

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 1999 PUBLIC MEETING OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B (DUPONT CIRCLE)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Commissioners King, Rosenthal, Cary, Jackson, Newton, and Pitsor were present. Mr. Pitsor reported that Commissioner DeHart was ill.

Commissioner Pitsor called for nominations for officers for the coming year. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Rosenthal seconded that officers for 1999 be the same as last year: Chair, Kyle Pitsor; Vice Chair, Fran Cary; Secretary, Donald Jackson; Treasurer, Meredith DeHart. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes of the December, 1998 meeting were approved as previously distributed to the commissioners.

Patrol Officer Denise Williams of PSA 308 gave the police crime and safety report. For the month of December, 1998 crime was down approximately 36%. In response to a resident question, Officer Williams reported that two officers are now on early morning duty to enforce legal hours of trash pickups. Commissioner Cary asked about two people who were robbed at gunpoint. Officer Williams agreed to provide an update at the next meeting. Chairman Pitsor announced that Capt. Shannon Cockett of the Second District and who previously served ANC 2B area was recently promoted to Commander of the Second District. He suggested that we send a congratulatory letter to her. The commissioners agreed.

OPEN FORUM

Chairman Pitsor announced that there would be a meeting on January 28, 8 a.m. at Eden House (1301 14th Street) with Council member Evans to discuss problems with early morning trash pickups.

June Hirsh of Council member Evans' Office reported on the plan by the University Club to upgrade the soccer field at Stead Playground. The process will involve closing the field for 2 months, heavy baiting for rats, increased enforcement of trash regulations at both adjoining restaurants and housing buildings, followed by installation of a sprinkler system and resodding the field. Commissioner King commended Mr. Evans on the quality of the plan.

Commissioner Jackson encouraged residents to review the recently published report by NERC regarding electric utilities' plans for their computers and the Y2K problem.

Chairman Pitsor announced that Mary Nicholaus of Angie's New Leaf (on 17th Street) was retiring and closing the store. He suggested that we send a letter thanking her for long term contribution to the neighborhood. The commissioners agreed.

Charles Sweet and Alan Bate of 2020 Hillyer Place requested assistance from the ANC dealing with problems from Fuzio Restaurant at Hillyer Pl. and Connecticut Ave. The problems cited were delivery trucks on Hillyer (recently resolved), unsightly HVAC system, and major garlic odor

problems from the exhaust system. Commissioner Rosenthal indicated she is aware of the problems and would work with the residents and the restaurant.

ISSUES:

1. **ABC Renewals.** Chairman Pitsor opened the floor for discussion of the nine establishments applying for the renewal. The following were discussed:

Club Chaos, 1633 Q St. Larry Sprouls of 1624 Corcoran St. objected to the renewal because of trash problems and the lack of recycling. He provided pictures that were taken during the past year. Commissioner Cary moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that we file a protest letter with the ABC Board and attempt to develop a voluntary agreement. The motion passed unanimously and Chairman Pitsor appointed Commissioner Cary to represent the ANC at the ABC Hearing.

Lucky Bar, 1221 Connecticut Ave. Commissioner King questioned the bar's use of public space on Connecticut Ave. and noted that continued creeping towards the curb, leaving less than legal clearance. Commissioner Pitsor indicated they do have a public space permit and that he would request that Public Space review the site.

Quality Inn, 1315 16th St. Commissioner DeHart had discussed the renewal with Commissioners Pitsor and Jackson prior to the meeting. There were continuing problems during the past year violating their voluntary agreement, particularly in the areas of sanitation and delivery truck problems. Also, they were cited in March for disposing of grease in the alley. Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Pitsor seconded that ANC 2B protest the renewal on peace, order, quiet issues. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Viareggio**, 1725 Connecticut Ave. Mr. Chris Niosi introduced himself and his plans for a new Italian grocery and deli at the former Larimer's site. His family has run such businesses in several locations in the city since 1910. Eventually he plans to transfer his Class 'B' liquor license from the current NE location.

3. **KAZ**, 1915 I Street. Mr. Michael Fonseca introduced the owner, Kazuhiro Okochi described the planned operation and requested ANC 2B support a stipulated license until the application is formally approved. The owner plans to open the restaurant in mid-February. Chairman Pitsor moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded the following motion:

ANC 2B is not opposed to the issuance of a stipulated Retailer's Class CR license to KAZ, LLC at 1915 I Street, NW pending ABC Board approval of the application. However, ANC 2B reserves the right to oppose the underlying application within the time limits imposed by official notice to ANC 2B. It is understood that in the event of any timely protest against the application, the ABC Board, pursuant to the stipulated license, will order the license to be surrendered pending final disposition of any protest(s).

The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Request for zoning variance at 1752 N St, NW.** Alison Prince of Wilkes, Artis spoke on behalf of the owner, American Society of Microbiology. In the 1980's three townhouses were combined and an office building addition with a partially enclosed courtyard was added in the rear of the townhouses. The Society is requesting to enclose more of the courtyard. The property has been down zoned twice since the original renovation, this requiring a variance for any additions. Three proposals were presented with accompanying drawings. Ms. Prince indicated that the society desires to use the maximum amount of glass in the project, however, the architect indicated that a firewall may be required next to the townhouse adjoining on the east. The ANC concurred with the desire for maximum glass in the enclosure, but took no action since a formal application had not been filed.

5. **Revisions to the Comprehensive Plan.** Chairman Pitsor gave an overview of the recent changes to the plan, noting those affecting Dupont Circle. These included:

- changes to the Dupont Circle overlay were defeated
- approved the special study of P Street, NW from Dupont Circle to Rock Creek Park, the goal of the study being improvement of neighborhood amenities
- approved renewing the effort of improving street amenities on 17th Street, NW from P Street to R Street

Resident Desmond Foynes added that the revisions also include that on lower 16th Street current hotel uses will be retained, with the Hay-Adams receiving permission to add an additional floor of 16 feet and that NCPC will retain their review rights given the Hay-Adams proximity to Lafayette Square.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Rosenthal indicated that ABC negotiations with Mr. P's and the Fireplace on peace, order, and quiet issues are going well. Cafe Japone has added a new venue, Aki, which is under review by ABC Board. Cafe Nora discussions regarding parking are still in progress.

Commissioner Newton reported that Donohoe Construction had sent a letter agreeing to the construction hours requested by ANC 2B at its December, 1998 meeting.

Commissioner Cary reported she is working on four-way stop signs at New Hampshire Ave. and S Street. She is also working with the police to analyze traffic flow on 17th and control the truck parking for deliveries in the commercial zone.

Commissioner King reported that he would be working with the Adams-Morgan ANC regarding quality of life issues on the east side of 18th Street, north of S Street which adjoins his SMD.

Commissioner Pitsor congratulated Commissioner King on his appointment as Special Counsel for Public/Private Affairs in the Mayor's Office. Mr. Pitsor also reported that the ANC 2B is in process

of moving into the new Resource Center office. At Mr. Jackson's inquiry Mr Pitsor clarified that DPW had identified several neighborhoods that need review of all classes of parking. Dupont Circle will be part of the review.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Stead Playground.** Commissioner Pitsor requested that ANC 2B write a letter of support for the improvements reported earlier in the meeting. The commissioners concurred. A resident asked whether the playground area would also be closed given the use of chemicals on the soccer field. It appears the playground area will remain open during the field renovations.

2. **Dupont Downunder.** Chairman Pitsor reviewed a letter for the Office of Corporation Counsel regarding the status of the Dupont Downunder complex. The city has sued the lessee in order to cancel the lease but it was complicated by the lessee's bankruptcy. Chairman Pitsor moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded the following motion:

ANC 2B supports the efforts of the Corporation Counsel to take back the Downunder property from the lessee. We also request removal of the entrance canopies at 1) 19th Street and Dupont Circle (south side), 2) between Massachusetts and Connecticut Aves. (west side) and 3) between P Street and Massachusetts Ave (west side) and that these entrances remain covered until a new use is found.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Organizational Matters.** The following annual procedures were presented by Chairman Pitsor and approved by all commissioners.

- The First Quarter FY 99 Treasurer's Report was distributed. Mr. Jackson inquired and Mr. Pitsor confirmed that the ANC contribution to the Resource Center renovations is complete with the \$1,500 payment on this report. Commissioner Newton moved approval and Commissioner Jackson seconded.
- Emergency legislation by council concerning ANC funding now requires that we include copies of minutes and checking account statements with the financial statements.
- Authorized participation in the ANC Security Fund which makes the Chair and Treasurer personally liable for financial irregularities
- Resolved to maintain our current checking account with Riggs Bank
- Moved to notify the auditor that our records are kept at The Dupont Circle Resource Center 1999 P St, NW, Washington, DC 20037
- Moved to retain our current meeting schedule of the second Wednesday of each month at St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church St.
- Reminded commissioners to provide the secretary with a minimum of two sites where meeting notices would be posted in their SMD so that it could be published.

4. **Solar Building**, 1000 16th Street. Desmond Foynes reported that the Zoning Commission requested that DPW review the alley behind the building for feasibility of a garage entrance from the alley. The commission also questioned whether the 16th St. setback for the additions was adequate in the SP zone.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this meeting

Chairman Pitsor announced the next meeting date of February 10, 1999 and adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald J. Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donald J. Jackson, Secretary