January 6, 2003

Ms. Carol J. Mitten
Chairperson
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 JAN -9 PM 3:34

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 02-15, Recreation Centers

Dear Ms. Mitten,

It has come to the attention of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association that there is a possibility the construction of the new Hillcrest Community Activity Center could be delayed if the standards put forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Office of Planning are not adopted.
These standards are:
1. 40% occupancy as a matter-of-right in residential zone,
2. 45 foot height limitation in the residential district,
3. Any facility not exceeding 50,000 square feet in size should be treated as a matter-of-right project.

We (HCCA) support these standards recommended by DPR and OP. Our communities will finally begin to see the benefits of years of planning and negotiating that will pave the way for long over due, state of the art, first class community activity centers. Imposing stricter height and size limitations could have far reaching negative impact on the city's ability to deliver new facilities.

It is important to consider that the use and function of recreation and community centers have expanded considerably in recent years. This includes a number of social services, designed to support the neighborhoods in which these facilities are located.

We now expect a center to contain computer resource room capabilities; a place for homework and after school studies; a center for senior citizens to take advantage of wellness activities, (such as exercise and nutrition counseling) receive information and serve as the central meeting place for the exchange of new community news.

These services cannot be provided in structures limited to 15-20,000 square feet, but they can be provided without destroying or compromising a centers green space.

The community has undergone an extensive process and played an active role in planning the programming at the New Hillcrest Community Activity Center. DPR included the citizens at every point. The final design represents the results of long hours and many meetings. (See attached information on HCCA web site to the community).

The citizens of the District should have all the amenities at its facilities that are found in the centers of surrounding jurisdictions.

If you look at the types of programs provided by DPR, it stands to reason that larger, more modern, state of the art facilities are essential.

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association would greatly appreciate your consideration in helping us move these projects ahead immediately because they are so badly needed in our communities.

Respectfully submitted by, Mark D. Johnson

Chairman Hillcrest Community Civic Association Recreation Committee, Phone no. 202 575 2304

Mark D. Johnson

Zoning Commission
District of Columbia
Case 02-15
Exhibit 48

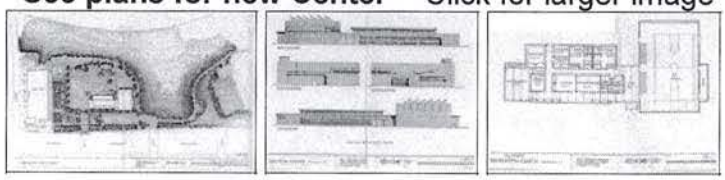
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-15
EXHIBIT NO.48

Calendar
Announcements
Community projects
Photo gallery
About HCCA
HCCA newsletter
About Hillcrest
Hillcrest History
ANC 7B
Penn. Ave. Gateway Project
Penn-Branch newsletter
Neighborhood Action in Ward 7
FGR Library
Hillcrest Rec. Ctr
Classifieds
Links to DC Sites
Feedback

Hillcrest Recreation Center

See hours of operation and facilities

See plans for new Center -- Click for larger image



Reports from the Hillcrest Recreation Committee

by Mark Johnson, Chairman

May 20, 2002-- I want to give you an update on the status of the New Hillcrest Comm Activity Center. I was waiting for the Mayor's budget to be approved by the city council before I put forth any more information about the center. You never can tell, with politics involved, what's going to happen. I spoke with Kurt Bedenbaugh of the Temple Group, Connie Haynes, Project manager with Parks and Recreation, and Neil Albert Director of Parks and Recreation, and they all say that the "Hillcrest Community Activity Center" is a done deal. We should be breaking ground no later than September, if not sooner, since the Hillcrest Community Civic Assoc. was so well prepared with community support. The recreation committee will be meeting soon with the Temple Group/D.C. Dept Parks and Recreation to discuss indepth what will be in the new center. All are welcome to attend. I will let everyone know when we have a date/time. Also, I am trying to secure Neil Albert, Director of Parks and Recreation, to speak at a future meeting.

On **January 17, 2002**, the HCCA Recreation Committee gave approval to the architectural design plans submitted by the Temple Group for the New "Hillcrest Community Activity Center". Copies of the new design plans will be made available at the next meeting of the HCCA on 2/2. The HCCA Recreation Committee thinks that everyone will be very pleased with the new concept of the facility.

On **November 8, 2001** the Hillcrest recreation committee took an exploratory trip to The Cedar Heights Comm. Center in Cedar Heights MD. to get some ideas of what we would want in a community center in Hillcrest.

This was a very enlightening experience. We met with the Regional Manager, Debbie Tyner, who gave us a wealth of information that I would like to share with the everyone at the Hillcrest Community Civic Association.

The Cedar Heights comm. center is approx. 6 years old and was built at a cost of 1.4 million dollars. It is 14,000 square feet with a staff of 15 part time and 2 full time employees. The hours of operation are 9am-10pm Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Sat, and 1pm-6pm on Sunday.

The building consist of a Gymnasium, weight room, lounge area, meeting room, pantry or kitchen area, multi-purpose room and storage areas. It also has a photo lab and computer room. Outside is a fitness circuit trail and a jogging/walking path made from recycled tires. They don't have a outdoor football field or basketball court only a park and play area for preschoolers. Parking is available for 52 cars.

Everyone who comes to the center must be a member of the community and have an identification badge. An ID card for youth is $15.00/yr and for adults $30.00/yr. Use of the fitness area (weight room) is $100.00/yr for adults and free if over 60 years of age. The fitness area is similar to Ballys and has a fitness trainer. They offer an after school program for $120.00/month and have a pre-school that is certified by the state of Maryland.

While we were there (approx. 7pm) a step aerobics class was taking place. They contract out for instructors and it is a pay as you go class with the facility getting 30 percent and instructor 70 percent. Ms. Tyner has several enterprising ways to raise money to maintain the facility and keep it clean.

They have security cameras in every room and a silent alarm to the park police when necessary.

This facility demonstrates a very progressive approach to recreation and leisure in the community. I think the Identification card is an excellent feature and is necessary for the accountability and control necessary to maintain a quality facility.

I would like to see DC Dept. of Parks and Recreation provide this type of service and facility to the residents of the Hillcrest community and to the rest of Washington DC. We should accept nothing less.

The Committee members who took the time to go on this trip were Scarlet Durham, Faye Lyles, Warrick Cromer, Diane Preston, Thelma Martin and Myself Mark Johnson