

MINUTES, OTRA MEETING, NOVEMBER 17, 2005

OTRA met on this evening in the Mergner House, beginning with a potluck dinner at 7:30. Attending were Dick O'Connor, Matt Clouse, Kathy Belyeu, Kathie Mack, Dean Hoge, Gertrud Mergner, Seth Balsam, Keats Kirsch, Chantal Worzala, Seth Grimes, Charlotte Schoeneman, Dick Munson, Joy Austin-Lane, Wolfgang Mergner, and guest Lorraine Pearsall of Historic Takoma.

1. Treasurer's Report: Dick O'Connor reported that OTRA has \$328. Wolfgang has declined reimbursement for money he laid out over the last year to pay for meetings at the church.
2. Election. The Nominating Committee proposed a slate of officers, which was VOTED with a unanimous ballot.

President	Seth Grimes
Vice President	Chantal Worzala
Secretary	Susan Lawrence
Treasurer	Dick O'Connor

Dean Hoge agreed to assist the secretary. The officers began serving immediately. All offices are for one year.

3. Proposed Development Behind the CVS Store. Lorraine Pearsall led a detailed discussion of the proposed building behind CVS between Willow and Maple Streets, Takoma Square 3357. She expressed concerns and reservations about the scale and bulk and traffic impact of the proposed construction and asked OTRA's guidance on residents' views regarding the proposed Harris Teeter, the height and number of units, and the traffic impact. Historic Takoma believe the process is not being given enough time and should be slowed.

Lorraine will attend a December 7 ANC4B-07 meeting and a December 15 meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board.

After some discussion it was MOVED and SECONDED that OTRA should write three letters. One should go to the Office of Historical Preservation Review, asking that they not make a decision on the proposal until the Planned Unit Development Board vote. A second should go to the D.C. Zoning Commission, saying that the proposal is not consistent with the Neighborhood District Plan of 2002. A third should go to Historic Takoma, asking them to represent our views. VOTED. Seth Grimes and Dick O'Connor will compose the letters.

4. Future agenda items: Councilmember Austin-Lane suggested discussion of planting in the Park Avenue extension at Philadelphia Avenue; also the DC boundary on Maple. Dick O'Connor mentioned a letter from the 7100 block of Maple Avenue regarding the speed bumps.

5. Thanks to Outgoing Officers. President Grimes expressed thanks to last year's officers and thanks to the Mergners for hosting the meetings.

6. Next Meeting. Thursday, December 22, a holiday meeting, at the Mergners'.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Hoge, assistant secretary
additions from Seth Grimes