

# Minutes

## College Heights Estates Association Board of Directors Monday, November 12, 2007

President Beverly Silverberg called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Beverly Silverberg, President; David Merkowitz, Secretary; Board Members Jean Bourne-Pirovic, Ron Browning, Marcie Gaines, Lisa Holt, Matthew Kinnard, Marilyn O'Brien, Jean Lee, and Anne Scott.

The following topics were discussed:

1. CHEAFest – This fall's festival, held on September 30th, was an unqualified success. The CHEAFest Committee reported that at least 60 adults, and nearly that many children, attended. Photos from the event are posted on the CHEA website (<http://www.cheamd.com/>). The Board discussed holding a similar event in the spring to promote greater community involvement, and reached consensus on the desirability of doing so.
2. Treasurer's Report – Don Hein was not present to give a report, but Beverly Silverberg assured the group that CHEA is not in the red.
3. Street Signs – Ron Browning has been replacing street signs as needed. The signs have to be carved out and painted, and the lettering is very expensive. A number of the wooden posts holding the signs are extremely worn and need replacement, but currently we have none in stock. Resident Rick McPherson volunteered to work with Ron to identify contractors who might be able to do the work.
4. Membership – The Board discussed ways to increase membership in the association, which currently stands at less than 50 percent of residents. The system of color-coding the newsletter addresses to indicate that residents have not paid their dues for the year seems to be of limited effectiveness. It was suggested that individual invoices be sent in addition to newsletter reminders. Marci Gaines, Lisa Holt, Marilyn O'Brien, and Jean Bourne-Pirovic volunteered to sit on a Membership Committee and design a program to recruit more dues-paying members. The Committee will also explore having a resident directory.
5. Communications – John Scott, who designed and maintains the new CHEA website, reminded the Board that the content of the website has to be refreshed regularly to keep residents coming back to it frequently. News and information for the website can be e-mailed to him at [cheamd@cheamd.com](mailto:cheamd@cheamd.com).

6. CHEA Meeting – Beverly Silverberg suggested, and the Board agreed, that there are pending issues which require a CHEA Community Meeting. A meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's School Meeting Room to update various development projects and transportation issues, gypsy moths, and The National Register of Historic Places. (See following item 7 below.)

7. National Register of Historic Places – The Board discussed a draft letter (including an article from the Summer 2007 CHEA Newsletter) Ron Blunck recently distributed by e-mail to Board members. Beverly Silverberg suggested, and the Board agreed, that the December 11 meeting should cover other topics in addition to the historic designation process, including updates on various nearby development projects and transportation issues such as the Purple Line. We haven't yet heard back from St. Mark's on whether we can hold the meeting there. Ron Browning agreed to check with St. Mark's on the availability of the facility and, if it is not available, he will call about other locations.

8. Safety – Lisa Holt reported that there is not much to report in terms of safety problems within College Heights Estates. However, College Park has seen a spike in criminal activity recently, including muggings and robberies.

9. Gypsy Moths – Due to illness, Sandy Stein was not present to update the Board on steps her committee has taken on the gypsy moth issue since the discussion at the CHEA Community Meeting in early September. Board members agreed on the need for timely follow up in light of potential significant losses in our tree cover.

10. Recycling – Residents should have received a post card from Consolidated Waste Industries announcing that the collection of recyclables will change from Wednesdays to Fridays beginning December 1, 2007. David Merkowitz volunteered to check on the status of single stream recycling.

Note: David learned that single stream recycling is already in effect in College Heights Estates. With single stream recycling, residents can place all recyclables – including corrugated cardboard boxes, junk mail, soft and hard bound books, office paper, wrapping paper and aluminum pie pans, along with the glass, metal, plastic, and newspapers they have been recycling – in a single bin or in cardboard boxes or any other container marked with a large "X" to distinguish it from regular trash. Sometime over the next three years, the county will distribute new 65-gallon bins with tight-fitting lids and wheels for recyclables. However, the county Department of Environmental Resources could not give a date when such bins would be distributed to College Heights Estates residents.

11. Neighbors – Jean Bourne-Pirovic reported on the arrival of several new neighbors in College Heights Estates and the sale of 6809 Wells Parkway. In addition, long-time resident Forrest Holmes recently died.

12. Electricity – A Board member expressed concern over the number of recent blackouts in parts of the community. Anne Scott will place an item in the next CHEA Newsletter urging residents to contact Pepco to complain about outages and urge the company to upgrade its equipment as needed. Also, some residents have received notice from Pepco about upcoming electrical work in the neighborhood and the possibility that they will be without power for six hours on Thanksgiving Day.

Update: Beverly Silverberg and David Merkwowitz contacted Kim Watson, Pepco's Vice President for Maryland affairs, and were successful in having the date changed.

13. Leaf Pickup – Signs announcing a leaf pickup on or about November 13 have been posted in the neighborhood, despite the fact that few leaves have fallen due to prolonged warm weather. Beverly Silverberg has contacted the county to find out if the pickup can be postponed, but apparently it will proceed as scheduled.

14. Zip Code – Board members voted not to request designation by the U.S. Postal Service of a separate Zip Code for College Heights Estates or official recognition of College Heights Estates as a postal destination.

15. Development – Resident Rick McPherson reported briefly on some meetings of the planned and potential developments surrounding College Heights Estates and on discussions of location of the Purple Line which he has recently attended.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by David Merkwowitz, Secretary  
November 13, 2007