

Country Club Hills Civic Association
Annual General Meeting
May 13, 2004
Room 6, John C. Wood Center

MINUTES

Board members present: Jill Toth, president; Courtney Ashmore, VP, block captains; Steven Lane, secretary; Ryan Abate, treasurer; Lisa Whetzel, VP, publications; Olivier Long, VP, membership; Lee Faber and Dia Pullen, VPs, social affairs. Also present were Hildie Carney, chair, Welcoming Committee, and Ernie Klimonda, historian and about 20 CCH residents. Excused: Paul Sullivan, VP, civic affairs.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Officer Pam Nevlud talked about the SAFE Neighborhood program. She said that city police are trying to be more proactive with stopping speeding and red-light running. The city has about 150 identified "trouble spots" through which resources are rotated – including speed trailers and "Car 25," an empty police car that slows drivers down just by its presence. Nevlud encouraged people to call to report speeding or other dangerous driving. Katie Baxter-Gagen, community safety VP, shared some statistics on average speeds in the neighborhood.

City Councilwoman Patrice Winter and Fairfax School Board member Allen Griffith addressed the assembled CCH residents on the issue of the proposed \$87 million school bond issue. The city's schools are getting old and need renovating and expanding, Griffith said. Even basic maintenance would cost \$20 million, according to Griffith, even if nothing else is done. He cited statistics showing that academic performance improves with better natural light (part of the renovation would be new windows) and updated schools. Winter reported that the city's debt service load had been coming down, making it well able to afford the bond issue, and said that property values would continue to go up with newly renovated schools in the neighborhood.

REPORTS

Civic Affairs. Paul Sullivan was absent. President Jill Toth reported that we have started a new program to have one board member go to each city council meeting, to establish more continuity and educate other board members beyond the civic affairs VP.

Communications. Lisa Whetzel said she had been trying to get the newsletter out quarterly, and encouraged people to sign up for the Yahoo e-mail group.

Social. Lee Faber reminded CCHers to come to the rescheduled barbecue on The Commons (the original date was rained out) and said that Santa visits would soon be scheduled.

Commons. Jill Toth reported that we CCH had been approved for a pavilion, at a cost of \$28,000 to the city, but that installation would be delayed a little by a shortage of concrete, according to city parks and recreation director Mike Cadwallader. She said that the pavilion would be subject to “park rules” and thus available to all, but that it would be unlikely that outsiders would come and use it.

Welcoming Committee. Hildie Carney reported a 90 percent success rate in signing up new residents as members and stressed the importance of welcoming new neighbors, especially with the high turnover rate these days.

Treasurer’s Report. Ryan Abate said that the CCHCA account contained \$6,500, including \$3,500 in restricted grant funds from the city. He said that further funds would be raised through the curb number painting project.

Membership. Olivier Long reported that 133 households had signed up as members, a 41 percent rate. The goal is 65 percent. He noted that a high percentage of members was important in establishing credibility with the city and said that CCH is one of the best connected civic associations in the city.

Historian. Ernie Klimonda encouraged people to send him photos, newsletters, and other items of historic interest to the neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS

Jill Toth reminded people that “File of Life” forms – on which to record medical history information for emergency personnel – were available from the police, and that the fire department gives out and installs free smoke detectors.

She reported that St. Leo’s had asked CCHers not to cut through the grounds of the school to Van Dyck Park when children were on the playground.

Nina Prescott reported that her house had experienced power surges four times in the past year, and that she believed the cause was faulty power lines. She said she had contacted the electric company several times and been promised new surge protectors, which had never been installed. She asked if others had had the same experience (several people knew of CCH residents who had) and asked for ideas on how to deal with the problem. Suggestions included taking it up with the city, calling state representative Chap Peterson, and forming a coalition to launch a class action law suit.

Blenheim. Hildie Carney, president of Historic Fairfax Ciy, Inc. reported that the city had stopped construction of the interpretive center at the Blenheim estate, after approving it in its master plan. She encouraged everybody to e-mail the council to ask them to honor the original plan they had voted on.