

Letters:

To: The Fine Arts Commission
Re: IBG/Westbrooke P.U.D.

To: David Hall, President, D.C. Board of Education
Re: Ross Elementary

To: Condom-rageous
Re: Welcome to the neighborhood

To: Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly
Re: Decertification of the HPRB

To: Councilmember Jack Evans
Re: Police Pay Raises

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 1991 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas' Parish. Commissioners Bass, Grandis, Schwager, Shannon and Taylor were present. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

During the Open Forum a resident asked Commissioner Shannon if she had checked into the parking situation at 1616 P Street, N.W. Commissioner Shannon said that she had checked into the parking situation and that she would be sending a letter to the owners of the building concerning the signs posted saying monthly parking. Next, the resident asked if the ANC was aware of a new all night coffee house at 1513 17th Street. Ms. Shannon replied that the nature of this business would not necessitate the owners coming before the ANC but there are questions about construction permits that she will be looking into to.

Chairman Bass introduced Captain Swope of the second district police who gave a police report. Captain Swope once again stressed the importance of removing personal items from cars because theft from autos is still a major problem. Ms. Taylor asked Capt. Swope if he was aware of three attempted muggings that took place on P Street. Capt. Swope said that if the incidents were reported, he should have a record of them at the station. Ms. Taylor then asked Capt. Swope if he was continuing a patrol of Hopkins Street. Capt. Swope assured her that he was. Lt. Van Horn of the Park Police also gave a police report. He reported that on Monday December 2, at 10:00 p.m. there was a traffic violation that took place on Rock Creek Parkway in which one motorist who was cut off by another, fired three shots at the car which cut it off. No arrests have been made in this case. Commissioner Grandis asked whether or not the rape case that was reported on at the October 23 ANC meeting had been solved. Lt. Van Horn said that the case had indeed been closed but he was not sure whether or not it had been by an arrest of a suspect or by exception.

Mr. Grandis moved, and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 20, 1991 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.

Issues:

I.

Minnetta Coles, Supervising Assessor with the D.C. Real Property Tax Administration, was present at the meeting and gave a short presentation. Also, in attendance was Ms. Coles supervisor, Mr. Ricks. Ms. Coles explained the process her office uses in determining assessments. She explained that her office uses the Mass Appraisal process, which is used in evaluating hundreds of properties at a time within a certain time limit, using sale prices of comparable properties. They also use sales studies to arrive at the proposed assessment.

IV.

Leah Reibel, Staff Attorney with Councilmember John Wilson's office was present at the meeting and made a short presentation. Ms. Reibel discussed the "Domestic Partnership Act of 1991", Bill 9-162, introduced in March 1991. Commissioner Grandis commented that he was concerned with the media's playing this bill to be one that will benefit primarily the gay and lesbian community and that he felt that there is a need to build a coalition among Afro-American religious leaders, associations of retired persons, low-income working people and others, for support of this bill. Mr. Grandis also commented that the ANC hoped that Councilmember Jack Evans would have the opportunity to be involved in this bill.

Commissioner Bass asked Ms. Reibel if she had anything to report about the "Panhandling Control Act" and stressed the ANC's concern with getting this bill into legislation. Ms. Reibel said that the bill is still in the hands of the Judiciary Committee.

II.

Ralph Dickerson, Ward 2 Representative with the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services, was present at the meeting and gave a short presentation. Mr. Dickerson explained that his office is responsible for the monitoring of services that D.C. residents are entitled to. His office checks that these services are provided, and carried out efficiently. For instance, Mr. Dickerson said that if a resident is treated rudely by a government employee to call his office and they will deal with the problem effectively. Mr. Dickerson also said that at times he may be called away to do other duties such as reporting to the scene of a murder to help in comforting the family of the victim. The ANC asked Mr. Dickerson to notify the Mayor of their concern over the decertification of the Historic Preservation Review Board. Mr. Dickerson encouraged residents to call him with any problems they may be experiencing.

III.

The Candidates for the vacant seats on the Commission in SMDs 02 and 03 were present at the meeting and each gave a short presentation. The candidate for SMD 02 is Nancy Hatfield-Bellinger. Candidates for SMD 03 are Michael Bouchard, Harry Meier, Charles Pell, and Jay Frost. Mr. Frost was not at the meeting. Chairman Bass informed the candidates that the new elected Commissioners will have to be sworn in by Councilmember Evans before they can take their seats on the Commission.

V.

David Fitch and Bobby Smith of the IBG Corporation and Milton Schinberg, architect for WEDAC, were present at the meeting. Mr. Schinberg gave a short presentation and presented building material samples for the IBG Westbrooke Place P.U.D. at 22nd and N Streets, N.W. Ms. Taylor explained that the Fine Arts Commission asked the ANC to give its approval of the building materials before it could give its final approval. After viewing the building samples the following motion was made:

Ms. Taylor moved, and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to approve the material samples viewed this evening. This motion was passed unanimously.

The ANC took this vote on the understanding that agreement has been reached between the Applicant, Citistate/IBG, and the citizen's organization known as WEDAC regarding the building materials and other details to assure contrast among the three parts of the project.

VI.

A representative from Sabina's, 1813 M Street, N.W., was present at the meeting. The representative, the son of the owner, Sabina, told the ANC that they have been in business for 6 months. He reported that there is live entertainment at the establishment such as belly dancing, comedians, and singers. The gentleman reported that the license for Sabina's is a "CR" license and that they have a permit for dancing. He went on to say that there is a large dance floor on the second floor and a smaller one on the first floor. Ms. Schwager asked if there was dancing on the first floor and the gentlemen replied "yes". Ms. Schwager then replied that it was her understanding that dancing was not to be permitted on the first floor dance floor. Mr. Bass also informed the representative that under the terms of a "CR" license, nude dancers and a large dance floor is not permitted. Mr. Bass also added that the ANC has received a number of complaints that there is nude dancing taking place at Sabina's. The representative from Sabina's denied that there is nude dancing taking place and that in fact there is only belly dancing going on in the establishment. Mr. Grandis suggested that a letter be sent to the ABC Board requesting information into the clarity of the license for this establishment because there seems to be a difference in interpretation of the terms of this "CR" license.

Under Commissioner Reports:

Mr. Grandis reported on a letter the ANC received from the Ross Elementary PTA concerning a grant that was awarded to them over two years ago but of which they have not seen a penny. Mr. Bass explained that the ANC negotiated with the developer of a P.U.D. (at the Gramercy Hotel site on Rhode Island Avenue), that one of the amenities it would provide would be a donation of \$150,000 to Ross Elementary School. The developer indeed donated the money which went into the D.C. Public School General Fund, and has never reached the school. Mr. Grandis suggested sending a letter to David Hall, President of the D.C. Board of Education asking for an explanation of what happened to the money.

Mr. Grandis reported that the balance of the ANC account is 9,410.50. Mr. Grandis brought up an article he saw in the paper about a new retail shop opening up in the Dupont Circle area called Condom-rageous. Mr. Grandis requested that the ANC send a letter to the owners of this business welcoming them to the neighborhood and suggesting that there would be a great opportunity for this business to help in educating the neighborhood regarding sex education, sexually transmitted diseases, and AIDS by providing space in the store for non-profit organizations involved with these issues, to display informational literature.

Ms. Taylor reported that at the Dupont Conservancy meeting she was informed that the property at 1312 21st Street will not be on the next HPRB agenda. Mr. Bass said that the Zoning Commissioner had given certain zoning approvals to the plan prior to HPRB consideration. Ms. Taylor commented that it was the understanding of the ANC that there was a BLRA stop work order on the property so she will check into what is going on. This issue will go before the HPRB possibly some time in January. Ms. Taylor also reported that the D.C. HPRB may possibly be decertified. This has never before happened anywhere in the country. She asked the ANC to send a letter to the Mayor stating the ANC's concern over this matter. Also, Ms. Taylor suggested that the ANC inform Mr. Dickerson of this concern as well.

Ms. Schwager reported that the southside of the 1700 block of P Street was excluded from the plan to resurface the sidewalks, and that she wrote a letter to Public Works concerning the dangerous state of this sidewalk.

Mr. Bass moved, and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to pay \$50 to staff coordinator, Hollie Saiz as a Christmas bonus and to modify the budget accordingly. This bonus is to be paid this month. This motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Ms. Shannon reported on the first meeting, December 4, of the task force involved in finding ways to avoid another incident like that which occurred on 17th Street, the night of October 31, involving alleged excessive police force. Members of this task force include representatives from ANC 2B, the DCCA, and the 17th Street Merchants Assoc.

New Business:

Mr. Bass reported on a letter he received from the D.C. Preservation League asking that the ANC become a member of the organization.

Mr. Bass moved, and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to join the D.C. Preservation League at the \$50 level and to modify the budget accordingly. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass also reported on the recent arbitration panel decision granting the District police a seven percent increase.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Taylor seconded a motion to send a letter to Councilmember Jack Evans stating ANC 2B's position on this pay raise; that ANC 2B feels that given the District's finances, a seven percent increase -- \$23 million more than the city's offer -- is irresponsible and should be rejected by the Council. This motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Martha Shannon
Secretary ANC 2B