

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING St. Thomas Parish Wednesday March 12, 2003

The March Public Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Vince Micone at 7:05 PM. The Chair began the meeting by asking the Commissioners to identify themselves. Present were: Rob Halligan (2B01), Vince Micone (2B02), Bob Meehan (2B03), Darren Bowie (2B04), Carol Mitten (2B05), Stuart Dwyer (2B06), Irv Morgan (2B07), Major Giese (2B08), and Ramon Estrada (2B09). The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

Public Safety Issues and 911 Concerns

Lt. Frank Hill, MPD PSA 308, and Lt. Mike Goddard, MPD PSA 307, reported on area crimes. It was noted that theft from automobiles had increased. Neighbors were asked to be diligent in locking vehicles and removing all items from sight. It was announced that the Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at MPD's Third District Headquarters (17th and U Streets, NW).

Open Forum

The following general announcements were made at the March meeting:

- (1) A resident noted concerns about an overnight, out of state guest who received a parking ticket. The resident questioned the legality of the ticket, and asked where visitors and tourists are supposed to park. This concern was assigned to Commissioner Meehan, in whose Single Member District the constituent resides, for follow-up.
- (2) A resident complained about the recent increase in the residential property assessments, which were conducted by the Office of Tax and Revenue. It was decided that this matter would be considered later in the meeting.
- (3) Former Commissioner Marilyn Newton announced that she is part of a team that is planning the renovation of the historic call boxes in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. Those with an interest in this project should contact Ms. Newton at marilynnewton@cs.com.
- (4) It was suggested by a constituent that a dog park be established in the area. The Chair noted this topic would be addressed at the April Commission meeting.

Guest Speaker

Julie Mikuta, Member of the School Board for District 1 (Wards 1 and 2), introduced herself to the public and gave a brief history of her background. Ms. Mikuta also described issues related to improving student performance in DC Public Schools. The Chair expressed interest in working with her to better ANC 2B's schools.

General Agenda

- (1) Proposal to Symbolically Rename 21st Street Between Massachusetts Avenue and Q Street, NW, in Honor of Kivie Kaplan: This matter was preliminarily discussed during the January meeting. The Commission considered proposed DC Council legislation to provide the honorary designation of Kivie Kaplan Way to this portion of 21st Street, NW. This proposal will not change the formal designation of the street. Rabbi Kaplan was the founder of the Religious Action Center, which is located at this intersection, and was a significant civil rights leader. After a motion by the Chair and a second by Commissioner Bowie, the Commission voted unanimously to support the legislation. (2B02)
- (2) Snow Removal in ANC 2B: The Commission considered testimony by residents regarding the District's efforts to clean city streets of snow and ice during the recent series of winter storms. Several residents who live in smaller streets complained about the length of time it took to remove the snow on these smaller roads. In some cases, it was noted that snow was never removed. Residents requested that this concern be addressed. Other residents commended the city for its improved efforts since the last major blizzard. After a motion by the Chair and a second by Commissioner Morgan, the Commission voted unanimously to acknowledge snow removal efforts, to inquire about efforts to clear smaller streets after future storms, and to request that regulations be written to define procedures to enforce laws related to snow removal from sidewalks.
- (3) Update on 2001 Flood Response Issues: The Commission considered testimony from residents regarding follow-up to the floods of August 2001. After a motion by the Chair and a second by Commissioner Mitten, ANC 2B voted to send a letter to the DC Insurance Commissioner to inquire about additional information regarding limits on personal liability related to floods. The Commission sent a letter in 2001 on this matter and received no response.

Regulatory Agenda

- (1) Public Space Application by Starbucks for a Sidewalk Café at 1600 U Street, NW: Joe Spinelli, architect for Starbucks, presented an updated plan for a sidewalk café adjacent to the Starbucks at 1600 U Street, NW. The revised proposal was designed to have features which would better blend with the green space. It was noted that ANC 1C had protested this application while it was in their jurisdiction. Several neighbors complained about the presence of an open

- dumpster on the landlord's public space. The general lack of cleanliness and poor upkeep of the public space by property owner was also noted. Although the regional manager for Starbucks was present, she did not comment nor commit to improved operations. After significant discussion, Commissioner Morgan motioned and Commissioner Bowie seconded to oppose the application. By a vote of 8 in favor and one abstention (Commissioner Geise), the Commission voted to oppose the application. After a motion by Commissioner Mitten and second by Commissioner Bowie, the Commission also voted unanimously to request enforcement action from various agencies on the trash violations and the presence of the dumpster on public space. Finally, ANC 2B voted unanimously to continue negotiations with the applicant as it was the Commission's general feeling that the issues related to its opposition can be addressed. Commissioner Giese was appointed the Commission's representative on the matter. (2B08)
- (2) ABC Substantial Change Application #11679 by Hotel Madera for a 42-Seat Patio (Summer Garden) and Sidewalk Café at 1310 New Hampshire Avenue, NW: The applicant described plans to utilize the summer garden area at Hotel Madera for a patio (private space) and requested the Commission's support for ABC service at the location. The applicant noted that it was willing to forgo the sidewalk café request (public space) request at this time. The applicant requested a stipulation of support for immediate ABC service. Several neighbors present complained about the recent noise, smell, and trash problems associated with the hotel. The management present took note of the complaints and agreed to come back to ANC 2B in April for further consideration of the application after consultation with neighbors. Commissioner Dwyer was appointed the Commission's contact on the matter. (2B06)
- (3) Update and Request for Extension of the Planned Unit Development at 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW: The applicant requested the Commission's support to extend the dates for this Planned Unit Development. After Commissioner Mitten motioned, and Commissioner Bowie seconded, the ANC voted unanimously to support this request. (2B05)
- (4) Update on the ABC Renewal Protest of Lauriol Plaza: The Chair announced that mediation would commence between the applicant and ANC 2B to address neighborhood concerns related to this renewal application. (2B08)

Commission Administrative Matters

Commission took action on the following administrative matters:

1. Without objection, ANC 2B approved the minutes to the February 12, 2002, meeting.
2. The Commission voted to send a letter of concern about increased residential property assessments and to request a related increase in the Homestead Deduction to offset the impact of the significant increase.

Financial Issues

1. The Commission voted to approve the reimbursement of Commissioner expenses and to establish a petty cash fund.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2003 at 7PM at St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church St., NW.

There being no more old business, nor any new business, the March 12 Public Meeting of ANC2B was ADJOURNED at 10:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian T. Piech
Staff Coordinator
ANC 2B