

MINUTES OF THE  
SEPTEMBER 27, 1989 MEETING  
OF ANC 2B (THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC was held on Wednesday, September 29, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church. Commissioners Evans, Maggi, Moses, Grandis, Bass and Rieffel and Staff Director Nancy Melville were present; Commissioner Gaugler was absent.

Mr. Evans introduced Councilmember William Lightfoot, who assumed an at-large seat on the Council in January, 1989. Mr. Lightfoot discussed current city problems, including drug treatment programs, plans for a new jail, plans for additional policemen, longer school days, an increase in after school activities, the Comprehensive Plan, and real property taxes. Mr. Lightfoot answered questions from the audience concerning bicycle messengers and group health insurance.

Mr. Evans then introduced Councilmember Betty Anne Kane, who discussed developments in the repurchase of the Jewish Community Center property by that group.

A representative from the Third District Police presented information concerning crime in the Third District and answered questions of the community present.

No community member spoke during the Open Forum.

Mr. Grandis moved, and Mrs. Moses seconded, a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting, with corrections supplied by Mr. Grandis, be approved. The motion was passed unanimously

Mr. Grandis moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion that the ANC send a letter to the ABC reaffirming the ANC's support for the voluntary agreement by Lauriol Plaza to display a sign concerning parking, and noting that the ANC will withdraw its support if all elements, including the sign, are not in place prior to the reissuance of the license, and noting that as of September 27 the sign was not up, and acknowledging the telephone call from Lauriol Plaza. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Grandis moved, and Ms. Moses seconded a motion that the ANC sponsor a "Clean Your Space" weekend. The motion was passed, with all voting in favor, except Mr. Maggi, who voted in opposition

Mr. Evans moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion authorizing Nancy Melville to spend up to \$150 to purchase a vacuum cleaner for the ANC offices. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Evans moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion to donate to St. Thomas Church signs asking dog owners to curb their dogs. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Maggi moved, and Mr. Evans seconded, a motion authorizing Ms. Melville to spend up to \$100 to purchase nameplates with commissioners' names. The motion was approved, with all voting in favor except Mr. grandis, who voted in opposition.

Mr. John Jennings of 1734 Q street, N.W. presented a request for the support of the ANC for his BZA Application (#15154) pursuant to 11 DCMR 3107.2 for a variance from the minimum 8000 sq ft lot occupancy requirements (Subsection 403.2) for a garage addition in an R-5-B District at premises 1734 Q Street, N.W., (Square 156, Lot 237). Mr. Jennings noted that the inaccurate calculations led to the construction of a garage that, with the house, results in a 63% occupancy of the lot rather than the maximum of 60%. This difference means the garage is 3.22 feet deeper than it would have been with a 60% lot occupancy. Mr. Jennings also noted that garages are helpful from a security standpoint, and that his alley has suffered from an epidemic of car break ins and similar crimes recently. Mr. Jennings stated that his garage has an upper level for storage, which contains a pull down stairway. Neighbors Dona Strombom, Marty Coyne and Paul Nally spoke in support of Mr. Jennings request, also noting crime problems, and stating their position that the garage was attractive and an asset to the neighborhood. Mr. Jennings also presented letters from three neighbors--Erlinda Sandstrom, Mrs. Strombom, and Mr. Coyne in support of the application. These individuals all own houses along the alley in question.

Mr. Jeff Lanham of 1736 Q Street asked that the ANC not support the garage, which he considers a "large and obtrusive structure." He recounted a series of problems with Mr. Jennings during the construction of the garage, including the unauthorized destruction of part of Mr.

Lanham's fence, and noted that construction had continued and been completed after Mr. Jennings had been informed that it was illegal due to the lack of permit.

Mrs. Rieffel, in whose SMD this property is located, noted that she had leafleted both sides of the alley to obtain opinions on the variance, and had received three telephone calls from neighbors (not present) in support of the garage but none in opposition.

Mrs. Rieffel stated that it was her strongly held personal opinion that the garage is excessively large and intrusive, and that it looks as if a crane has plunked a small house down in the rear of Mr. Jennings townhouse. However, she noted that neighbors seem overwhelmingly in support of Mr. Jennings' application, including several neighbors whom she has known for over ten years whose judgment she greatly respects. Several commissioners expressed concern that the ANC was being asked to approve an application after the fact, but noted that they have supported variances in other circumstances.

Mrs. Rieffel moved, and Mr. Bass seconded, a motion that the ANC take no position on this variance but express concern that the ANC was being requested after the fact to approve it. The motion was approved, with Mr. Bass, Mrs. Rieffel, Mr. Grandis and Ms. Moses voting in favor, Mr. Maggi voting against, and Mr. Evans absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alaire Bretz Rieffel  
Recording Secretary