

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
HELD JUNE 14, 19889

A regularly stated meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) was held on Wednesday, June 14, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. Present were commissioners Bass, Maggi, Moses, and Rieffel. The meeting was chaired by ANC Vice chairman Dennis Bass.

1. The following matters were raised during the Open Forum:

-A representative from the 2nd District Police presented a brief report on crime, noting that most arrests are repeat offenders.

-At the request of citizen George Nelson, Mr. Maggi moved and Mr. Bass seconded a motion that the ANC send a letter to the owner of La Fonda Restaurant expressing concern about the dumpster used by the restaurant, which is located on public space. The letter is to ask that the owner of La Fonda either provide an explanation or remove the dumpster. The motion was passed, with all present voting in favor.

JE

2. Mr. Maggi noted two corrections to the minutes of the May 24 meeting. Ms. Moses moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that these minutes be approved as corrected. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ABR

3. Mr. Maggi presented language to correct the minutes of the May 10 meeting. Mrs. Rieffel moved, and Ms. Moses seconded, a motion that the May 10 minutes be approved, with all present voting in favor.

ABR

4. Mr. Maggi moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that the ANC adopt the attached "Gay Pride Message." The motion was approved, with all present voting in favor.

JE

5. The new staff coordinator, Nancy Melville, was introduced.

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6. Mr. Jim Long of the D.C. Department of Recreation presented the Department's plans for the renovation of Stead Recreational Center. Mr. Maggi moved, and Mr. Bass seconded, a motion that ANC 2B ask the Recreation Department for the following changes:

JE

Mrs. Rieffel made, and Mr. Bass seconded, the following motion:

That the ANC protest the issuance of a new Class "CR" retailer's license (App. No. 28555) for Wyntel Hospitality Group t/a Buckley's Grill, 1633 Q Street, N.W.. This protest is based on the following reasons:

- a) Further ABC-licensed establishments in this small commercial area will adversely affect the peace, order and quiet of the nearby residents. There are currently 19 ABC-licensed establishments in this short two-block area on 17th Street. Residents currently suffer from high levels of noise pollution, illegal parking by patrons of ABC establishments, littering of residential property and public space by often-inebriated patrons of these establishments.
- b) Issuance of this license will contribute to an overconcentration of aBC-licensed establishments. Currently, about 45% of the commercial businesses in the two blocks and adjacent side-street commercial property are ABC-licensed establishments.
- c) Vehicular traffic would be increased and parking available to residents would be decreased to the detriment of residents if this license is issued. Legal parking spaces are at a premium anywhere within two blocks of our 17th Street neighborhood commercial center. Residents find it increasingly difficult to compete with patrons of ABC-licensed establishments for legal on-street spaces. Illegal parking has become endemic, regularly blocking apartment entrances, alleys, hydrants, resident-owned parking, and loading zones. Commercial parking has been greatly decreased as construction projects have replaced commercial parking lots at 17th and P, 17th and Q and imminently in the 1700 block of P Street. Although the building at 1633 Q will provide 100 parking spaces, these will not be assigned to the applicant. Residents of the 1633 Q Street building can be expected to use many of these parking spaces, as well as the patrons of the other 19 licensed establishments along 17th Street.
- d) The section this applicant proposes to locate in is designated a local neighborhood commercial center which should serve the surrounding community of residents. The number of ABC-licensed establishments in the area is escalating much faster than the population. It seems clear that many of the newer licensed establishments are

a. The ANC requests that rather than aluminum siding, the Department use siding appropriate to a historic district on the addition to the rear of the existing building.

b. Mature trees should be preserved.

c. Windows elsewhere on the building should be compatible with those on the front of the building.

d. The design should be compatible with the 17th Street Design. For example, it does not now reflect the planned access from the extension of Church Street eastward of 17th Street to the Stead playing field.

The motion was approved with all present voting in favor.

7. Mr. Maggi moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that ANC 2B not consider any application for liquor licenses in the area covered by the 17th Street moratorium request pending a decision on the moratorium request. The motion was passed, with all present voting in favor. JE

8. The ANC considered ABC Application 28555 by Buckley's grill for a new license at 1633 Q Street. The hearing has been set for July 5 in this case. Mr. Buckley and Mr. Kent Worthington appeared in support of the application. JE

Messrs. Buckley and Worthington noted that the building is under construction and is expected to open around August 15. It will contain mixed uses in the basement, first and second floors, and floors 3 to 9 will be furnished residential suites. They noted that the proposed restaurant is upscale, that Mr. Buckley's firm has a similar restaurant in the Days Inn Hotel at 12 and K Streets, that it is their intent to use public space on Q Street for a sidewalk cafe, and that his firm intends to submit an application to enclose this public space. Mssrs. Buckley and Worthington, in response to questions, stated that the building will have 105 underground spaces. These spaces will be available to the public, except for 16 that will be reserved for residential tenants. The garage will be leased to a commercial garage firm such as "P.M.I."

not locating here to serve our neighborhood, but to attract workers from the downtown business district or from other parts of the city.

The motion was approved, with all present voting in favor.

9. Mr. Bass moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that the ANC adopt the attached comments on the Ward 2 Plan (attachment B). The motion was approved, with all present voting in favor. JE

10. The ANC received comments from a representative of the Embassy of Nigeria, who noted difficulties in preventing breakins at the building owned by the embassy at 16th and O. Recently a number of trespassers were arrested on these premises. The Embassy is making plans to lease the building rather than to occupy it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alaire Bretz Rieffel
Recording Secretary

MOTION ADOPTED BY ANC 2B ON DRAFT WARD 2 PLAN
(June 14, 1989)

In September 1988, Dupont Circle ANC 2B expressed its grave reservations about the Draft Ward 2 Plan submitted to the Council by the Office of Planning. We are concerned that our previous comments were not included in the description of issues by the Office of Planning, although comments by others were included.

The highest goal of the Ward 2 Plan should be to enhance our ward as a place to live. The Comprehensive Plan should be interpreted in ways that are the most favorable to preserving and increasing residential housing, especially in the close-in neighborhoods, such as Dupont Circle, that are continually threatened by non-residential uses.

To this end, ANC 2B does not support higher usage for any property in the Dupont Circle area, north of Massachusetts Avenue, as is proposed in the Office of Planning draft. We are very disturbed that virtually all of the map and zoning changes proposed by OP in the Dupont Circle neighborhood have the effect of permitting new commercial and higher residential uses.

The last two decades have seen widespread and continuing incursions of commercial uses into our neighborhood; the Ward 2 Plan must be a vehicle to arrest this incursion. ANC 2B feels strongly that many of the OP changes, if made, would seriously erode residential housing and existing neighborhoods in the Dupont Circle area.

Specifically, ANC 2B urges that the following changes affecting ANC 2B be made by the Council in the Draft Ward 2 Plan:

- * The north side of P Street between 20th and 22nd Streets should not be changed to mixed use. It should remain medium density residential, as specified in the Comprehensive Plan. OP's proposed map amendment should be rejected. (Issue #3)
- * The map must clearly show that medium density commercial zoning on Connecticut Avenue from Dupont Circle to Florida Avenue applies only to Connecticut Avenue, and not to the areas east and west of the avenue. This is clearly an oversight in the Comprehensive Plan, and the residential areas on either side of Connecticut Avenue must be protected. (Issue #4)
- * The west side of 18th Street from Florida Avenue to S Street should remain medium density residential, as specified in the Comprehensive Plan, and not changed to mixed use. OP's proposed map amendment should be rejected. (Issue #5)
- * The mixed use designation along 17th Street should not be extended westward for half a block along Q, Corcoran, and R Streets. These blocks contain stable, cohesive residential

uses; they should not be eroded by intrusion of commercial uses from 17th Street, where entirely adequate commercial space exists. OP's proposed map amendment should be rejected. (Issue #8) In addition, 1) it should be clearly shown on the map that the residential zoning that extends on the west side of 17th Street from P to Church to Q Streets is not to be altered or changed, as OP's map amendment indicates; and 2) it should be clearly shown on the map that the east side of 17th Street from Riggs Place to R Street remains residential.

- * There should be no change in the Comprehensive Plan designation of 15th Street, from Massachusetts Avenue to P Street. (Issue #17)
- * The block between 16th, 17th, O and P Streets should not be changed to mixed use; it should remain high density residential, as the Comprehensive Plan indicates. Although this area is currently a mixed use planned unit development, the underlying zoning is residential and should remain so.

We hope the Council will give the ANC's opinion on these issues, which are crucial to our community, the "great weight" that executive agencies are required to give ANCs when making their decisions.

Attachment A
ANC Minutes
June 14, 1989

DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

GAY PRIDE MESSAGE

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission, on behalf of the residents and merchants of the Dupont Circle area, welcomes celebrants of Gay Pride Day 1989.

The gay community has been an important part of our area and we are pleased that the Gay Pride Day Festival is being held in our neighborhood. This year's celebration is of particular importance because it will be the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, which marks the beginning of the most recent phase of the Gay civil rights movement. By affirming the dignity of all persons and advancing the goals of equal treatment, the movement has benefitted all of us. We are proud that this year, as in years past, Dupont Circle will be the site of the festivities.