan: Goodman said the DC Office of Planning is doing 1,000 pages of rewriting the Plan for what DC should look like over the next 20 years. Zoning regulations must be changed to be consistent with the Plan. The Plan was to go to the Mayor and Council this year for approval, but there were many people who were urging that final review and adoption be postponed until next year. Information could be read on the City's website. People had been testifying at hearings on the Plan. The WPCA was not yet on record with our opinions about the Plan. ANC 3C chair Nancy MacWood was very involved as a member of the advisory committee providing community output to the Plan. The time for public comment was now.
- J. Political Announcements: Goodman asked if we should announce political meetings in neighborhoods, such as candidate meetings, and whether we should publicize meet and greets, or organize a candidates' forum in Ward 3. Bizzell suggested we list only WPCA events to avoid the possible perception of our taking sides in the race. There was also discussion of whether we should organize a candidates' forum in Ward 3. Goodman asked if anybody wanted to organize such an event. Nan Simpson volunteered to do a Ward 3 event for the September 12 election, perhaps in the last two weeks of August. Goodman also noted our announcement of the previous night's Cleveland Park candidates forum.
- K. Woodley Park Overlay: Ioanes said we are now at 31 percent restaurant usage in the commercial overlay district in Woodley Park. When Open City was permitted to build a restaurant at the corner of Calvert and 24th Street, DCRA miscalculated and city officials claimed we were at 24.9 percent, just under the permitted 25 percent maximum. Linear street frontage is the measure in the overlay zone, which includes Calvert Street from Woodley Place to 24th Street, 24th Street, and Connecticut Avenue from Calvert to Woodley Road. A Subway franchise had tried to move into a vacant shop on Connecticut Avenue but after ANC and neighborhood protests, Zoning Administrator Bill Crews had placed a Stop Order on that attempt to exceed the number of allowed restaurants. She noted a huge rat problem in the alley behind the east side of Connecticut. Nan Simpson said there were rats on 24th Street and rat holes in front of the 2401 Gables building.
- L. Zoo Market: Jurgenson reported that she understood that a 7-11 franchise was moving into the former Zoo Market at 3000 Connecticut Avenue, managed by Bernstein. Zobay said the property was not part of our Overlay.
- M. Adjournment: Goodman adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m.