

WPCA Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes  
St. Thomas Apostle Church, 2665 Woodley Road, NW  
Recorded by Stephanie Zobay

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm, on May 11, 2006, by President Nour Jurgenson.

**II. Agenda Items**

- A. Establishment of a Quorum: At the request of President Jurgenson, Stephanie Zobay, Secretary, confirmed that a quorum consisting of at least 12 members of the Woodley Park Community Association was present.
- B. Voting Procedures: At the request of President Jurgenson, Secretary Zobay explained the voting procedure. Each candidate would be given 5 minutes to state their platform and the vote would take place following the speeches. Community members could choose to vote sooner than the designated time by marking their ballots and placing the ballots in the bags allocated for ballots at the front sign-in table. Community members must vote in person, no proxy or absentee ballots are accepted.
- C. Ambassador of Switzerland: A short introduction was given by the new Swiss Ambassador, Urs Ziswiler. Ambassador Ziswiler provided a brief update on the construction of the new residence, stating that the completion date is set for mid-September 2006. He further stated that the Swiss Embassy will work to be good neighbors in the Woodley Park community.
- D. Elections: Nan Simpson moved that the Executive Committee elections be held as the next order of business as there is a tornado warning and members may wish to leave the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deborah Jane Lindeman. The motion was accepted by President Jurgenson.

Roy Woodall, co-chair of the Nominations Committee gave a brief overview of the nomination results. He stated that there were two names for each office. Mr. Woodall commented that a handout was being distributed with a suggested slate of Officers, but the author of the handout was not identified. He stated that the nominations committee did not offer a slate to the community in order to promote a fair and open election. Commissioner Lindeman stated that she received a biography regarding one candidate in an official WPCA email listing and she found this to be highly irregular.

Nominations from the floor were called. Elizabeth Franklin nominated Elba Morales for the vacant At-Large Executive Committee position. The motion was seconded by Chuck Carlsen. President Jurgenson moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Larry Auerbach. President Jurgenson then introduced the candidates:

1. John Goodman for President: Mr. Goodman stated he had lived in the neighborhood for 22 years, and had raised two children, ages 13 and 22, in the neighborhood. He is a lawyer but hasn't practiced in the past few years. His view of the WPCA is that the association belongs to

its members and we, the community, are the shareholders. The officers should work for the shareholders and he asserted that he would keep on top of issues.

2. Wes Bizzell for Vice-President: Mr. Bizzell stated that he had lived in the neighborhood since 2004, moving here to raise a son in an atmosphere with a sense of community. He is concerned about the climate his son grows up in, and views safety and traffic issues as major concerns. He is currently an attorney with Winston and Strom, and has been with the firm for the past six years.

3. Kathleen Stratton for Vice-President: Ms. Stratton stated that it was important that we are all involved in the community and not just attend two big meetings per year. She would like to put the community back into WPCA. There needs to be an environment where all opinions and voices are heard, and she would like to see the meetings return to an open forum. She is looking forward to being part of an association that takes a role in major issues but also smaller issues such as WPCA Kids.

4. Diane Danulek for Secretary: President Jurgenson announced that Ms. Danulek could not attend the meeting this evening.

5. David MacDonald for Secretary: Mr. MacDonald stated that his family has lived on 28<sup>th</sup> Street, NW since 1961, and his family has grown to include a set of new triplets in Wheaton. Mr. MacDonald commented that we live in an important and beautiful neighborhood, and that intelligent people deserve a good association, having their voice heard, and being part of the decision making process. He stated that we can improve it [WPCA], especially with turnouts like tonight and the passion that people share for the community. He concluded by stating that he has been a newspaper man by trade and urges the community to ask questions of the Executive Committee, and demand answers.

6. Ellen Passman for Treasurer: Ms. Passman stated that she has lived in Woodley Park for 12 years, on 29<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. She has been active in the Association for the past 5-6 years and has been a regular attendee for the past 3-4 years. Ms. Passman stated she is a CPA and has worked for public firms and private practice. Since 2002 she has been a real estate agent. She stated that WPCA has exciting things to offer such as the Fall festival and WPCA Kids and is a way to bring the community together in ways to express themselves such as the website forums, meetings and talking about subjects pertinent to the neighborhood. Ms. Passman stated she has seen more dissention in the neighborhood this past year than she would have liked, and there are many talented people in the community.

7. Jesus Soriano-Molla for Treasurer: Barbara Ioanes stated that Jesus could not attend the meeting due to an explosion on the 2700 block of Woodley Place. She read a brief statement written by Mr. Soriano, which stated that Mr. Soriano was a Ward 1 resident, and held a Masters degree in Finance from Johns Hopkins as well as an MD degree. He is

married with a baby, and has different ideas to share with the community, including more accountability.

8. Elba Morales for At-Large vacancy: Ms. Morales stated she was an architect and has lived in DC for four years. A native of Puerto Rico, Ms. Morales stated she liked the mix of young/old, natives/foreigners in the community. As an architect, she has been involved “on the other side” of issues like the Marriott due to the nature of her work, and feels her experience can help the organization. On a personal side, she likes making pottery.

9. Tony Nuland for At-Large vacancy: Mr. Nuland stated he has been filling in for the term of Stephanie Clipper. He has lived in the neighborhood for ten years, and has been in DC since 1973. He is a Princeton grad as well as a graduate of the New York University Law School. He is employed with a NY law firm. Mr. Nuland stated he has been involved with the community for seven years, re-wrote the By-Laws in 2000, and updated them in 2005. He was the chair of the committee negotiation the occupancy agreement with OSHA and is motivated by civic duty. Mr. Nuland emphasized two important points. All are volunteers for the entire community and not just a street, as issues come up time and time again. Second, the association can help the community formulate views and act before issues affecting the community get passed. Patience, goodwill, and tolerances of the past and future are necessary.

10. Nour Jurgenson for President: Ms. Jurgenson stated that she was born in Europe and had been raised all over the world, educated in all countries. Thus she has the benefit of home wherever she goes. Ms. Jurgenson stated she has a small home in Virginal and a home in DC. She sent two children to Oyster, and has one son in Iraq. In addition, Ms. Jurgenson stated, she has a daughter with Downs Syndrome and noted how wonderful people were in accepting her into the community and allow her the opportunity to be independent. Ms. Jurgenson stated she is running again for office because she believes in payback and pursuing things she has started. She has received tremendous support from the Executive Board, starting with the Holiday Reception. Ms. Jurgenson stated we come to meetings, and hear and listen to issues and need to be concerned with the whole community. She feels strongly that an informed community is a progressive community. In addition, a new website should be up in 7-10 days.

After the presentations, ballots were collected. The results were tabulated by Nick Burgess, Judy Orvis, and Tamora Illsat. Election results: President Jurgenson announced the results of the election. President: John Goodman (74-48), Vice President: Wes Bizzell (71-52), Secretary: David MacDonald (72-51), Treasurer: Jesus Soriano (71-49), and At-Large: Elba Morales (54-47). In addition, Barbara Ioanes received one vote for President and Kitty Chatelaine received one vote for President.

E. Ward 3 Candidates: President Jurgenson introduced Robert Gordon and Mary Cheh. Both are seeking the Ward 3 Council seat being vacated by Kathy Patterson.

- F. Presentation by JBG, Inc.: Ilan Scharfstein gave a brief overview of the events pertaining to the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel, noting that the hotel restaurant will be closed for a few months. JBG bought the hotel in July 2005 and the plan is to change the character of the hotel to fit the residential community. JBG plans to give the hotel neighborhood character, convert a wing of the hotel to residential use and add a condominium tower to the front lawn. The contractor will be White and Turner. These substantive renovations will cost \$40 million, and some renovations have begun. Mr. Scharfstein noted that the guest rooms in the center tower are a bit dated and the renovations will require relocation of the Cotillion Ballroom. The relocating of the loading dock takes truck traffic off Woodley Road and this will be done by mid-July. The new Junior Ballroom will be constructed where the pool was, behind the center tower. Construction should begin in two months and will be completed in 6-7 months. The existing Cotillion Ballroom will then be razed and JBG will put up the new condominium building. Mr. Scharfstein then turned the presentation over to Allister Macintosh, who provided the landscape presentation.

Following the presentation, Mr. Macintosh entertained questions from the community. He noted that the public will have access to the park after it is completed (dogs, too), and they welcome constructive feedback to improve the park.

- G. Approval of the Minutes: Wes Bizzell moved that the September 2005 Fall General Meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Franklin. **The motion was unanimously approved.**  
David MacDonald moved that the April 5, 2006 Special Meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Richard Specter. **The motion was unanimously approved.**
- H. Treasurer's Report: Ellen Passman stated she would email the Treasurer's report to the membership.
- I. Stanford-In-Washington: President Jurgenson stated she would email the report as Adrienne Jamieson could not stay for the duration of the meeting.
- J. Oyster Elementary School: Liaison Stephanie Zobay gave a brief overview of the fall enrollment. Oyster is accepting 24 students in the Pre-K class. Of these, 12 are English language dominant and seven are in-boundary students with a sibling in the school. Twelve Pre-K students are Spanish language dominant, and of these, six are in-boundary with a sibling in the school. Oyster is accepting 24 students into Kindergarten as well. Sixteen in-boundary children have applied. Three out-of-boundary students have been accepted from the lottery. Each Kindergarten class must have 12 native English speakers and 12 native Spanish speakers in order to maintain the integrity of the program. Thus, a third kindergarten may be necessary if enrollment numbers escalate. There are 205 students on the waiting list for Pre-K and Kindergarten. There are 54 students on the waiting list for grades 1-6.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

The following memo was received at the meeting:

"Please know that I resign any affiliation with WPCA effective midnight, May 11, 2006", signed Kurt Vorndran.

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

May 11, 2006

John Goodman moved to adjourn. Commissioner Lindeman seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M. on May 11, 2006.

DRAFT