

Letters:

to: Mr. Edward L. Curry, Executive Director, Zoning Secretariat
re: Foggy Bottom Historic District Overlay

to: Chairman Wilson
re: Compliance with Council Review of Contracts

to: Howard Davenport, Chairman, Public Service Commission
re: Formal Case No. 829, COCOT

to: Mr. David Caney
re: The September 25, 1991 meeting of the ANC 2B

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 1991 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church. Commissioners Bass, Shannon, Schwager, Taylor and Grandis were present.

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and introduced a representative from the third district police department, Officer Trainer. Officer Trainer reported on robberies and burglaries that had occurred all over the District on September 24th.

During the Open Forum, a resident asked about the status of the proposed halfway house at 1718 P street. Commissioner Schwager said she heard it was no longer going to be a halfway house, but said she would check into it and get back to the resident with more information.

A resident asked about a PUD at 17 and O streets which he said was not going to permit public parking. Also, the same resident asked the ANC whether or not they had been notified about the installation of parking meters on 17th street, the Commissioners said they had not.

Kay Eckles asked about the status of the Scottish Rite building. Mr. Bass said that he thought the city was laying new pipe in the road but would look into it and find out more information.

Mr. Bass moved, and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 11, 1991 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

attempt to respond better when responsible citizen groups make complaints.

II.

Barabra Kahlow, Ed Kelly, and Chris Lamb were present at the meeting to give an update to the demolition of the buildings on the 2500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. Ms. Kahlow lead the discussion. The applicants in this case obtained an illegal one day demolition permit. This permit was given to them by a new employee and that employee's name was unknown. The developers then began the demolition on August 3rd. A stop work order was implemented August 6th, the developers then turned around and sued the city, but they lost. Then water main problems damaged the building. A 30 day notice was never given to the ANC and the demolition permit was not revoked. HPRB turned down the designation vote, and then the vote for reconsideration failed. The city was then going to lift the stop work order so they were sued by the Foggy Bottom Citizens Association. They lost in superior court, and won in appeals court on September 18th.

III.

Mr. Bass brought up the Halloween High Heel Race on 17th Street. He said that he has been in contact with the two restaurant owners who have sponsored the race in the past, and urged them to complete the District's Street Alley Application and Petition, if they intend to hold this event again this year. The owner of JR's said that they will not be sponsoring the race this year. The owner of Annie's Steakhouse said that they may sponsor the race this year and do plan on obtaining all the necessary permits in order to do so. A resident said that she has attended the race for the last three years and that it has been run very well. Ms. Shannon voiced her concern that the event not become institutionalized and Mr. Grandis suggested that in order to keep this event localized, advertisement might be restricted to perhaps just inside the restaurant itself. This case will be discussed at the next meeting, October 9, 1991.

IV.

Mr. Bass then brought up our next agenda item: proposed rulemaking by the Public Service Commission on coin operated and credit card operated telephones (COCOTs) the Public Service Commission is proposing that new COCOTs only be allowed to transmit outgoing calls (no incoming calls) because many of these telephones are being used in illegal activities, ie. drug dealing and prostitution.

Mr. Bass moved, and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to support this rulemaking but with the following changes; that the instrument is in a private area that is completely enclosed and where access can be controlled and monitored, if necessary, and that the regulatory changes also require that Advisory Neighborhood Commissions be given 30 day notice of new COCOT installations or changes in service or ownership,

ISSUES:

I.

Mr. David Caney, newly appointed Administrator for the Building and Land Regulation Administration, D.C.R.A., spoke to the ANC concerning a report he read in a newspaper about ANC 2B's request to Mayor Dixon for the resignation of Vincent Ford, who is an inspector with the BLRA. Mr. Caney said that Mr. Ford is one of his best men and asked the ANC to reconsider sending this letter. Mr. Caney said that the BLRA is having problems with a shortage of inspectors and low morale and to ask him to fire Mr. Ford would not help in correcting any problems the ANC may have with the BLRA.

Mr. Caney also addressed questions about a property at 1312 21st Street. Several residents reported that BLRA was negligent in ignoring citizen complaints about illegal construction going on at this residence. Mr. Caney said that the contractor and the architects were found to be camouflaging their illegal construction, and that a stop work order was put on the premises by Mr. Ford as soon as he saw pictures of the illegal work which were given to him by Suzanne Ganschinetz, of the Historic Preservation Review Board.

Mr. Vincent Ford also spoke to the ANC and those present at the meeting. Mr. Ford asked that residents within historic districts take photographs of their property or properties that are thought to be under illegal construction, so that in such cases as the property at 1312 21st street, his office will know whether there have been changes made to a building. He said that he asked the prior owners of the property at 1312 21st street and the owners of the property in the rear to submit pictures and they did not. However, he said that he did put a stop work order on the property in December until some time in January. He also said that any residents who call up with complaints to please give him all the facts, and once again, take pictures. Lastly, he went on to say that if a resident sees any work going on that they feel may be illegal to give him a call.

Ms. Taylor then responded to this by saying that the residents she has been working with concerning the property at 1312 21st street, Mr. Harris and Mr. Waletzky, have been trying to get someone from Mr. Ford's office to help them since December. They had done all that Mr. Ford asked of them, but still nothing was done until the contractors had already begun their illegal work to the exterior of the premises. Ms. Taylor went on to say that she feels the BLRA needs to be more responsive to residents and their complaints and to also make their procedures very clear.

Mr. Bass summed up by saying that the ANC would have no problem in supporting Mr. Caney's request for additional resources for his office and went on to say that the ANC would take into consideration Mr. Caney's request that the ANC reconsider sending the letter to Mayor Dixon. Mr. Bass then concluded by requesting Mr. Caney and Mr. Ford

with an opportunity to present the community's views concerning specific COCOT's. The motion was passed unanimously.

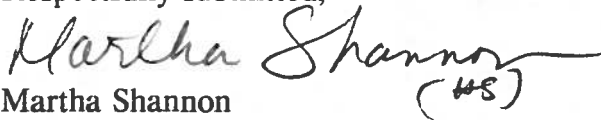
Under Commissioner Reports:

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Shannon seconded a motion to send a letter to Chairman Wilson in support of his efforts to enforce the existing law that requires the Council to approve all city contracts in excess of \$1 million, and to urge Mayor Dixon to comply with this law and cooperate with Chairman Wilson in this effort, but at the same time, to protect the contracting process from undue influence and favoritism by Councilmembers. The motion was passed unanimously.

Following a presentation by ANC 2 A Commissioner Maria Tyler, Ms. Taylor moved, and Mr. Bass seconded a motion to support the petition and prehearing submission of Foggy Bottom ANC 2A, which proposes two alternatives for a rezoning of the Foggy Bottom Historic District. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

 (MS)

Martha Shannon
Secretary
ANC 2B