

WPCA Executive Committee Meeting
January 9, 2008
7PM
The Rockefeller Room of
The Stanford in Washington Center

Present:

John Goodman, President
Barbara Ioanes, Vice President
Bill Kummings, Treasurer
Peter Brusoe, Secretary
Tamora Ilasat
Bill Menczer
Chuck Lupton
Nour Jurgenson
Jay Sushelsky
Denny Clements
Armen Tashdinian

John Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:04PM in the Stanford Washington Center a quorum of the executive board being present to conduct business.

The committee accepted the minutes from the December 5th 2007 meeting.

The Committee then moved on to Old Business

The executive committee renamed the “Community Building Committee” the “Enhancing Community Committee” by universal acclamation.

Tamora Ilasat informed the committee that Marie Louise Bernal has agreed to serve as vice-Chair. Nour Jurgenson graciously volunteered to serve on the committee. Tamora raised the question of how big the committee should be. Barbara pointed out the bylaws stipulate no less than three members. Peter moved that the committee should consist of no less than three, but no more than seven members. Barbara seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The committee then reviewed the financial spreadsheet prepared by Bill Kummings

Nour raised a question about being specific about what a check was for in the transactions. Bill Kummings commented that he was working on being more specific on those check transactions.

Bill Menczer raised a question about why 25% of all expenses were listed as “other.” Bill Kummings said he was still fine tuning the spreadsheet. Barbara asked if there was a charge for the website and John replied yes.

Barbara thanked Bill for his outstanding work on putting together the spreadsheet.

Nour Raised the question about previous ad buys in the Acorn and whether or not it was determined if they were paid. The committee said that even if they were not paid it was the Association's fault for not billing timely.

New Business:

John Goodman reported that he heard from the Mayor's office about the Mayor talking to the Woodley Park Community.

Barbara suggested an evening at Oyster School to have a chance to talk with the mayor about the state of things in the neighborhood. The committee thought that it would be a good idea, but that we need to hear back from Mayor Fenty's office. The committee looks forward to hosting the mayor in the future.

John reported that the call boxes in the neighborhood are beginning to show wear and tear. Nour Jurgenson reported that the first committee who did the work on the call boxes should be consulted. The committee agreed with that.

Barbara Ioannes mentioned that we should be careful with painting them during road construction due to the airborne abrasion factor and the effect on the paint.

Jay Sushelsky suggested that the benefit of the community building activity should be considered in weight to the time cost of having to redo it soon.

Barbara clarified that she didn't say not to do the alarm boxes in high construction areas, rather she felt that we should do the ones in the non-construction heavy areas first and then heavy construction areas later.

Chuck Lupton asked if we should authorize money at this point. The committee held off doing this because there is sufficient lead time.

It was resolved that John will talk with the old committee and that the Enhancing Community committee would be in touch on this project.

John mentioned that they have found minutes and other records from a previous secretary. The group had a general discussion. Peter Brusoe moved that the WPCA will scan the documents and then turn them over to the Washington, DC historical society. The motion was seconded by Nour and accepted unanimously. Brusoe offered to have the records and documents scanned.

Committee Reports:

John Goodman then called for committee reports

Jay reported that he and Bill conducted a training session with four block captains two weeks ago. Jay reported that there was interest from the south side of Garfield and the 2200 block of cathedral. Jay stressed that the more participation we have the better communication we can have. Return rate on paperwork has been low.

The committee had a discussion about how to improve the return on response rates.

Bill Menczer thanked John for sending out the MPD contact information to the list serve and how that was helpful. There was a discussion about the lack of daily crime reports that previously existed. Bill Menczer offered to contact Abigail Petersen of the Mayor's office to obtain such reports for distribution to block captains.

Bill Menczer suggested and the committee then talked about using the WPCA database to help find additional people to serve on the neighborhood watch as well as to communicate with neighbors who did not return their contact information forms to their block captains.

Stanford:

Barbara reported that she received copies of *three bills from Andrea Ferster*. Barbara and Tony will talk about them, but she is of the opinion that they have been paid. Barbara informed Adrienne Jamieson that they should be forthcoming, *as is one from Tony's firm*. Bill Kummings asked if he needed to look through the check book for a copy of the *payments*. Barbara suggested that wasn't necessary.

Barbara also reported that she thinks everything has been done re.our *Agreement with Stanford, but we still lack a formal confirmation from downtown that it has been recorded with their property deed*.

Barbara also reported that Stanford is having a very nice reception for the neighbors from 3 to 6 on Saturday the 12th. Stanford will be having several upcoming receptions, including a photography reception later on in the *Spring*. Also, Oliphant is coming to Stanford sometime in May.

Membership:

Armen had no formal report, however, the committee expressed their appreciation to Armen for all of his hard work on behalf of the association.

Woodley Park Marriott:

Garage

John Goodman reported that he had received the written order from the BZA regarding the garage. Goodman suggested that getting DC Court of Appeals to overturn the BZA would be slim.

Jay Sushelsky moved and Peter seconded that the WPCA should forgo an appeal of the BZA ruling on the Marriott Parking Garage, subject to reconsideration in the event of expression of substantial community objection.

There was a discussion on the motion:

Barbara raised the concern that the community was so outspoken about this construction that she does not feel that the executive committee should act without consultation.

Brusoe called on a point of order about the date of an appeal. John reported that it was early in February. Brusoe suggested that they add a friendly amendment to the proposal to call for an emergency executive committee if there is a groundswell of interest.

Denny asked about the parking proposal. John walked through the numbers on the amount of parking

spots and the amount of condos and the parking

Bill Kummings suggested that they clarify the history behind the parking situation. John reported that this is a high end condominium building, containing some 4,000 square foot units. The neighborhood was concerned about the height of the building.

Nour asked about the law suit that the ANC and the WPCA filed. It cost \$2,850 from WPCA and the ANC paid the other half.

Jay clarified that the importance of the motion to address.

The question was called and it passed 10-1. Barbara voted nay. Barbara clarified that she was concerned about the amount of public outcry generated by the proposal, and did not feel comfortable about the committee acting the way it did.

The committee did express concern about the roof on the garage and the two “huts” on top of the garage.

Condos

John then talked about the possibility of appealing the height of the condo. A discussion occurred about the zoning rules when it comes to building height. John clarified that the condo building itself would be 90 feet from the lots line, but that it was complicated because the condo structure would be attached to the hotel, and becomes part of the hotel building. The Wardman tower part of the building is not 90 feet from the property line and the whole building must be 90 feet from the property line.

There was also an issue raised about two primary buildings on one lot.

John Goodman reported that the WPCA will have sixty days to appeal the permit issuance.

Nour asked if the permit was issued if that meant that the Wardman MUST build it. It was reported that the permit was consent only.

Denny asked if it made sense to have the WPCA have another lawyer to look at the WPCA case against the zoning decision. John reported that he thinks that the rules do not permit a 90-foot building, but that it would be a good idea to have someone take a fresh look at the argument.

Denny moved that the President of the WPCA be authorized to obtain legal counsel to assess the merits of an appeal of the building permit for the proposed JBG condominium building, whose total fees for this assessment may not exceed \$2,000.00. Jay seconded.

Nour raised a point of order about whether or not we should spend the money before the permit is issued.

John discussed that more than likely the permit will be issued. Jay said that Nour's point is well taken, but based on John's assessment we are likely to move forward.

Peter Brusoe called to question. 10-1. Nour voted nay.

New business:

Parking Garage Construction Issues

Nour raised the issue of the renovation of the Woodley Park Towers are being renovated and the Bernstein garage. Nour reported that the WPCA was not informed about this construction. Nour believes that the WPCA should be notified about this to allow people to know about this issue. Bill Menczer asked if the WPCA would get a copy of the building permit. It was stressed the WPCA should be aware of these construction process.

Marks on the Street

Bill Kummings asked about the markings for the curb cuts what the different marks and colors meant on the sidewalk.

Peter Brusoe Moved to adjourn, Barbara seconded and the motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting is slated for February 6th at 7PM