

Report Meeting of Old Town Residents' Association

March 17, 2005

1. **School Pedestrian Crossing.**

A letter was written to the Takoma Park City Administrator in support of the PTA's request to the City Administration to improve the School Crossings at Philadelphia Avenue (Philadelphia Avenue Issue). Old Town Residents' Association also urged the City to perform all safety measures to which the City is entitled, while waiting for the decision of the State Highway administration to do their part on the improvement of these crossings (Piney Branch, Holly Avenue, Cedar Avenue & Maple Avenue). The association did support the efforts of the Safe Roadway Committee. The letter was approved by the Association and mailed the following day.

2. **Strategy.**

A proposal by Robert Ginsberg was the basis for the discussion, but during the discussion it was discovered that members, including the chair, had misunderstood many parts of the proposal. Therefore further action was tabled, until the Meeting in June. A committee will review the proposal and make recommendations to the association. A number of important ideas were proposed and recommended for enactment:

a. **Social.** It was emphasized that neighborhood meetings do need a social component. In consequence it was decided to have two yearly social events in early summer and in winter. The members proposed to approach either Savory or Historic Takoma for the use of the Carriage House.

b. **New neighbors:** Outreach is important. One way to reach out is to invite newcomers to the neighborhood to the meeting and have a formal welcome for new families. Another form of outreach is neighbor to neighbor. OTRA should have contacts in each segment of the neighborhood to connect with the residents.

c. **Lerner Dance Exchange.** The association is looking for an opportunity to invite Lerner' Dance Exchange Company to establish good neighborly relationship a welcoming party is planned after Maple Avenue neighbors had a chance to meet with the company and learn about the building plans.

d. **Interesting People.** It was also proposed to invite interesting people who have some important message to contribute to the neighborhood. This could be both a social event and lead to planning.

e. **Neighborhood contacts.** While large groups are attracted to burning neighborhood meetings, such as Safety, the association needs to rely on steady support of members who can follow-up on issues and bring them to a solution.

f. The chair should invite all people who have expressed interest on the survey.

Safety: A status police report was made Detective Andrew M. John. A request was made to the Takoma Park Police Department to pay special attention to the streets in the 100 blocks of Holly, Cedar, Maple and Willow- Avenue i.e. the area near the METRO.