

WPCA General Meeting Minutes

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church: 2300 Cathedral Ave., N.W.

Recorded by David MacDonald

- I. President John Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. on October 26, 2006.
- II. Agenda Items
 - A. Establishment of a quorum: Secretary David MacDonald confirmed the presence of a quorum of 12 members of the Woodley Park Community Association.
 - B. JBG UPDATE: Vice President Wes Bizzell reported that excavation of the underground garage is finished and concrete work is being started. On Dec. 12 the Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a hearing on the appeal filed by ANC 3C and the WPCA in July against the city's decision to issue permits to JBG to build an underground garage for 249 cars in front of the entrance to the Marriott. ANC 3C authorized retaining a lawyer for the appeal at its last meeting. JBG sought three curb cuts on Woodley Road but the Public Space Committee denied the two new ones intended to serve as driveways for JBG's planned 90-foot-high condominium tower. The third application, to move closer to Connecticut Avenue the existing entry driveway to the Marriott Hotel, was approved. Bizzell, at-large board member Elba Morales, Commissioner Deborah Jane Lindeman, and 15 community members opposed the three new curb cuts at the August 24 meeting. JBG is willing to meet with the community about its new driveway proposal but this may not happen for several weeks. JBG plans to apply next spring for permits to build a condominium tower. Goodman said if our appeal at the BZA against issue of permits for the underground garage succeeds, his guess is that JBG will decide to seek city permission (in the form of a zoning variance) to do so.

AAHSA BUILDING'S PUBLIC GARAGE: Bizzell said the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, at 2519 Connecticut Avenue and Calvert Street, asked the WPCA to agree to alter a requirement that the building's garage remain open to the public on Saturday evening and Sunday, arguing that minimal usage made it uneconomical to have garage staff on duty at these times. He explained that when the site was being redeveloped in 1998 the developer had to get a variance from the Board of Zoning Adjustment and had to make an agreement with the WPCA. That agreement included allowing the public to use the building's garage. Bizzell said the WPCA told AAHSA that we would not enter into negotiations to end that requirement, but did suggest that AAHSA make garage parking better known, to increase usage.

TRAFFIC ISSUES: Bizzell emphasized the need to provide precise information when complaining to JBG about problems with dump trucks and concrete trucks. The name of the company, the truck's

license plate number and its DOT number would let JBG identify the correct vehicle. Goodman noted that the Washington International School had just begun its construction project.

C. GUEST SPEAKER:

Goodman introduced Inspector Andy Solberg, Acting Commander of the 2nd District of the Metropolitan Police Department, our Speaker. Solberg urged Woodley Park residents to help to prevent crime by being prudent. Walking around the neighborhood the day before the meeting he had seen a crook's paradise. Front doors were open, garage doors were unlocked or open, bikes were in open view on porches, car doors were unlocked and car windows open, with items in plain view for thieves to steal. He had personal experience of view-and-steal himself, when a thief smashed a window to get the three quarters lying on his dashboard. It cost \$125 to replace the window. Residents should assess their own area for security weaknesses. He cautioned lone women against walking down streets slowly at night, talking on cell phones. Walk with a friend; if alone, walk briskly and confidently. Residents should call 311 if something unusual was seen, or 911 if a crime was in progress or about to happen. Callers should talk urgently in an emergency and get the call taker's number. Asked about flashing roof lights on police cars, he said most officers dislike them because it makes it harder to sneak up on criminals, because cars pull over, thinking it is a traffic stop, and because officers fear a rear end collision. Regular targets for theft from cars were GPS devices, laptop computers, packages and cell phones.

Goodman thanked Commander Solberg and told residents they could get information about crime at www.crimereports.com and should get to know the police officers in their area.

D ELECTIONS: Treasurer and at-large executive committee members: Goodman said the nominees were Bill Kummings for Treasurer, for at-large positions, Barbara Ioanes, Elba Morales, Ronnie Rosenwasser, Terry Shea and Jay Sushelsky. No further nominations were made. All were declared elected by voice vote.

E ADJOURNMENT: Goodman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. due to the collapse of ANC Commissioner Deborah Jane Lindeman and arrival of emergency vehicles.