

Letters:

To: ABC

Re: ABC Application No. 27106, Carmella Inc., t/a Carmella Kitty's Rock Garden

To: BZA

Re: BZA Application No. 15855

To: Delbert McRobie, Public Space Division

Re: Support of the Connecticut Avenue Association's Use of Public Space Permit to display Holiday decorations

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 1993 PUBLIC MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on October 27, 1993 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Ray, Shannon, Taylor, Gamble, and Holmes were in attendance. Vice-Chair Pam Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Capt. R.V. Boggs of the third district gave a crime report and then addressed the issue of Halloween.

### I. Halloween

Capt. Boggs informed the ANC that all officers will be working on the entire weekend of Halloween. He assured the Commission and those in attendance that there would be adequate police personnel on call. Tracy Conaty, of GLOV, asked how many officers would be dispatched to the Dupont Circle area and Capt. Boggs said that he was unsure of the exact number. Ms. Conaty said that a small quiet presence would suffice and offered to be a contact person on 17th Street if any problems should arise. Mr. Sam Jordan of the Mayors Office of Emergency Preparedness also attended the meeting and handed out a list of all street closings and activities for Halloween. He also assured the Commission and those present that the city is ready for any problems should they occur.

### Adoption of the Minutes

Ms. Shannon moved and Mr. Gamble seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 13 ANC 2B meeting with the following amendment offered by Mr. Ray:

Under the discussion of the Halloween Race being moved to the Old Post Office Pavilion, add the sentence; "some expressed their sadness that a neighborhood event had come to an end in the neighborhood". This motion passed with Ms. Taylor in abstention.

At this time Lt. Dan Walters of the U.S. Park Police gave a police report. He said that the Park Police are now investigating an assault that took place in Dupont Circle. Ms. Taylor asked what time the assault took place and he replied, 5 p.m. Lt. Walters also informed the ANC that there will be a special events team working on Halloween night.

## II. BZA Application No. 15855

Mr. and Mrs. Meehan, the applicants in this case were present at the meeting. They brought with them their attorney, Phil Feola and their architect. Mrs. Meehan informed the ANC that they bought their house at 1740 Corcoran St., N.W. in 1968 and started renovations in 1969. There was an earlier deck on the back of the house but became deteriorated. In 1989 the Meehans applied for and received a permit to repair the carport/deck and it was completed in 1991. Pursuant to a complaint, the city came out to inspect the work and issued a stop work order. The Zoning Administrator informed the Meehans that they would have to apply for a zoning variance. Mrs. Meehan said that that is why they are coming before the ANC at this time, to request the ANC's support of this variance. Mr. Gamble asked Mrs. Meehan what the wording on their application said. Mrs. Meehan replied that it stated remodeling of the kitchen and repairing deck. Stephanie Wickowski and David Fletcher, the adjacent neighbors to the Meehans said that they have five objections to the granting of this variance: 1) the carport/deck diminishes the privacy of their backyard, porch, and kitchen; 2) impairs the security of their backyard- there are stairs leading up to the Meehans deck and make it easy for anyone to enter their backyard; 3) if it is an outdoor living space- there will be no control over what goes out there; 4) Mr. Fletcher and Ms. Wickowski claim there was an untruth on the Meehans application: the application said "repairing existing carport only" the word "replace" Mr. Fletcher claims was crossed out and repairing was added in; 5) variances require special circumstances, the Meehans only reason for this variance is simply because they want it and nothing more. After much discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Shannon to approve the BZA application although there may have been misleading language in the application but that motion failed with Commissioners Gamble, Taylor, and Holmes voting nay and Commissioners Ray and Shannon in favor. The following motion was then offered by Commissioner Gamble:

Mr. Gamble moved and Mr. Holmes seconded, a motion that ANC 2B take no position on BZA application No. 15855 for 1740 Corcoran St., N.W. ANC 2B requests that the applicants and the neighbors come together to try and solve their problems. This motion passed with Ms. Shannon in opposition.

The Commissioners suggested that the applicants and the protestants try to work together and reach agreement.

## III. Carmella Kitty' Rock Garden

Ms. Shannon began the discussion by saying that she has been working with all parties involved in the case and that a Voluntary Agreement will soon be worked out between the ANC, the Applicants, and the neighbors.

Ms. Shannon moved and Mr. Gamble seconded, a motion that ANC 2B withdraw its protest against this application for a Retailer's Class "CR" license at applicant premises 1602 17th Street, N.W., ABC Application No. 27106, on the condition that a voluntary agreement be included in the ABC license. The voluntary agreement

shall include, but not be limited to, agreement on hours of operation for the sidewalk cafe, provision of a doorman, contracting with a major pest control company, prohibition on advertising with, or acceptance of patronage from tour companies for tour buses, and installation of security lighting. This motion passed unanimously.

IV. A discussion of the pending BZA Application by George Washington University and the Washington Education Telecommunications Association (WETA) for approval of a PUD and Zoning Map amendment from R-5-D to C-3-C to permit construction of an eight-story building at the corner of 21st and H streets, N.W., was tabled because Commissioners Shannon and Holmes recused themselves because of appearance of conflict of interest. Therefore, there was not a quorum remaining.

#### Commissioner Reports

Mr. Ray reported that the ANC Public Safety Committee is busy designing its flyer to help curb crime. He will bring it before the ANC at its next meeting and will discuss the cost of putting together the flyer. He went on to say that the 18th Street Business Association has been meeting with Capt. Barnes of the third district and he is happy to report that there has been a decrease in drug trafficking in the area.

Ms. Shannon reported that since the last ANC meeting where moving of the boundaries of the Comprehensive Sanitation Plan was discussed, the boundaries have been moved as the ANC requested. Ms. Shannon also remarked that Jack Evans is working on introducing new Sanitation legislation, which includes increased fines, sometime in November.

Mr. Holmes reported that the Connecticut Avenue Association is raising money to purchase and display holiday lights and is seeking a public use permit.

Mr. Holmes moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that ANC 2B support the public use permit sought by the Connecticut Avenue Association for displaying illuminated Holiday decorations between Farragut Square and Dupont Circle. This motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Taylor reported that the recent D.C. Night Out was a success. However, she commented that when the group walked through the alleys, they were dismayed to find that no one had their lights on. Ms. Taylor also reported that Paul Reneau, owner of the property at 1312 21st Street, N.W. has appealed the BZA ruling to remove the illegally constructed top floor and deck at the premises.

#### New Business

Ms. Shannon said that she has received recent complaints of loitering and trash on 17th Street. She will continue to monitor the situation in front of Pena's Spanish Store.

Ms. Taylor said that she will be writing an article for the next ANC newsletter

regarding business owners and panhandling in front of their businesses.

### Open Forum

Ms. Nancy Moses of PEPCO informed the ANC and those present to look in their mail for valuable coupons PEPCO is sending to all its customers. She advised everyone not to throw them away because they are worth up to \$200 on lightbulbs. Ms. Moses will send a press release to the ANC so they can include it in their newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha T. Shannon".

Martha T. Shannon  
Secretary  
Dupont Circle ANC 2B