

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

October 2002

Volume 13 Number 10

Notes from September Meeting

Fate of Kingsman School

Michelle Gelsino and Joel Sharp from the Charter Schools Development Corporation (CSDC), along with representatives from the Cesar Chavez and Options Public Charter Schools, attended the September NLPNA meeting to listen to the issues, concerns, and ideas our neighborhood has about the reuse of the closed Kingsman School (14th and E Streets, NE). The CSDC helps public charter schools find funding for buildings, and is currently working with the two charter schools to secure funding to purchase Kingsman. The CSDC has placed a bid of \$360,000 to purchase Kingsman, and is currently estimating the costs and feasibility of renovating the building or demolishing it and building a new school on the site. The CSDC and the two schools are currently working to secure funding.

Irasema Salcido, the founder and principal of the Cesar Chavez School, spoke about the school's philosophy and its students. The Cesar Chavez School is a college prep school for grades 9 -12 with high academic standards. It currently has 250 students. It draws upon the public policy resources in Washington, DC to provide the students with direct experiences with organizations working in the public interest. Ms. Salcido described her high expectations for the students both inside and outside the classroom. About a dozen students and parents from the Cesar Chavez School also attended the meeting.

The Options Charter School is for grades 5 - 8, and is designed for students who are expected to learn better in a smaller setting. It currently has 150 students.

The current thinking is that the Cesar Chavez and Options schools will share space at Kingsman. It is estimated that the building would need to hold about 600 students in order to make the project feasible.

Because neighbors have waited so long for something to happen at Kingsman, several people expressed concern about the ability of the organizations to obtain financing in a timely manner to enable them to begin work on the school. Representatives from the CSDC explained that they are still in the early stages of obtaining financing, but that they have been successful at obtaining financing for other school projects.

Concerns over traffic were raised. Ms. Salcido said that most of her students travel to school by bus or subway. There was some talk about having a shuttle bus run between the subway and Kingsman to help get the students to school.

There were also concerns over whether the students would be loitering outside the building before and after school. Ms. Salcido answered that she has high standards for behavior for her students both in and out of the classroom. She also said that the strong academic focus of the school keeps the students involved in their school work often into the evening hours.

When neighbors in attendance (about 15 in all) were asked whether they preferred to see the building renovated or torn down, those who

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ANC6A, first Thursday (Oct. 3), 7 p.m., Miner E.S., 601 15th St. NE.
- NLPNA meeting, first Tuesday (Oct. 1), 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C St., NE. Mr. Jerome ('J.T.') Hicks, CEO of the Kingsman Basketball League, has been invited (see article). All are welcome.
- ANC6B, second Tuesday (Oct. 8) 7 p.m., Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE.
- Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, polls open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. NLPNA meeting moved to following day.
- NLPNA meeting, (note change of day) **Wednesday**, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C St. NE.
- *The Buzz* editorial staff can be reached at 543-3512. Visit us at www.nlpna.juniperdc.com.

spoke up expressed a desire to see the building torn down. People said they didn't like the gray play structures that face 14th Street, and that the annex portion of the building was not attractive.

When questions were raised about the basketball court behind the school, it was explained that the basketball court is not a part of the sale of Kingsman. Apparently, the basketball court is on a portion of the property that is owned by the federal government. It is not known

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Notes (continued from front)

right now about future upkeep of the basketball court, and this will have to be explored further.

The CSDC expects to have firmer plans for Kingsman later this year, and offered to come back to a later NLPNA meeting to continue the discussions. It was suggested that the CSDC continue to reach out to others in the community. If you have suggestions of other meetings in the neighborhood the CSDC could attend, contact Michelle Gelsino at 454-9919.

Tax Exempt Status

Since it was formed more than ten years ago, NLPNA has functioned as a non-profit organization, tax exempt under subsection 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. We were not required to file any paperwork with the IRS because our budget was so small, but we were limited in how much money we could accept. So, we decided to apply to the IRS for official recognition of our tax-exempt status.

The good news arrived a few weeks ago; our application was approved!

Thanks for Helping Our Students!

Many thanks to all the generous souls who have already donated school supplies.

Both Maury and Miner ES still need donations of paper, pencils, binders, etc. Art supplies, including recycled materials (cardboard tubes, berry baskets, baby-food jars, egg cartons, etc.) are also welcome.

If you can help, drop off your donations at the schools or with Elizabeth Nelson at 1330 North Carolina Ave.

Buy Your Entertainment Book Now

The Entertainment 2003 books will be here soon! Entertainment books have valuable coupons that allow you to get half off at many area restaurants, and hundreds of other savings. Last year, NLPNA raised over \$200 by selling Entertainment books. The book costs \$35, and NLPNA gets to keep \$7 from every book sold. The book pays for itself in no time.

If you'd like to buy a book (or can help sell the books), just call Suzanne at 547-2477.

Kingsman Basketball League

Mr. Jerome ('J.T.') Hicks has been invited to the October NLPNA meeting to discuss the Kingsman Basketball League. The league was featured in a recent Washington Post article. The games are played on the court behind the vacant Kingsman school. Mr. Hicks will tell us how we can help him and the other volunteers to continue their good works.

Buzz Distribution

Distributors are needed for Elliot St., 1400 block of C St., 1400 block of A St., and the unit and 100 blocks of 14th St. Call Elizabeth 543-3512.

Directory

To be included in the NLPNA directory, call Elizabeth at 543-3512.

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