

Meeting Minutes
WPCA Executive Committee
January 20, 2010

Present:

Jay Sushelsky, President
Barbara Ioanes, Vice President
Sarah Ensign, Secretary
Bill Menczer, Board Member
Tamora Ilasat, Board Member
John Goodman, Past President
Anne-Marie Bairstow
Bill Kummings
Lee Brian Reba
Warren Gorlick
Paul Poe
Peter Brusoe
Armen Tashdianian

Call to Order

President Jay Sushelsky called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2009, Executive Committee meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

Holiday Party

The Executive Committee deemed this event to be a great success enjoyed by all. We extend our thanks to the Marriott Wardman for hosting the event and to Ron and Nour for their instrumental part in the process.

The Acorn

This issue will be published in March 2009. Article contributions are welcome. Thus far, Bill Menczer will be doing an additional article on more famous people in our community. Barbara Ioanes will be featuring an article on the rodent infestation issue, and Warren Gorlick may submit an article on policy changes to the public library system as a result of the change in leadership to the Director position. Tamora Ilasat has also volunteered to submit an article. All submissions are due by February 19, 2010.

Treasurer Report

Report previously submitted by Bruce Forrest indicates the following amounts:

Total amount in Treasury is \$29,820. CD amount is \$25,339. Checking amount is \$3,117.

Savings amount is \$1,363.

President Jay Sushelsky received a check from the WPCA in the amount of \$100 to reimburse him for the gratuity which he gave to the Marriott Wardman employees at the Christmas party. Check #1024.

Winter Event

The Executive Committee reviewed the possibilities for the Winter event, and it was narrowed down to the following:

1. Anne-Marie Bairstow presented information she gathered regarding the Hazmat/Shredding event. The amount approved verbally by the board is \$1000 for the event. The cost of the shredding would be around \$400 and the amount for the hazmat would be between \$100-600. The cost of the hazmat is ultimately determined by whether whether we would do the hauling ourselves or use a service. Location is to be announced, and the date would possibly be in the April 17 or April 24. The hazardous materials collection, which would be held simultaneously, would involve the rental of a U-Haul truck to transport the materials to the Fort Totten site. The truck will be driven by one of the Executive Committee, and a list of exclusions as to what can be brought to the event would be e-mailed out prior to the event.
2. Tamora Ilasat will pursue further the idea to have a Children's Author Visit/Reading with Politics and Prose. The event will not be held at the bookstore, and the timing is not yet determined. Tamora and Marie-Louise Bernal will review the website of "Weatherize DC" to determine their suitability for WPCA members as there were some questions raised regarding their reputation.

Tutoring

There was discussion of a suggestion made by a member that WPCA help organize/facilitate neighbors' tutoring at Oyster and Eaton. Anne-Marie checked on DCPS rules and restrictions on non-parent volunteers working with children. On the DCPS website, there is a tab to volunteer. Once the application is filled out, a TB test and fingerprinting is required. The processing time for all the information is about two weeks.

Hat Price

The committee agreed on a selling price of \$10 for the WPCA hat. Future hats will be embroidered with a black squirrel instead of the current gray squirrel.

Rodent Infestation

Bill Kummings and Peter Brusoe attended the meeting, which also included the DOH and numerous local businesses (McDonalds, CVS, and Open City, to name a few). This meeting addressed current rodent infestation in our community. The problem also is aggravated by the ongoing sewer projects and construction in the area.

Peter Brusoe will be drafting a letter in cooperation with Jay to council members Cheh and Graham. The purpose of the letter is to encourage a unified approach to the problem which includes both the east (Ward1) and west (Ward3) sides of Connecticut Ave. in the Woodley Park shopping area. Additionally, the Committee is in agreement that the fines for noncompliance with dumpster closures be enforced, and not just mete out warnings to those who are not in compliance. The WPCA is open to discussion with the community and looks forward to being part of the solution to this pesky problem. Follow-up meeting for this is at Murphy's on January 29th, 2010 at 10 AM.

Proposed Metro Fare Increases

Peter Brusoe will be drafting a letter with input from Bill Menczer expressing the views of the members. We are in favor of a graduated fare increase proportional to distance, as opposed to a flat increase as of this meeting.

Woodley Park Overlay Panel

Some of the current requirements are viewed as too restrictive by some businesses. We are hopeful to have some speakers at the March 3, 2010, meeting to field questions on this matter. Marie-Louise Bernal will be involved in contacting potential speakers.

27th Street Centennial Block Party

John Goodman has been approached by some members regarding a possible joint effort in the celebration of this event. At this time, it is not certain the degree of involvement the WPCA is able to provide. The timing of the event could possibly coincide with that of the VAMOS run in October 2010.

ANC Reports

1. Bill Kummings reports the restaurant will not be expanding as the current space is needed by Debonair Cleaners. While no permit applications have been filed, the back apartment area is being explored for a possible lease agreement with Boston University.
On January 1, 2010 a suspicious person was at an address in the 3000 Blk. of Cleveland Avenue. Bill is to follow up with Lieutenant Neal.
2. Lee Brian Reba reports that input from the community is being requested by a future business at 2601 Connecticut Ave. as to what they would like to see at the current site. Jay has requested that the lawyer involved with the business write a letter requesting the community input, and we will follow from there.

Miscellaneous

1. In light of the selection of a new Director of the Public Library system as well as the Cleveland Park branch, it has been made known to us by Warren Gorlick that there will be changes to current policies and procedures. It is proposed that we have the new director attend one of our meetings to review these changes and address concerns.
2. Barbara Ioanes raised concerns regarding slippery, muddy conditions created by the Wardman Woodley condo construction project. Additionally, she reports that a snow removal contractor at the Marriott Wardman was witnessed plowing the snow onto the sidewalk and green space of a neighboring business. This created a hazardous walkway. Jay will be meeting with the hotel manager to ensure that this will not become a routine response to dealing with excessive snowfall! He will also address the mud issues at the same time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM by unanimous vote.