

WPCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Stanford in Washington
2661 Connecticut Avenue

January 5, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Present

Members/Officers:

Jay Sushelsky, President
Bill Menczer, Vice President
Warren Gorlick, Secretary
Kate Bertram
Peter Brusoe
John Goodman
Barbara Ioanes
Rob Meisnere
Sarah Taber

ANC Representatives:

Anne-Marie Bairstow
Bill Kummings
Lee Brian Reba

1. Call to Order

Jay called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

2. Minutes of December 1, 2010 Meeting

The December 1 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was not attached to an email that had been sent. The Board will review at the next meeting.

4. Committee Reports

Bill Menczer reported on two recent armed robberies. The first occurred on December 28 at 2800 Woodley Road; the second on January 1, 2011 on the Taft Bridge of a resident of 2800 Woodley Road. The management company notified the tenants of 2800 Woodley Road of these incidents. Bill has recruited Tess Kirchner to be the neighborhood watch captain for this building.

5. Old Business

— Garfield St. 2900 Block Development Status

John reported on the status of ongoing negotiations between the neighbors of this new development, and the real estate developer. As set forth in the December 1 minutes, one issue that is being discussed is the possible repayment of some or all legal fees already incurred by the neighbors and others, including the WPCA, in opposing the development.

— Winter Holiday Party

Attendance at the Dec. 16 party was below the total from the prior year, with approximately 80-100 guests. The Board discussed possible reasons for the low attendance, which appeared to result primarily from the fact that the Marriott was unable to confirm key details regarding their hosting of the annual event until the Monday beforehand. The inclement weather on the evening of the event may also have been a factor. Some members questioned whether, for subsequent holiday parties, it was appropriate to have Marriott pay for the event as they have done for the past several years, but no decision on this issue was reached. Jay announced that he used WPCA funds in order to provide nominal tips to Marriott staff persons who assisted in servicing the party.

— Membership Program

Peter reported on his membership proposal from October to help rebuild the WPCA membership numbers back to 2008 and 2009 Members. . Some Board members attribute this decline due to the lack of a controversy. However, at least for the time being, no active membership campaign will be undertaken, as Board members did not see the value in carrying out such a plan.

— Zoo Relations

Councilmember Jim Graham and Lee Brian had a meeting with zoo officials. Lee Brian noted that at their meeting, the zoo had committed to clean the sidewalks on both the west and east side of Connecticut Avenue. In addition, the zoo officials committed not to hold any more parties, which had resulted in noise complaints, until a number of internal zoo management issues, are resolved. The zoo officials are open to a meeting with the Board, and Jay will write a letter to the zoo requesting such a meeting. Jay will circulate a draft of his proposed letter to the Board.

— Joint Meeting February 1, 2011 of CPCA, CCCA, and WPCA

Jay believes the meeting will be at 7:30, at Adas Israel (near Connecticut and Porter Street). Various groups involved in pedestrian safety issues and livable communities will be on hand to provide information. .

— Traffic Flow Accessing Rock Creek Park from Calvert St.

The situation has improved due to enhanced police oversight of the situation. There are various issues that impede traffic flow during rush hours. Jay will draft a letter to be sent to the relevant federal agencies involved in oversight of this construction project, and will circulate a draft of his proposed letter to the Board.

More specifically, the board was concerned about the placement of the police car during the hours of 6:30-9AM blocking the right turn lane eastbound on Calvert Street. Various Board members expressed their view that the Park Police should move their vehicle off the street during this time. It was also noted that the Park Police seem unaware of when Rock Creek was open and there was no consistency from day to day when Rock Creek was open and this causes problem in planning commutes.

6. New Business

Jay is aware of a company called Club Express which might enhance the current WPCA website. They would charge 40 cents per WPCA member. Members were concerned about the possible cost. However, Jay and John will have further discussions with the company regarding whether the services they offer will be of use to the WPCA.

Jay will send a letter to Petar Dimtchev, the Mayor's Outreach and Community Liaison for Ward III, commending Petar's service in responding to the needs of Woodley Park Residents on a variety of issues including installation of trash cans, street lights, and litter pick up. Peter Brusoe said that Petar's departure was a true loss for the neighborhood. Brusoe raised the concern that there has not been a movement to appoint a replacement yet and that he felt that WPCA should urge Vince Gray to appoint someone quickly to ensure that Ward III has proper services. The Board opted to wait and see until six weeks into 2011 (sometime in February) and if nothing was happening then approach Vince Gray about the matter.

Barbara and Lee Brian reported about new commercial tenants in the Woodley Park business district. Bill Kummings noted that Boston University will take over the apartments behind Debonair Cleaners.

Lee Brian reported on issues relating to receipt of parking passes, and noted that certain DC government officials can assist in resolving such matters.

Jay noted that the Swiss Embassy will host a wine tasting in the next few months. Peter and Jay will collaborate in the planning of this event.

7. Report(s) of ANC Representatives

The ANC representatives had no other news to report other than what had already been discussed on prior topics.

8. Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:30pm. The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 2.