

**Minutes OTRA Meeting 8/25/05, 7:30 PM Carriage House, Tulip Avenue.** Sabrina Baron, President of 'Historic Takoma', welcomed the Old Town Residents Association for their first business meeting at the Carriage House, a "Historic Takoma" site.

1. **Reports:** School Crossing 410 at Cedar Avenue. The Council approved an eighth crossing guard. Street Painting of 410 plus pedestrian signs are completed. The proposed sidewalk through the Library parking lot is approved, but on hold, until the Building is completed and the parking lot is redone.

Steering Committee: A safety committee for spearheading CSAFE at Takoma Park and Takoma DC has formed. The goals and tasks were developed during the first meeting. Seth Grimes will issue a special report

OTRA recognized Nina Falk for her vigilance for peace at Crawford, Texas and her successful interview with a reporter from BBC (A report of this trip is to appear in the Takoma Voice).

2. **Pest Control of rats in the Neighborhood.** Ms Susan Glimcher presented the problem to the Association. The situation is as follows: Responsibility for Pest Control is with Montgomery County not with the City of Takoma Park. Montgomery County exercises this control by fining property owners, if rats are found on their property. The chief inspector had visited Takoma Park and identified rats around the dumpster of Mark's Kitchen. The property owner did some corrective action at the site. OTRA decided to prepare a survey of recent rat sightings (3 months), street by street to detect rat concentrations and to develop a grassroots effort to control rats in our neighborhood. Ms Susan Glimcher and Wolfgang Mergner will work on this problem. They invite other members from the community to join.
3. **The proposed Construction behind CVS.** Sabrina Baron, president of "Historic Takoma" presented the recent plans for development of the site behind Takoma CVS store. Although the existence of development plans were known for some time, the size of the new development both for residential sites and for retail space is disturbing: 135 residential units, 945,200 sq feet retail space. OTRA reviewed the plans in the light of other sizeable developments, at Talianos, at Maple/Carroll Avenue, at the METRO site etc. Particular concern was expressed regarding the traffic situation with such influx of people and with the inability to provide more space for motor vehicle traffic. OTRA will develop letters in support of Historic Takoma position and will encourage its members and neighbors to contact political leaders to keep the developments within reasonable limits. Takoma DC will have a meeting on October 7 at 7:00 PM at the Seeker's Church about Takoma Metro Commons. Neighbors are encouraged and urged to attend.

Reported by Wolfgang J. Mergner