

WPCA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church: Cathedral Avenue, N.W.
Recorded by David MacDonald

Call to Order: President John Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on January 11, 2007

Agenda Items:

A Establishment of a Quorum: Secretary David MacDonald confirmed the presence of a quorum of nine members of the Woodley Park Community Association Executive Committee – President John Goodman, Vice President Wes Bizzell, Secretary MacDonald, Treasurer Bill Kummings, at-large members Barbara Ioanes, Elba Morales, Ronnie Rosenwasser, Terry Shea, and Jay Sushelsky.

B Membership manager Armen Tashdianian reported to the committee that he had sent out 250 membership renewal notices. So far, between 80 and 90 had responded. Some of the mailings had come back. A full report would be made next month.

C Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Executive Committee were approved.

D JBG Construction Report: Goodman noted that the December 12 hearing of the Board of Zoning Adjustment on the WPCA and ANC 3C appeal of the permit granted for construction of the underground garage had taken four hours, while the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments on great issues in one hour. There would be a meeting February 6 at which it was expected that the BZA would issue a decision on the appeal. He said JBG might have filed an application for a curb cut driveway across from 27th Street to loop around to the proposed condominium building. JBG had filed an application one month ago to build the condominium, but had not filed final plans. Morales said information about applications was available on the DCRA web site.

E Neighborhood Watch program: Goodman introduced Samantha Nolan, who briefed the committee on the experience of helping to organize such a program in upper Northwest. She described it as consisting of keeping the neighborhood informed of types of crimes being committed and in which locations, methods of reducing the likelihood of being a victim of crime, spreading information through block captains, but not having citizen patrols on the streets. Keeping in regular touch with senior police officials was important. Reporting broken streetlights immediately and keeping lights on at night at the front and back of houses were strongly recommended anti-crime measures. After hearing her briefing and asking questions, the committee voted to support setting up such a program in Woodley Park. Sushelsky agreed to take on the job of organizing the program and to gather more information and advice from Nolan.

F Oyster Bilingual School: Margaret Ernst, a 13-year resident of Woodley Park and an Oyster parent representative, gave the committee a detailed briefing and update on the school's need to find more space. She said the school's popular "very strong dual

language immersion program” was so popular that the school now was “bursting at the seams.” During the discussion period, Ioanes said it was possible that Oyster could become a magnet school and thus no longer an area public school. Shea said he thought it could happen but his fellow Oyster parents would strongly resist any such plan.

G Other news/new business: Bizzell referred to a complaint about scrolling electric signs in businesses on Connecticut Avenue and explained that under the former rules for historic districts such signs would not have been allowed. However, the Office of Planning had taken no action on the issue so far. It was suggested that the case be referred to new ANC Commissioner Gloria Day. Aidan School was said to be bidding on a new property. If the bid were successful, the move would happen sometime between 2008 and 2010. Aidan would seek to sell their property to a smaller school. Goodman said everybody would like to have the property stay as a school.

H Treasurer’s report: Kummings reported \$18,600 in the savings account and about \$12,700 in the checking account. He said he had inquired about a Premier Account and decided it would not be useful for the WPCA due to the high minimum deposit required (\$500,000) of an organization and the modest increase in interest income (1/10th of a point) that would apply.

I Adjournment: Goodman adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Also present at the meeting were Jane Howard and Armen Tashdinian.