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**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Wednesday, October 13, 2004
DC Jewish Community Center**

The October Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Darren Bowie at 7:03 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Rob Halligan (2B-01), Karyn-Siobhan Robinson, (2B-02), Bob Meehan (2B-03), Darren Bowie (2B-04), Mark Bjorge (SB-05), Mike Silverstein (2B-06), Gerald Schwinn (2B-07), Major Giese (2B-08), and Ramon Estrada (2B-09). The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Meehan noted that alley reconstruction will start in November for the 1700 block of Q and Corcoran. There will be a meeting at his home (address is 1740 Corcoran Street, N.W.) on Oct. 21 at 6:30 pm. A Department of Transportation (Ddot) engineer and the D.C. arborist will speak. This will include addressing efforts to save the Andrew Jackson tree.

Commissioner Bjorge noted that on Saturday, Oct. 30, the Friends of Stead Park and the University Club of D.C. will sponsor a children's sports day at Stead Park.

Commissioner Halligan announced a school committee candidates forum for the Wards 1 & 2 seat on Oct. 14 at 6:00 pm. It will be held at the Sumner School (17th and M Streets).

Commissioner Bowie said a meeting will be held on the Dupont Circle Historic District expansion at 7:00 pm at the Women's National Democratic Club in N.W.

Commissioner Schwinn said he attended alert training by the DC Emergency Management Agency (EMA); he can be emailed for further information. The EMA alert system sends text messages as a way to spread information in the event of an emergency. Interested neighbors may sign up at alert.dc.gov.

Bill Glew of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) reminded people about the DCCA house tour on Sunday, Oct. 17, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m.

A constituent asked why the Commission was divided into Single Member Districts (SMD). Commissioners Bowie and Giese explained that SMDs are used for election purposes to ensure the ANC's representation is geographically diverse; only decisions by the full Commission carry great weight with Washington, D.C. agencies.

Ed Grimm of Historic Dupont Circle Main Street said workshops for businesses and property owners are being held. The first one will be Wednesday, November 10 at 8:30 pm at the National Trust (18th Street and Massachusetts Ave.).

A constituent from Riggs Place noted his concern that 2 trees in his alley not be harmed during alley reconstruction – that their roots not be harmed by digging and that the new surface be porous to allow water to reach the roots.

Jeff Smith, a candidate for the Wards 1 & 2 School Board seat, introduced himself and briefly described his platform.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Halligan noted that the Public Safety Committee meeting will be Held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 1620 V Street (police station). Jill Morris will address recent criminal activity.

GENERAL AGENDA

Gerald Schwinn and Babak Movahedi, candidates for the ANC's 2B-07 seat, introduced themselves and briefly described their platforms. Commissioner Bowie noted that candidate Peter Klempay was not able to attend; Commissioner Giese briefly noted his qualifications as a former Commissioner.

No EMA representative was present; Commissioner Bowie said an EMA representative would be invited to the November meeting.

Karyn LeBlanc of Ddot provided an update on various Ddot issues. Rhode Island Ave. and R Street work was done. Work is to begin next week about R and N Streets and Florida and Massachusetts Avenues. WASA is working this evening about N, Q and 17th Streets. Ddot is working on globe streetlights in the Kalorama-Sheridan area. Commissioner Meehan noted that there will be a streetlight policy meeting next Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m., at the Reeves Center (14th and U Streets).

Ms. LeBlanc's email address is karyn.leblanc@dc.gov, and her phone number is 202-298-2823.

Commissioner Halligan requested that she provide follow up on a catch basin at R St. and New Hampshire Ave. She will also provide follow up on incorrect traffic directions as noted by constituents and Commissioner Bjorge.

Commissioner Bjorge provided an update on the Scott Circle renovation: The underpass was started several months ago; work is now occurring above ground. The Circle will get a "total facelift." It is scheduled to be finished in April, 2005. He has details on the work and advises neighbors to be aware of shifts in parking in the area.

Commissioner Bowie provided an update on the status of Stead Park. The ANC favored holding a special meeting to obtain community input. He spoke earlier with Patrick Menasco, a leader in the organization hoping to place a new center in Stead Park.

Commissioner Bowie read aloud an email he received from Mr. Menasco declining to provide a presentation on the proposed Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered center and advising that a press release would be issued very soon.

Commissioner Bjorge provided an update on green space meetings held by Councilman Jack Evans and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Plans have been developed from community input and options are available for the Stead, S Street and T Street parks. Commissioner Meehan noted that Mr. Becher of DPR is to send the Commission DPR's "final" decisions and then the ANC is to develop a final consensus.

Irv Morgan provided an abbreviated history of the High Heel Race and asked for the Commission's support on two items: (1) support for the Mayor to waive a police coverage fee for the event; and (2) resolve that a parade license should be issued for the event. Commissioner Halligan proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Estrada, that the Commission so support the dual request. After a short discussion among the Commissioners, Commissioner Giese moved the question. The motion was passed unanimously.

REGULATORY AGENDA

No representative was present to discuss 1800 Massachusetts Avenue; no one having been present at the last regular meeting, Commissioner Bowie removed this item from the ANC's agenda.

No representative was present to discuss the hotel at 1745-1755 N Street; Commissioner Bowie placed the item on the ANC's agenda for November.

Representatives of Thai Bistrot, Inc. spoke on behalf of their request for an ABC license for a sidewalk café. Commissioner Robinson proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Giese, that the request be approved by the ANC. The motion was passed unanimously.

The new owners of the Caravan Grill (to be known as Gin Rickey) and their attorney, Andrew Kline, requested ANC approval for a CR01 ABC license substantial change, including a summer garden. David Leventry and Sasha Carter noted that they are Dupont Circle residents; also, they plan only recorded, indoor music. The patio will seat 36. They requested closing hours of 2:00 a.m. for Sunday through Thursday and 3:00 a.m. for Friday and Saturday. Neighbors and Commissioners discussed the request, opining that the closing hours were not compatible with those of other establishments. Mr. Kline indicated the owners were willing to compromise on summer garden hours.

Commissioner Giese proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Estrada, that the Commission protest the substantial change on the basis of peace, order and quiet pending approval of a voluntary agreement addressing summer garden hours. Commissioner Halligan proposed an amendment, seconded by Commissioner Meehan, that the motion also address indoor closing hours. The amendment was passed 7-1-1 (Aye:

Commissioners Bowie, Estrada, Halligan, Meehan, Robinson, Schwinn and Silverstein; no: Commissioner Giese; abstain: Commissioner Bjorge). The amended motion was passed 8-0-1.

By unanimous consent, the Commission took no action on the following ABC license application and renewals.

ABC Application by Thai Bistro, Inc., T/A Thai Bistro, 1136-19th Street NW, Proposed New Restaurant/Sidewalk Café

Renewals:

Executive Inn, Inc., T/A Omega, 2123 Twining Court NW, CT 02

E.A. Green & Associates, Inc., T/A Apex, 1415 22nd Street NW, CN 01

DC Jewish Community Center, Inc., T/A DCJCC, 1529 16th Street NW, DR 02

Ser Corporation, T/A Galileo, 1110 21st Street NW, CR 02

Rah, Inc., T/A Camelot, 1823 M Street NW, CN 02

LDI, LLC, T/A Eye Bar, 1716 I Street NW, CT 02

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Meehan raised the matter of rush-hour parking and loading and unloading on R Street. Commissioner Robinson said Ddot is moving forward on the process. It was announced that Ddot has issued an order to change signs indicating parking restrictions at the 1800 block of Corcoran Street.

Commissioner Meehan introduced the provisional budget for FY 2005. The ANC started the year with \$33,108 in the bank. He stated that the expenditure items essentially reflect the FY 2004 budget items. Provisional expenditures are estimated at \$19,050, including a repeat of the \$4,000 line item for constituent mailing, which has yet to be used. The FY 2005 appropriation will likely be between \$24,000 and \$25,000. In addition, we still dispute the substantial funds that were withheld from our FY 2003 allotments based on the FY 2002 audit issued at the end of FY 2003 as well as based on addition errors by the Office of the DC Auditor. The time to review the budget in detail comes after the Commission has received notice of the funds appropriated for the Commission for FY 2005. The Commission unanimously adopted the provisional budget.

Commissioner Bowie explained the procedures he and Commissioner Giese used to select a new executive director for the Commission, Alfred Blicher, Jr. He also described the employment contract for him. Commissioner Bowie proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Giese, that Mr. Blicher be hired. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Blicher is to start work upon his and Commissioner Bowie's executing the employment contract.

Commissioner Silverstein proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bowie, to spend up to \$75.00 of ANC funds for refreshments in support of the ANC's outreach effort in conjunction with the DCCA house tour. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Meehan proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Giese, that the ANC urge the District Department of Transportation to take every effort to protect trees. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schwinn proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bowie, that the Commission send a letter to the Public Space Committee, complaining about the American Legacy's antismoking signs on public property. Commissioner Meehan offered a friendly amendment, accepted by Commissioners Schwinn and Bowie, to use broaden requested enforcement "against all illegal" signs on public property. The motion was passed by a vote of 6-1-2 (aye: Commissioners Bjorge, Bowie, Estrada, Giese, Meehan, Schwinn; no: Commissioner Silverstein; abstain: Commissioners Halligan and Robinson).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the D.C. Jewish Community Center, 16th & Q Streets, N.W.

At 8:58 p.m., Commissioner Giese proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Estrada, that the Commission adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Major Giese
Commissioner and Secretary of the Commission
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission

ADOPTED: November 10, 2004