

Minutes of the Woodley Park Community Association  
April 10, 2013  
7:30 PM  
Herbert Hoover Room, Stanford in Washington

**Present:**

Executive Committee Members

President: Bill Menczer

Vice President: Paul Poe

Secretary: Peter Brusoe

Treasurer: Warren Gorlick

Barbara Ioanes (term expiring 2014)

Zev Lewis (term expiring 2013)

Rob Meisnere (term expiring 2014)

Sarah Taber (term expiring 2013)

Jay Sushelsky (Past President)

Guests:

Nour Jurgenson (Program Director, Woodley Park Neighborhood Watch)

ANC Commissioner Gwen Boyle

Michele Blackwell, Councilmember Cheh's Office

John Goodman, Chair, Communications Committee

**Administrative Matters:**

Bill Menczer called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the March Meeting and the treasurer's report filed by Warren Gorlick. (follows the minutes) Peter moved adoption of both, seconded by Paul Poe, unanimously accepted by the committee.

**Committee Reports:**

**Neighborhood Watch Report :**

Nour Jurgenson was stuck in traffic and the neighborhood watch report was postponed.

**Tree Presentation:**

Peter Brusoe gave the tree presentation. The Subcommittee met to discuss the future direction of 29<sup>th</sup> street. Everyone agreed that the trees pose a problem to safety and that something should be done. It was suggested that the committee may want to get an independent assessment of the safety of the slope, the integrity of the fauna and other issues related to the trees. Several

committee members were going to investigate and report back at the next meeting of the subcommittee but no meeting has been called yet. Peter reported that no one has yet determined who is responsible for the costs of the maintenance.

**Earth Day Cleanup:** Peter reported that the Earth Day Clean up would be held on Saturday April 13, starting at 8AM at the Woodley and 29<sup>th</sup> Triangle for those west of Connecticut Avenue, and at people's homes on Woodley Place East of Connecticut Avenue. Ace Hardware is donating gloves and garbage bags, as well as the assistance of one of their employees. Bill Menczer had arranged to put in a press item in the Northwest Current and we're hoping for a good first try at this.

**Oyster School Community Forum Report:**

Bill Menczer gave a report on the school forum regarding plans for the Oyster School held on April 9, 2013. It was a remarkable event with over 45 people attending. Doing the presentations were Monica Liang-Aguirre, principal of the Oyster-Adams Bilingual School and Wendy Jacobson, Chair of the Local School Advisory Team. Monica discussed the mission of the school, its population, demographic breakdown, admissions process, and boundaries. Wendy discussed the process involving the community regarding the development of options for the future of the school that will be presented to the DC Schools Chancellor in the Fall.

The meeting was very spirited, but respectful with many of those present expressing concerns about the importance of a neighborhood school and how there should be preference for "in boundary" students. The discussion of the meeting was equally spirited. The consensus was that we should wait for the DCPS to propose something concrete regarding school boundaries. Barbara disagreed, and as she noted and was asked to be memorialized in the minutes "of course." Barbara shared that it was scary how quickly the boundaries can change and if we're not careful it can happen again just as quickly. Various members noted that perhaps John Eaton may become a new neighborhood school and offer a great deal for the community as well. Warren also noted possible capacity constraint issues at Oyster Elementary, given the increasing likelihood that Adams will be separated from Oyster (and, thereby, necessitating the return of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to Oyster who currently attend Adams), and the increased construction of multi-dwelling housing units in the area. In that regard, Warren mentioned that any boundary change is likely to have the greatest impact on those who live farthest from Oyster, which includes those living on the east side of Connecticut Avenue.

**Spring General Membership Meeting:** Our spring meeting will be on May 1, 2013. We are very pleased to be hosting Mr. Angelo Rao, affectionately known as "Mr. Parking." Mr. Rao will be discussing parking issues and proposals in Washington, DC. At the time of our meeting we were unsure if there would be a concrete proposal for the future direction of Woodley Park Parking. Bill agreed to find out. The Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Armen needs help checking

people in. Barbara kindly volunteered as did Jay Sushelsky. Bill agreed to inform Armen and to arrange for a sign-in table with Stanford.

**June 1 WPCA Clean Out Day** June 1<sup>st</sup> is our regular trash, recycle and shredding day. This year we're looking at spending \$550 (\$450 for 2 hours of the shredding truck and \$100 for the hazardous materials vehicle rental) and need volunteers to help on the day. It will be held at the Maret School on Cathedral Avenue, NW. Since it is being co-sponsored by the Woodland-Normanstone Community Association, Bill Menczer will obtain a \$275 reimbursement from them for their share of the costs. There was a discussion about possibly restricting the amount of items that one could shred but it was decided not to do that and to accept all that may come. Paul Poe offered that shredding really negatively impacts the ability to recycle paper and that this could be a great time for some education to the community about only shredding items that have personally identifiable information or are otherwise confidential. He agreed to provide John Goodman with some technical information on this process which John can include in his electronic newsletter announcing the event.

**Picnic on June 22, 2013:** Sarah will be reaching out to people to help and they are encouraged to respond positively to her. She indicated that Paul Poe will be part of her Picnic Committee. She will soon begin the process of surveying other rental companies to see if she can get a better price than that being charged by Allied Rentals for the tables, chairs, and coverings.

**Neighborhood Watch Report:** Nour gave the neighborhood watch report. Nour reported that there continue to be problems with people breaking into cars and stealing electronic devices and computers. Nour stressed the importance of keeping valuables out of your car. If you are broken into, or observe crime it's critically important that you inform MPD. Nour also stressed the importance of common sense in keeping you and your property safe. She also reminded us that during this nice Spring weather, we should all remember to lock our doors and windows when leaving our homes. Bill asked that she distribute additional information to the neighborhood watch captains for them to distribute to the neighbors. Bill thanked her for her service.

**Enhancing the Acorn List:** Bill Menczer raised the issue of whether we wanted to increase our mailing distribution of the Acorn to include 800 apartment dwellers. John reported that Gwen Bole had developed such a list for her campaign for ANC Commissioner. The list would be about a year old for our next Acorn and would entail some effort to verify the addresses if we were to use it in the Fall. A long and involved conversation occurred on how additional Acorns might increase the membership for WPCA. Bill Menczer pointed out that only one of his follow up efforts (personal emails) to the 75 non-members who attended the Holiday Party resulted in membership, meaning that receipt of the Acorn cannot be expected to generate a high return in new memberships. WPCA continues to be a mainly a house based membership group. We do not have a high percentage of membership in either owned condos or in rented apartments. Bill

said the additional cost to mail 800 more black and white Acorns to apartments would be almost \$500 for added postage and printing. Peter offered to get the voter list from the Republican Party and try to see if we could merge it with our database. There was a further discussion about possibly adding additional data points. Peter offered that using a service like Aristotle which has additional data on residents could perhaps work, but that it was extremely expensive. It was moved that the WPCA go ahead and enhance the distribution list and bear the additional cost of \$500, but to do the Fall issue in black and white to reduce the overall impact. The vote was 6-4 in favor. Peter Brusoe, in the majority, moved for a motion to reconsider the proposal. It was approved 9-1. The group then re-voted on the motion to expand the list and bear the additional cost. It was then voted down 0 to 8 with one abstention. We might reconsider this proposal in the Fall.

**Cleveland Park Village:** Bill reported that he received an email last week which he shared with the Executive Committee indicating that the Cleveland Park Village formally voted to include Woodley Park in its boundaries and that we should invite Barbara Stevens, President of the Board to meet with the WPCA Executive Committee to discuss the programs the village will offer. It was decided that rather than have her just meet with us, to invite her to speak at the May 1 general membership meeting after the parking speaker. Bill agreed to contact her and invite her to make a presentation at our May 1 meeting.

**Traffic Light letter:** Peter asked if anything further was done with the traffic letter that MPD Officer Robert Fennell had suggested at the south corner of Connecticut Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Street in the Woodley Park Business District. Gwen Bole offered to follow up with DDOT to see what had to be done and the future progress of that.

#### **ANC Reports:**

Lee Brian had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend. Bill read his report for him as follows:

##### **1) Accessible Pedestrian Signals [APS] - *Talking Crossing Signals***

I am working with DDOT to address volume issues at the following intersections:

- - Connecticut and Woodley Road
- - Connecticut and Cathedral

##### **2) National Zoo**

a) The Zoo has continued to be a great community neighbor - by providing the necessary public safety officials for Easter weekend. I received a number of compliments regarding the Zoo's performance.

b) The Zoo, as requested, has also been very diligent in picking-up and monitoring trash up and down Connecticut Avenue

### 3) **Baked by Yael**

No update - just yet. Yael is still in talks with the property management company.

Gwen Bole reported that there was some contention around a roof deck at 2616 Garfield and how HRPB handled the issue and the ANC. The roof deck was allowed.

#### **Report from CM Cheh's office**

Michele Blackwell shared that on April 17, 2013, Councilmember Cheh will be sponsoring a forum with the head of DC WASA on water issues to be held at The American University. Ms. Blackwell also offered that the new water tunnel drill was christened this past week and called Lady Bird. This drill will help separate sewage from the storm water system to prevent it from entering the Potomac River.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** The next meeting is slated for June 5, 2013 at 7:30PM at Stanford. It was decided that there was no need for a May meeting since our general membership meeting will be held on May 1, 2013.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.**

**WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Treasurer's Report**

**April 8, 2013**

Current Balances:

**Checking:       \$5863**

Check # 1109 (Taber—  
holiday supply), \$7; Check #  
1027 (Postmaster) \$661;

Check # 1028 Print1 \$971

Transfer from savings 1,900

**Savings:       \$5044**

Transfer to checking \$

**CD:           \$14,032**

(no change)

**PayPal:       \$956**

Contributions of \$40

**Total: \$25,895**