

*Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
March 1, 2003*

Minutes

Vince Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10:06. Chaplain Hawkins read a meditation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The February minutes were read and approved on a voice vote, as was Dennis Logan's Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$1231.60.

Fay Lyles asked for volunteers for the Fundraising Committee. Information chair Willard Poteat introduced Linda Jackson, who discussed the "Neighbors Through Art" collaboration with the Palisades Civic Association, and asked a \$300 donation to defray costs of the reception planned after the musical performance in July. The request was approved on a voice vote.

Sherry Ways discussed a marketing plan designed to improve perceptions of SE and especially Hillcrest, and asked for volunteers for a new marketing committee. Gloria Logan said there are now 385 households on the corrected list, and introduced several new members and guests.

Linda Jackson reported for the Education Committee on the visit to Anne Beers Elementary, and discussed the forthcoming open house which will be dedicated to the Columbia astronauts. She suggested an initiative to help build the school's library.

Vince Spaulding discussed the possible delay in the new recreation center due to new criteria adopted by the zoning board. He said HCCA will ask for adherence to the original specs. Environmental Committee Chair Phil Hammond announced plans for an April 12 Cleanup Day, starting with one of four quadrants in the Hillcrest neighborhood. He introduced a new Tip Sheet on environmental concerns. Legislative Chair Don Murray said he would be developing recommended positions on pending Council legislation.

Kathy Chamberlain reported that both the ANC and HCCA opposed renewal of Clancy's liquor license at the current location, and that a survey of neighborhood residents also showed strong opposition, but that the matter will proceed to formal mediation. Also, she and Jim Byers appeared before a Council hearing where Mr. Catania called ANC7B "exemplary."

Neighborhood Watch chair Dennis Logan commended Commander Dandridge and Lt. Sims for their accessibility to neighborhood concerns. Lt. Sims said there were only 3 crimes against persons last month, and reported on the arrest of some elderly people dealing in marijuana. He said that of 29 stolen autos, 16 carried out of state tags. In response to a question, he said that the old 727-1010 number is being phased out and non-emergency calls are being taken only on 311.

The first guest speaker was Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families, and Elders, Carolyn Graham. She said that disinvestment in youth means over-investment in police and youth detention services. The \$130 million budget gap is a result of declining resources, but the Administration is trying to protect services. She discussed creation of the Children and Youth Investment Trust Corp (CYITC), now funding more than 100 city organizations, and said investment in out of school programs is needed because afternoon is the peak time for youth problems. She noted that the child welfare agency has been brought out of receivership, and added that communities must get personally motivated and engaged. She called Oak Hill a “happenstance” system where runaways end up with adjudicated youth. She said a Family Court has been established, including a juvenile division that includes a diagnostic component where issues of abuse and behavioral disorder can be properly evaluated.

The next speaker was David Domenici, cofounder of the nonprofit See Forever Foundation and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, which serves at-risk youth. He said that research shows if youths are engaged in pro-social activities by the age of 15, their chances of responsible living are much greater. At Maya Angelou, students have mandatory activities, then dinner and study hall, with over 300 adults acting as volunteer tutors every week. He said this engagement “makes our kids believe they’re worth the attention,” and pleaded for adults to make such young people a part of their lives. He said the school was founded because institutions serving young people were failing – that people in city agencies were passionate but the system itself was broken. He introduced Mike Green, a Maya Angelou alumnus, who said the school “changed the way I live.”

Dennis Logan asked what can be done about courts that release young people back to the streets after arrests. Dr. Graham said the Family Court has a social services liaison that arranges for counseling, housing, substance abuse services, and other supports. Kwame Brown said the problem is related to basic education young people are not getting in the regular school system. Vincent Gray (of Covenant House) noted that CYITC’s funding seems to be in some jeopardy; Dr. Graham said a strong board is needed for development, as is more business support.

After the speakers, Kathy Chamberlain said work on Twining Park would resume on March 22, and moved that a letter of commendation be sent to Safeway for staying open through the recent snowstorm. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm, with --- members and guests present.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nelson Smith
Recording Secretary*