

May 7th Meeting
Woodley Park Community Association
Rockefeller Room of
The Stanford University
Washington, DC

People Present:

Stephanie Zobay (ANC3C Commissioner)
Barbara Ioanes (Vice-President)
Elba Morales (Board Member)
Peter Brusoe (Secretary)
Nour Jurgenson (Past President, Ex- Officio)
Bill Kummings (treasurer)
Chuck Lupton (At Large Member)
Jay Sushelsky (At Large Member)
John Goodman (President)
Gloria Day (ANC3C Commissioner)
Sally MacDonald
Denny Clements (At Large Member)
Bill Menczer (At Large Member)
Anne-Marie Bairstow

Approval of Minutes

John Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:06

After reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting the executive board ordered them approved.

Maret School

Goodman introduced Marjo Talbott, Head of School for Maret, and Darwin Walker, Business manager. Talbott and Walker talked about the recent master plans that Maret implemented and how they believe that it has been a successful plan. Currently under the current agreement Maret is at a cap of 600 students. Maret School would like to see the cap expanded to 635 as well as the addition of four new faculty members to go from 125-129.

This addition of 35 students would allow the Maret School to have greater flexibility in its class sizes and the additional students will probably be distributed evenly throughout the lower school. This increase would also allow the school to add a 6th grade intake to mirror changes with the DCPS elementary schools.

There are a number of variables that makes this change necessary. According to Talbott, families are actually getting bigger, putting a greater demand on education options. Additionally, Maret has seen its admissions rate go from 25% to 17%. At the same time their yield rate is around 72%. These factors, coupled with a low melt (attrition) rate of just 2% (about 7 percentage points below the national average) make for a very stable school population.

Talbott then broke down the school population figures. About 60% of the Maret student body are residents of the District of Columbia. Many are graduates from Oyster, Horace Mann and other local DCPS Schools. Primary grades are just around 20 students per class year, moving up to 32-34 in the 4th-6th Grades, 56 in the 7th and 8th grades, and finally around 75 for 9th-12th grades

The school has prepared a traffic study and will be submitting that with its BZA application and will be forwarding a copy to Goodman. Some questions about parking, and facility usage came up. Out of the conversation several points came out: The Association recommends that Maret look at posting its traffic regulations on the school site, as well as sending a copy to WPCA to put on its website. Maret informed WPCA that the gate on Garfield is unlocked during school days and special events, but is locked during the weekends and at night. Maret also informed WPCA that the school has allowed the use of its parking lot for neighbors when needed. Maret passed out an informational flier on several of its community partnerships.

WPCA thanked Walker and Talbott for their time and Goodman will follow up with them.

Buses on Woodley Road

Elba Morales mentioned a concern about tour buses going west on Woodley Road past 27th street in violation of the street signs. Morales described how she saw dozens of buses on Sunday May 4th doing this. Bill Menczer suggested calling 311 and informing the police. Goodman suggested that it's important to get the name and number of the bus so they can follow up on it. Morales thanked them for their suggestions.

Guidelines on Historical Preservation

John Goodman talked about issues related to the Historic Preservation Review Board. In the 1990s certain sections of the Woodley Park Community were made part of a historic district. WPCA promulgated guidelines for the district that were not formally adopted by the HPRB, but they occasionally use the provisions as guidance. The regulations state that the front of the homes are governed by the HPRB, however, the rear of the houses were free from those regulations.

Recently the regulations have come under scrutiny. There is a home in the Woodley Park Historic District (2841 29th St, NW) that was looking at modifying and expanding its sleeping porch. The proposed expansion has created a certain amount of disharmony among neighbors. The question that came to the WPCA is whether or not historic preservation rules should apply to the rear of homes.

Several points came out in the discussion, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Is there anything historically important in the back of homes?
- 2) It would be difficult to codify such regulations for the interior of homes.
- 3) HRPB would not care about the issues raised by some of the neighbors

(namely issues related to light, air and space)

4) There was a certain amount of confusion about what the original agreement about the Historic District was. Sally MacDonald recommended that someone contact David Maloney for more information about what was supposed to be covered by the Historic District regulations.

The board came to a consensus that at this point the right decision was not to try to change the guidelines.

Community Party

Tamora gave a report on the upcoming June 21st Solstice Party planned for the Woodley Park Playground from 4-7 pm.. After discussing the report WPCA board members had a few suggestions:

- 1) We should have mosquito spray to keep the bugs away.
- 2) People should be asked not to bring dogs and all dog owners should be particularly encouraged to clean up after their dogs in the few days preceding the planned event.
- 3) Notice of the neighborhood Solstice Party should be posted on utility poles and trees in the neighborhood.
- 4) RSVPs are encouraged, but not required.

Nour Moved to accept the report
Brusoe seconded.

Call Boxes

Tamora reported on the call boxes and her proposal to fix them. It was suggested that we may want to look at partnering with schools (art students) and other community groups to adopt a call box to paint and maintain. Report is attached at the end of the minutes.

Fall Walking Tour

Tamora reported on a proposed historic/architectural walking tour in the neighborhood designed to enhance both awareness of the unique architecture in the area, as well as build up community. The WPCA board gave its consent to the proposal, and authorized Tamora and her committee to proceed with the project.

Stanford:

The Stanford Committee has completed its work. The Association thanked the members for their hard work on behalf of the neighborhood and disbanded the committee.

Federation of Citizens Groups:

Sally MacDonald talked about the DC Federation of Citizen Associations where she and Armen serve as WPCA representatives. They have a monthly assembly meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the Month at the Sumner School located on 17th and M street. Each meeting features a senior official who comes to talk about some important issues. Recently the issue of Ambulance Fees came up. Originally Mayor Fenty (D-DC) was looking at a “huge” increase in the fees. Thanks to the Federation, the size of the increase will not be as great. Sally invited all members of the WPCA to feel free to attend the meetings. Sally MacDonald also pointed out that the upper part of Northwest Washington (including Woodley Park) is serviced by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Ambulance Service, and there is no charge for their services.

Neighborhood Watch:

Bill Menczer reported on the Community Watch program. He talked about an excellent entry in the Woodley Park List Serve on April 22, 2008 from a Police Officer in the 4th district. This article discussed guarding against robbery and assault. Bill e-mailed it to all neighborhood watch captains and asked them to forward it to their neighborhood participants. Bill also wrote an informative article about personal safety that is appearing in the next edition of the Acorn.

Elba Morales talked about getting a captain for 2800 Woodley Road to serve their needs and would report back to the committee at the next meeting or direct them to talk with Bill and Jay.

The Acorn:

John Goodman discussed the upcoming issue of the Acorn. There was enough content for 12 pages rather than 8. Due to some peculiarities of the printing industry adding four pages increases the costs of production the file is attached.

There was a discussion about the merits of having a larger publication, having a color publication, and other costs involved with the ACORN. After a discussion it was moved by Brusoe and seconded by Nour that WPCA prints a 12 page Acorn with color. The question was called and a majority of the board voted in the affirmative.

Triangle Park

Elba Morales reported that two weeks ago some neighbors helped to plan, clean up and do other enhancements to the triangle park. Elba thanked Pat O’Shea for her generous donations of plants for the project. The board thanked Elba and all those who volunteered on this project and commended them for how nice the park looks.

Trash Can on Woodley Road

Peter Brusoe raised the question about getting an extra trash can for Woodley road to deal with the trash from the tourists and others that seems to be accumulating on the street. He was advised to contact Council Member Cheh (Ward III- D) to see about securing a city trash can.

National Zoo

John Goodman reported that the National Zoo would be issuing a new master plan

proposal soon that would probably address issues related to parking, and other issues that would affect the neighborhood.

Parcourse:

It was reported that the Parcourse in Rock Creek Park below the Omni Shoreham has recently been replaced, and that it looks nice, but no one is quite sure who did it.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Kummings gave the Treasurer's Report. Currently the association has \$28,556 in savings, with \$6,831 in checking. This is roughly \$5000 more than we had at the start of the fiscal year last July.

Speed Humps:

Stephanie Zobay was pleased to report that the speed humps have returned to Woodley Road.

Good of the Organization:

Barbara Ioanes showed everyone a poster from the 1994 Woodley Park day that featured the Marilyn mural.

Adjournment: the Association Adjourned at 8:34PM, Peace and Harmony prevailing.

Call boxes in Ward 3

All in all, we have eight call boxes in our neighborhood:

- Cortland & 29th [*Mirhan Mesrobian*]

One panel broken. Rust. Needs paint.

- Connecticut across from the Zoo [*Redwood*]

Should be turned around. Some rust, needs cleaning.

- Woodley Rd & Woodley Pl [*Million Dollar Bridge*]

Needs cleaning and touch up.

- Woodley & 27th [*Harry Wardman*]

Leaning. Needs touch up.

- Woodley & 28th [*Long and Winding Woodley Road*]

Leaning. Needs touch up.

- Cathedral & 28th [*From Woodley to Woodley Park*]

Needs plug on top to protect from rain and to be touched up.

- Garfield & 27th [*Woodley Road Neighbors*]

Base needs work and paint.

- Cathedral by Maret [*Woodley Estate*]

Panel missing. Needs to be painted.

**WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008
PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Marie Louise Bernal
Tamora Ilasat
Bill Menczer
John Goodman

AGENDA:

There were three main items of discussion and decisions were made and agreed upon by those in attendance.

I. Architectural/Historical Walking Tour of Woodley Park

- 1. Date: Schedule for October 2008, 1 ½ - 2 hrs**
- 2. Introductory Talk: Start the event with a ½ hr talk in the Stamford Auditorium. Clear date with Adrian Jameson and ask Judy Waxman to introduce. See if Woodley Park book author will participate in talk.**
- 3. Locations: No more than 10-12. Possibilities are Twin Oaks, Tregarian, The Zoo Lions, Wardman Towers, the Omni Shoreham, Taft Bridge & Lions, the Maret School, Marilyn Monroe mural. Need to identify a few private homes with historical and/or architectural interest.**
- 4. Structure: Reservations Requested. Charge a reduced amount for WPCA members. Range of \$5 – \$12 depending on when reservations are made. Use Pay Pal and personal check.**
- 5. Advertising: Keep local...NW Current ¼ pg ad, List Serve, Signs in neighborhood**
- 6. Enlist help: Alan Weinstein and Armen Tashidian as Tour Guides**

II. Call Boxes:

1. As follow up to our last report, Tamora and Marie Louise inspected all the call boxes after the meeting adjourned.
2. Report – a separate and detailed report on what needs to be done will be given by Marie Louise at the WP Executive meeting.
3. Will need to enlist volunteers to execute the needed repairs

III. Summer Solstice Celebration, a Neighborhood Picnic

1. Date: Saturday, June 21, 2008, 4 – 7 PM

Acorn Printing Costs

	Members +Most Other	Members +All Other		1750 copies	2000 copies
	Members	Owners	Owners		
8 page color	\$245	\$962	\$1,078	\$1,225	\$1,500
12 page color	\$440	\$1,732	\$1,940	\$2,363	\$2,700
12 page B&W	\$215	\$847	\$948	\$1,155	\$1,320