

Woodley Park Community Association
Executive Committee Meeting
February 6th 2008
7:00 PM
Herbert Hoover Room of Stanford University in Washington, DC

Present:

RN Jurgenson
John Goodman
Bill Menczer
Elba Morales
Barbara Ioanes
Jay Sushelsky
Betty Lupton
Chuck Lupton
Stephanie Zobay
Lee Brian Reba
Armen Tashdimian
Peter Brusoe

Welcome

7:04 WPCA president John Goodman welcomed everyone to the meeting, expressed appreciation to Stanford for hosting us and called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

Minutes Approval

7:06 The Group discussed the minutes from the previous executive meeting and the meeting with Mayor Fenty. No changes appearing in the minutes they were accepted as written.

Oyster School Run

7:08: John Goodman then introduced Maria-Elena Nawar, a member of the Community Council for Oyster School came to talk about "The Vamos run for Oyster-Adams Bilingual." Maria Elena talked about the school needing approval from the community. ANC Commissioner Stephanie Zobay had recommended that Maria Elena talk to the WPCA to gauge support and address any issues that the WPCA may have.

Maria-Elena talked about how this fund raiser was going cast a wider net then they are currently doing for their fund raisers, as well as helping to address fitness issues associated with children. Funds raised by the community council go to cover costs not provided for by DCPS. Funds would be targeted to improve the playground which the community can also use. Tentatively the 5K race is set for October 25, 2008 from 8:30 to 11:00AM and that there would be a fun run for children on Cleveland Avenue. The start time would be 8:30 which would mean street closures starting at 7:30 Maria also said that several schools on Capitol Hill have done it and have been tremendously successful. At this point the floor was open for questions.

Bill Menczer asked about whether the streets used by the route would be closed the entire time, or if they would employ a rolling road block. It was reported that the intention was to have a rolling road block and that there will be plenty of water stations in keeping with Mayor Fenty's proposals.

Barbara suggested that the Oyster school examine different parking options and examine opportunities to partner with the community. Maria Elena said that she would look into that.

Barbara asked about portable bathrooms being needed in the neighborhood. Maria replied that for the small amount of people that they could easily use the Oyster School bathrooms

Bill Menczer asked about if the cars would need to be moved from the streets. Maria-Elena said she didn't believe they needed to be. Peter offered that when AU does their foot race the police are very accommodating to neighbors by assisting them to leave in their cars if they need to.

Chuck asked about what other events were occurring on that weekend. Maria-Elena reported that the school was looking at doing it on Sunday the 26th. However, the Police discouraged that due to traffic issues with the churches and recommended that Oyster aim for a Saturday.

Barbara asked that the race sponsors identify a central contact person that neighbors can contact if there is a problem the day of the race, sort of act like a hot line that we can use if there are any problems on the day of the race.

John would communicate to WPCA members and see if there are any issues the neighbors may have and after those are addressed, he would sign off on a letter to the ANC.

Peter Brusoe moved that the Executive Board endorse the concept of a run provided that the Oyster School address issues related to parking and ensuring that neighbors are able to exit their homes, by car, if needed.

Nour seconded the motion.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

John Goodman then introduced two visiting ANC commissioners, Stephanie Zobay and Lee Brian Reba. Both of whom engaged in some dialog over the race.

Wrap up from Fenty Meeting

7:36: The group then moved on to talk about the meeting last Tuesday with Mayor Fenty. John reported that the mayor expressed interest in another meeting in either late March or early April.

Barbara reported that in her opinion the meeting went very well. From her talking with the neighbors it's clear that there is a lot of concern among the neighbors. She also raised some concerns about non-working fire hydrants.

The group talked about ways of increasing attendance at the meeting. It was discussed that it would be nice to have more people at the meeting. However, the lack of notice prohibited that.

Funds to our Church Hosts

7:46 John brought up the issue of making donations to churches that hosted our meetings as a way of saying "thank you." John mentioned that we have done it in the past.

Peter Brusoe recused himself from the discussion and voting due to a conflict of interest.

The Group talked about the generosity of the two churches who have hosted us in the past and how it would be nice to give them an expression of our appreciation.

Chuck Lupton moved that the WPCA donate \$200.00 to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and \$200.00 to All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church.

It was second by Jay Sushelsky.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Donations and Cards

7:54: John moved to the discussion of donations and membership cards.

John described the process that donations and membership renewals come into Armen and then he sends info to Nour who sends out membership cards.

Barbara asked about the membership cards that are being sent out, and Nour reported that she was a little bit behind in getting them out. The group then talked about whether or not membership cards are needed.

Peter suggested that the membership card or something should be given to them. John says that there needs to be a way to close the cycle.

The group then discussed what it could to make the cards worth more. Peter suggested that rather than having a list of restaurants there might simply be a sign in the windows of the restaurants or stores that the card would entitle them to get some type of benefit. (e.g. discount)

Lee Brian suggested that there are a lot of good ways that we can engage the community, and ways that we can increase exposure of the WPCA including selling sponsorships. Nour cautioned that there needs to be a volunteer to coordinate it.

The discussion then centered around contributions more than \$100.00. The WPCA agreed that donors of gifts of \$100.00 or more would get a written thank-you.

Committee Reports

Stanford

8:10 The executive committee then moved to committee reports. Barbara reported that the Oliphant exhibit at Stanford will be open to the public in late April.

Barbara is getting ready to give the bills to Adrienne Jamieson (from Stanford) to reimburse us for the legal bills.

A question came up about Stanford.

It was resolved that Lee Brian would work on a certificate of appreciation to Stanford.

Neighborhood watch

8:16: Neighborhood Watch: Jay reported that Bill and he are encouraging the block captains to gather data from as many neighbors as will agree to share their household and contact information.

Bill Menczer reported that there was a robbery on the 2900 block of Garfield Street. On Tuesday the 5th of February around 4:30 PM two 8th graders were accosted by two older teenagers. One of the robbers pointed to a gun in his pocket and demanded all of their valuables. They patted down the two 8th graders took their money and their cell phones. The suspect information is:

Suspect #1: African-American male between 15-16 years of age about 5'7, dark complexion with dark hair and eyes. He was wearing blue jeans, Northface jacket and was armed with a hand gun.

Suspect #2 was also an African-American male between 15-16 years of age about 5'7, light complexion with a mustache, wearing a green hooded sweatshirt, and purple and green shoes.

Though the event happened at 4:30PM, it was not reported to the Metropolitan Police Department until the young victims arrived home. Anyone with information is asked to call the Second District detective's office at 202-730-1903.

Stephanie Zobay stated she was concerned about some of the young Oyster school children going through to the neighborhood on their own.

Barbara mentioned that over by Woodley Place, an African-American Male was loitering, entering front yards and sitting on the steps.

Community Building

8:22 Bill Menczer reported on behalf of Tamora that the community building committee was looking for a fifth member. Current membership consists of Tamora, Marie-Louise Bernal, Nour, and Alan Weinstein. Lee Brian volunteered to be the fifth member of the committee and that the organizing meeting will take place in February.

Neighborhood watch revisited

8:26: The group then talked more about the neighborhood watch. It was suggested that it would be nice to have information on the website concerning neighborhood watch, as well as including crime information taken directly from the crime reports from MPD 2D for PSA 204.

Wardman

8:30: John reported that the Marriott Wardman permit was issued and recapped the discussion from the January meeting. John reported that he met with a lawyer who said that the argument to limit the height of the project to 50 feet made sense, however, he cautioned that an appeal would be an uphill battle.

Nour asked about what the DC law said. Elba replied that the language of the zoning regulations appears not to permit a 90 foot structure to be erected. John then explained that DC law only allows one primary building per lot, which was why JBG had to connect the condo to the Hotel.

Nour asked if John asked the new lawyer what the cost of the appeal was. John said he had not, but that the lawyer would be willing to do as much or as little as the WPCA wanted and that the cost would reflect that.

John then reported that there were also issues involved with the measuring point from the 1960s. There is a new regulation (Four years old) that has changed the rules. There was some question if the lack of a definite point was sufficient to derail the appeals process. The group came to a consensus that the issue was not enough to derail the appeals process.

Peter asked about the date to file the appeal.

John said that it was due around March 14th.

Nour asked if there was an intention to build the new building, or if it was just the issuance of the permit. John and Elba reported that some initial construction had taken place to allow trucks into the area and that no doubt construction would be occurring.

There followed some general discussion about issues related to the development of the neighborhood.

In summary, John reported that he will consult with the lawyers and experts and report back before the WPCA takes any legal action against the Marriott Wardman.

The committee then approved a special March general membership Meeting to be held on March

5th

Community Concerns and good of the Neighborhood

Stephanie Zobay suggested that it was important that we have a discussion of fire safety at some meeting, perhaps the March 5th meeting, or at some future meeting.

Stephanie also reported that the Oyster school was hosting an auction and was wondering if the WPCA would be willing to purchase an ad in their program. Jay moved and Peter seconded that the WPCA buy an ad in the Oyster school auction booklet for the same size that we did last year but not to exceed 10% of the cost of the previous year's ad. The motion passed.

Jay talked about the Examiner daily newspaper being a nuisance and that a neighbor tosses it out in the street causing public safety problems.

The committee talked about issues related to the nominating process for the presidential election next Tuesday.

The committee then talked about the proposed visitor passes.

Some concerns related to:

- 1) Parking Demand
- 2) Do people know where their SMD is?
- 3) Would people sell their passes to their neighbors for a profit.
- 4) This would work really well for elder care and the amount of people that are given the permits. Nour suggested that we really need to address the issues related to giving parking privileges.
- 5) Peter suggested that people would have to apply for the parking permit.

Jay moved to adjourn, Nour seconded the motion. The meeting broke up at 9:35