

WPCA June 7, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church: Cathedral Avenue, N.W.  
Recorded by Terry Shea

1. Call to Order at 7:07 pm. A quorum was established. In attendance Executive Committee Officers and Members: John Goodman, Bill Kummings, Ronnie Rosenwasser, Barbara Ioanes, Elba Morales, and Terry Shea. Membership Manager Armen Tashdianian was also in attendance.
2. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the May 3, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting were approved.
3. Neighborhood Watch Update: Postponed because Jay Sushelsky not present.
4. Acorn: John Goodman reported that he had mailed the latest edition of the Acorn to WPCA members and to non-members whose names were gotten from property records. It was a Color version. The total cost was less than \$2,000. We saved on Design Costs by not using an outside designer.
5. Zoning Regulations: John Goodman reported that the Zoning Commission is going to rewrite the regulations. They have to make changes to reflect the Comprehensive Plan that the DC Council approved in December. There are some specific issues that would affect Woodley Park, Cleveland Park and other neighborhoods. John has been working with the Federation of DC Citizens Association. A couple of volunteers have come forward from the neighborhood to work on this. The Zoning Commission has scheduled a series of Roundtables. The WPCA has asked to speak at the July 12<sup>th</sup> Roundtable.

Terry Shea asked if there was a draft of proposed changes and whether we anticipated any issues because of the Comprehensive Plan.

John Goodman stated that there was no draft because this was early in the process. He further reported that the Comprehensive Plan promotes density around Metro Stations. The plan also was amended by the DC Council to take into account Well Developed Areas. So, the question will be how these general statements are codified.

Elba Morales pointed out that PUD's are not a bad thing in and of themselves and John Goodman agreed. A discussion around the sections of Woodley Park that are and are not a Historic District ensued. Barbara Ioanes pointed out that the people in Historic Districts get regulations they don't know about. She stated that her concerns would be primarily about how the regulations would affect Residential areas of Woodley Park.

John Goodman reported that he had sent out an email to the WPCA email list on the subject. He got positive responses from Kathleen Kauffman, a lawyer, Walley Etienne, an Architect. Sally MacDonald, formerly of the WPCA board and the ANC, is interested as well.

#### 6. Future Meetings and a Discussion of Changes at Oyster

A general discussion followed about WPCA Executive Committee Meetings and encouraging Members to Attend. Bill Kummings suggested it might be easier for community members to attend if we held the meetings elsewhere? The meetings at the Marriott were well attended. John Goodman stated that we had considered St. Thomas, but they wanted to charge \$250 for us to hold meetings there.

Barbara Ioanes said she wanted to be on record opposing the Marriott as a location for meetings given the issues the neighborhood has had with the construction plans for the property. Elba Morales suggested that we could take the words “Executive Committee” off of the meeting announcements since it doesn’t sound inviting.

Armen Tashdianian was in attendance and pointed out that other Community Associations have speakers attend their meetings and that seems to drive attendance. Several ideas for speakers and for a fall event were discussed.

Barbara brought up the subject of the changes at Oyster. She believes that we’ve lost our Neighborhood School since the Pre-k is generally not available to neighborhood children anymore and that we have nothing in the neighborhood from 4<sup>th</sup> Grade on up now that 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will be moving to the Adams building. She considers it a Magnet School by another name. She knows that the Oyster Parents may think it’s great but she doesn’t think so.

Terry Shea asked when Oyster had become a Bilingual School. Barbara Ioanes thought it was sometime in the 1960’s and that it had been French bilingual long before then. There was a deal to let a developer rent the land to build an apartment building on the site in exchange for building a new school at Oyster. The School had come to the WPCA to get permission to rent the land to build a condo building in exchange for the new school building.

Terry Shea discussed the fact that the Oyster Parent group, the OCC, had several meetings where the future of Oyster was discussed. In the fall of 2005 they had a few listening sessions where parents were asked what their priorities were. They were asked if turning Oyster into a Magnet School would be acceptable. The answer was clearly no. They asked if expanding the facility somehow to deal with crowding was important. Many parents agreed that crowding was a problem. They asked if maintaining the Bilingual program was important. Bilingual education at Oyster had strong support. They asked if expanding the program through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade was desirable. Parents on the whole supported expansion.

Barbara Ioanes said she feels that the children who live near a school should be able to go to that school. She stated that children who are not native Spanish Speakers come from out of Boundary to Oyster and overcrowd the school.

Terry Shea disagreed that with the contention that we're losing our school and said he thought the expansion of the Oyster program and the additional space provided by the Adams building was good for children in the neighborhood. He said that we do need to be vigilant when school officials say that they would consider turning Oyster into a Magnet school, and this has been mentioned before.

Barbara Ioanes stated that she wants to be on record opposing the Oyster-Adams expansion. She reiterated that she did not like the idea of children having to go over the bridge to school and did not consider Adams a neighborhood school.

John said that the position of the WPCA was to do nothing unless the Oyster Parents asked for WPCA help since they seem to be on top of the situation.

6. MPD Awards Dinner: John Goodman said that Nancy MacWood from the ANC had asked if we would join a Table at this. It's \$35 per ticket to the event and we would share a table. Barbara Ioanes resolved that we purchase 4 tickets. Terry Shea seconded her motion. John Goodman said that it would be for PSA 204 that also includes Cleveland Park.
7. Schedule for Meetings: John Goodman said that tonight is the last scheduled meeting for the summer period. We could have one in July if we're interested. As far as future meetings are concerned we need to keep in mind that a meeting where we invited speakers might work better in the fall.

Armen Tashdianian recommended setting a date for the Fall General Membership meeting and working back from there to consider meeting schedules.

John Goodman said that we would need to hold the General meeting in the first ½ of November since that is when some Board Member terms expire. So we would have a September meeting and an October meeting before then.

Bill Kummings made 3 points; First – He will try to send an email about the Treasury. We did get some money in from Membership renewals and from advertisements in the Acorn. There is about \$18,000 in each of the two WPCA accounts.

Second. The access road from the Hotel onto Calvert street appeared near completion. Ilan Sharfstein had said at one of the meetings that there would be a gate to slow down traffic. It's not there now. We ought to see what we can do to get the gate put back up. A discussion around whether the access road was for Service Vehicles for

the upcoming condo building or for more general purposes ensued. The consensus was that it was for Service Vehicles.

Bill said the Third Item he wanted to mention was Sidewalk Repair on the North side of the 2900 Block of Cleveland Avenue. There is an unkempt area there that he believes may be private property. He asked if there some way to get the city to do something about this? Barbara Ioanes recommended contacting the Public Space committee.

John Goodman pointed out that there will be Two Vacancies for the WPCA Executive Committee in the Fall. John suggested we may want to have a meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> as an interim summer meeting.

Ronnie Rosenwasser and Elba Morales indicated that they each want to be involved in planning a Social Activity for the Community

8. Meeting Adjourned at 9:21 pm.