

Letters:

To: Pride, Inc.
Re: Gay Pride Day Parade and Festival

To: Councilmember James Nathanson, Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
Re: Panhandling Control Act of 1993

To: Acting Council Chair, John Ray
Re: FY94 property tax rates

To: Crown Books
Re: Illegal signage at 11 Dupont Circle

To: James Nathanson, Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
Re: Rooming House Amendment Act

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 1993 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on June 9, 1993 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Shannon, Pagano, Bass, Gamble, and Taylor were present. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Adoption of the Minutes

Commissioner Shannon moved and Commissioner Taylor seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 26 meeting of ANC 2B. This motion passed with Commissioner Pagano in abstention.

Issues:

I. Gay Pride Day Parade and Festival

Mr. Juan Vegega, Vice President of Pride Inc., and Mr. Bruce Miracle were present at the meeting to discuss the June 20 Gay Pride Day Parade and Festival. Mr. Miracle, who also worked on the coordination of the March on Washington, said that he is in charge of the festival. He presented to the ANC a map of the festival area and a list of the 155 exhibitors who will be setting up booths on the grounds of Francis Junior High which is the festival site. He also presented copies of all correspondence between Pride Inc., and the Mayors task force, and informed the ANC that Pride Inc. has already obtained permission from Francis Junior High to serve beer on the premises. He said that at this time no provisions have been made for parking. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Miracle if the second district police had been notified of the upcoming event. Mr. Miracle replied, "yes" they had been notified. Chairman Bass also inquired into whether or not there will be advanced ticket sales for the festival and Mr. Vegega informed him that tickets are being sold at Lambda Rising Bookstore as well as other places. Paul Remson, President of the Emerson House Condominium informed the coordinators that the Emerson House is adjacent to the

tennis courts on Francis School property and that the only access to its parking garage is also the main entrance to the festival. He said that last year Emerson residents could not get into the parking garage because it was blocked by cars. A representative from the Whitman Place Condominium on 25th Street, and residents of the Metropolitan Apts. were present and voiced similar concerns with having access to their buildings during the event. Mr. Miracle said that there will be security officers near the entrance and he would be happy to supply the Emerson residents with parking passes which will allow them to pass through security and park. He also said he could supply parking passes and flyers to all tenants of the different condominiums informing them of the event and the hours. Another concern neighbors had was with the clean up after the event. Mr. Miracle informed the ANC and those present that Pride Inc., has already contracted with BFI to provide dumpsters on site and with private contractors to go in and clean the area on Monday after the event. One resident of the Westhaven Apartment building had a complaint about noise on P Street and asked what would be done to deter it. Commissioner Taylor suggested that perhaps flyers could again be distributed informing Pride Day participants of after-event activities in the city and to remind them that this is a residential neighborhood and to be respectful of their neighbors. It was also suggested that perhaps a second district detail could be enlisted to help clear P street of patrons. Mr. Miracle agreed to all suggestions and thanked everyone for their input. Commissioner Taylor asked that a meeting be set up in mid-August with the Pride Inc., to discuss alternative sites for next years event.

Commissioner Bass moved and Commissioner Taylor seconded, the following motion:

ANC 2B welcomes the 1993 Gay Pride Parade and Festival to the Dupont Circle area. We appreciate Pride of Washington's cooperation to alleviate the problems of this major event for our residential neighborhood. We look forward to working with the organizers to find an appropriate site for the 1994 festival. We wish a safe and successful 1993 event. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Gamble, after having done some research on the "Rooming House Licensing Amendment Act of 1993", Bill 10-247, which would change the number of unrelated adults permitted to reside in a single family residence to 4 or less without registration as a rooming house, offered the following motion which Commissioner Bass seconded:

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (2B) supports the passage of Bill 10-247, Rooming House Licensing Amendment Act of 1993, currently proposed before Council of the District of Columbia. This motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gamble also announced that there will be an Office of Planning zoning seminar June 24 at Sumner School, 17th and M Sts., N.W. at 7:00 p.m. He also reported that there will be a hearing on the Comprehensive Plan in regard to the White House and the use of Lafayette Park. He encouraged anyone with an opinion on the park,

to contact him. Lastly, Mr. Gamble reported that work is progressing at Stead Playground but the work will not be completed by its most recent projected deadline. Mr. John Ralls, representative of Councilmember Jack Evans' office said that he has been in contact with the DPW to discuss this project and is trying to set up a meeting. He will notify Commissioner Gamble of when the meeting will take place.

Commissioner Taylor reported that she has been informed that Francis Pool will also not be opening as expected by June 30. Ms. Taylor also updated the ANC on the property at 1312 21st Street which is owned by Mr. Paul Reneau. She said that the Mayor's Agent upheld the HPRB's ruling to remove the upper 4th Floor on the premises. But, over the Memorial weekend, a new deck was added to the illegal 4th floor, and apparently there are illegal occupants in the building. Ms. Taylor asked staff coordinator Hollie Saiz, to check for a Certificate of Occupancy for 1312 21st Street. Ms. Taylor also reported on the Dupont Conservancy meeting and said that they did not support the addition of granite to the old GAP building at 1200 Conn. citing it as "garish". The Conservancy supported the installation of a new ATM machine at Citizens Bank on Conn. Ave.

Commissioner Bass reported that the Council passed, and the Mayor signed, on an emergency basis, the Panhandling Control Act. Also, passed was the first reading of the permanent version of this bill. However, there is a clause in the bill as it stands now, stating that a police officer must witness the infraction in order to make an arrest.

Commissioner Bass moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded, the following motion: Subject to concurrence by the Corporation Counsel and the Metropolitan Police Department, Dupont Circle ANC 2B urges that, when the permanent version of Bill 10-72, the "Panhandling Control Act of 1993" is passed by the Council, that it eliminate the requirement currently in the emergency legislation that a police officer must witness an offense under the Act in order to establish probable cause to make an arrest. A complaining witness should be sufficient to establish probable cause. This motion passed unanimously.

Staff Coordinators Report

Ms. Saiz reported that she has been successful in locating two possible sites for the ANC office. She said that Commissioner Bass contacted a man who has a space he would be willing to let the ANC move into rent-free. Ms. Saiz said that if that space did not work out, she also found a space that she really liked, however, it is not for free. If the free space is sufficient, the ANC will be moving into it by July at the earliest.

Commissioner Bass moved and Mr. Gamble seconded, a motion to authorize Chairman Bass to move the execution of a new lease. This motion passed unanimously.

Currently, Ms. Saiz works as a Consultant to the ANC. However, it was discussed that the ANC is planning to hire Ms. Saiz as an employee of the ANC and thereby provide her with health benefits and insurance through the D.C. government.

Commissioner Bass moved, and Commissioner Taylor seconded, a motion that ANC 2B authorizes the hiring by the Chair at the appropriate time, of Hollie Saiz as an employee at will to work 20 hours per week, at an hourly rate to be determined by the Chair and Treasurer, and to receive health benefits through the District government (to a maximum ANC payment of \$120.00). This motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Gamble discussed the Comprehensive Plan hearings which will be resuming soon and a request that the ANC has received from the Blagdon Alley community asking the ANC modify its earlier testimony regarding the use of carriage houses and the closing of alleys. There was no sentiment among the Commission to change the previously adopted position in respect to carriage houses.

New Business

Commissioner Bass discussed the fiscal year 1994 property tax rates and offered the following motion which was seconded by Commissioner Gamble:

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B urges you to retain for FY1994 the same (or lower) tax rate for Class 1 real property as in the current year: \$.96 per \$100 of assessed value. At the same time, we urge you to increase the rate for Class 5 vacant land and to include unoccupied buildings in this Class in FY1994, in order to encourage unoccupied property to be put to use in our city. This motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

Former ANC Commissioner, Harry Meier, was present at the meeting and informed the ANC that there is a new West Dupont Neighborhood Watch that has been started. He also reported that the owner of the property at 19th and L Streets, N.W. removed 12 trees from the public space in front of the property. Chairman Bass asked the staff coordinator to notify Commissioner Holmes within whose SMD this property lies, of this incident. Lastly, Mr. Meier informed the ANC that the Super Crown Bookstore, 11 Dupont Circle, has installed neon-like signs in its windows. He pointed out that this was not in the plans that were approved by the HPRB. Chairman Bass said that such signs are illegal in a historic district and said that the ANC would write a letter to the attorney for Crown Books with a copy to the manager of the store.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha T. Shannon

Martha T. Shannon
Secretary, ANC 2B