

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 11, 2010 Brookings Institution

The July Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chairman Stephens at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Mike Feldstein (2B01), Bhavna Patel (2B02), Bob Meehan (2B03), Jack Jacobson (2B04), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07) Will Stephens (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to approve both May and June minutes, subject to technical corrections. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Circulation of Work Calendar

Commissioner Stephens distributed a work calendar to help the Commission better manage distribution of agendas, minutes and letters. He noted that the Executive Director and Chair would handle all letters.

Public Announcements

Andrea Doughty, ANC 2F provided a brief update on the Arts Overlay. She reported that the Zoning Commission voted on June 28th to increase the cap on eating and drinking establishments to a 50% maximum. The new limit will be subject to a variance test. The Office of Planning approved \$200,000 for a marketing campaign of the Arts Overlay.

Special Guest

WASA Director George Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins spoke about WASA (now DC Water) and the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Facility. More information can be found at dcwater.com. Commissioners and residents are welcome to join a tour on Thursday, July 29th at 10:00am.

Public Safety

A representative of MPD provided statistics:

Overall crime down 3%

Crime decreased by 11% in the P Street area

Five arrests made in Club Central area

The Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee normally meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) station at 1620 V Street NW. They will meet at the Palladium at 1325 18th Street NW this month.

Committee Reports

17th Street Working Group

DDOT noted that the 17th Street Project is 70% complete. Commissioner Jacobson described the planned celebration on 17th Street in the Fall. He introduced Lee Granados who will head up planning the celebration. Interested residents can contact her at leegranados@me.com. Commissioner Jacobson noted that he would bring this proposal before the Commission with a proposed budget at the August meeting.

ABRA Policy Committee

Commissioner Estrada reported that ABRA training on June 17th was insightful. He also announced successful negotiation of Voluntary Agreements with Burger and Chidago.

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

None.

Community Involvement Committee

Commissioner Feldstein noted that Room & Board has a beautiful rooftop open to the community. He also noted that The Townhouse would be closing on August 7. He stated that he held a Committee meeting on July 7 and discussed the MPD Police Night Out on August 3. Participating restaurants will donate a percentage of their profits for the day to the Heroes organization which benefits Police who have been injured. The Committee also discussed a bid North of Dupont Circle to form a business improvement district.

Commissioner Reports

Neighboring Jurisdiction Reports: West End/Foggy Bottom (2B06), Adams Morgan (2B01, 2B08), Kalorama (2B01, 2B02), Logan Circle (2B09, 2B04, 2B05), Georgetown (2B06), Columbia Heights/Shaw (2B09) (7:55-8:00)

Reports on Old Business

Commissioner Estrada noted that he successfully negotiated two VAs: 1) Burger Place 2) Chidogo.

Commissioner Carney noted that he successfully negotiated one VA: 1) Burger Place on Connecticut Ave.

General

Consideration of resolution in support of Golden Triangle BID's proposals to DDOT to upgrade the landscaping on the 1300 block of Connecticut Ave. NW and install landscaped medians on Connecticut Ave. NW between K and M Streets NW

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

Whereas Golden Triangle BID has developed, along with other stakeholders including ANC 2B, a plan to revitalize Connecticut Avenue NW from K Street north to Dupont Circle;

Whereas the plan includes upgrading the landscaping and irrigation system in the median of the 1300 block of Conn. Ave. NW;

Whereas the plan includes converting the asphalt, street-level median into a green, planted, raised median that is safer for pedestrians and more attractive; and

Whereas Golden Triangle BID needs to collaborate with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) in order to implement these projects;

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B strongly supports these upgrades to Conn. Ave. NW and urges DDOT to designate a DDOT representative to work with Golden Triangle BID and implement these upgrades as soon as feasible.

Be it further resolved that this issue is delegated to ANC 2B's Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee for any follow-up work.

Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Consideration of resolution in support of "virtual tunnel" between Farragut West and Farragut North Metro stations

Commissioner Feldstein made the following motion:

Whereas, the idea of linking the Farragut North and Farragut West metro stations has been around for a long time, including being discussed in a 1994 Washington Post article;

Whereas, such a tunnel should have been built at the time of original Metro construction;

Whereas, the technology exists to employ a virtual tunnel, allowing Metro riders to leave one Farragut station and enter the other station within a certain time window;

Whereas, such a virtual tunnel would greatly reduce crowding at Metro Center and shorten commutes, thus encouraging ridership;

Whereas, the walking time between Farragut stations is minimal — less than 1-2 minutes for most;

Whereas, Metro is now working on many significant changes and upgrades to the system, and now would be a perfect time to implement the virtual tunnel, which would cost only a tiny fraction of Metro's capital construction and renovation projects; and

Whereas, ANC 2B is confident Metro will be able to address the problem of limited computer memory in the existing fare gates;

Resolved that ANC 2B requests Metro to implement as soon as possible a virtual tunnel between the two Farragut Stations.

Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Regulatory

Multiple Applications

Applications by P. J. Clarke's, 1600 K Street for: (1) CR license for full-service restaurant with 202 interior seats, new sidewalk cafe of 48 Seats, with interior/exterior hours of operation/sales/service Sun 10am-2am, M-Th 8am-2am, F-Sa 8am-3am (ABRA-084688, petition date 8/2/2010); (2) HPRB approval of sidewalk cafe (Application #10-361). 2B05

Commissioner Wexler and Feldstein made the following motion regarding the HPRB approval of sidewalk cafe (Application #10-361):

Whereas 1600 K Street is located within a view to the White House and hence a prime location in DC;

Whereas, we should do everything possible to preserve this "green space";

Whereas, the plan submitted by PJ Clarke's, appears to make major efforts to preserve the green space;

Whereas the addition of a ribbon of six feet grass and shrubs in front would enhance the PJ Clarke's plan;

Resolved that ANC 2B support the PJ Clarke's sidewalk cafe with six feet of additional green space.

Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-2-1) with Commissioners Jacobson, Stephens, Feldstein, Wexler and Carney voting in support, Commissioners Meehan and Estrada voting in opposition, and Commissioner Patel abstaining. Commissioner Silverstein stepped out of the room temporarily and did not participate.

Commissioner Meehan made a motion to protest the CR license on the basis of peace, order, and quiet, pending the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-3-1) with Commissioners Meehan, Estrada, Patel and Carney voting in support, Commissioners Jacobson, Stephens and Wexler voting in opposition, Commissioner Feldstein abstaining, and Commissioner Silverstein not participating due to his position on the ABC Board.

ABC Applications

ABC License Renewals (CR)

ABRA-074721 The Fairfax at Embassy Row, 2100 Mass Ave NW (2B02)

ABRA-000168 Trio Resturant, 1537 17th St NW (2B05)

ABRA-072743 Pasha Bistro, 1523 17th St NW (2B05)

ABRA-026656 Equinox, 818 Conn Ave NW (2B05)

ABRA-078475 Skye/19th, 1919 Penn Ave NW (2B06)

ABRA-000319 Women's National Democratic Club, 1526 NH Ave NW (2B07)

ABRA-076620 Plum Blossom, 1915 18th St NW (2B08)

The Commission took no action on the above renewal requests.

ABRA-060269 Cada Vez t/a Station 9, 1438 U St NW (2B09)

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to protest the renewal of this license on the basis of peace, order and quiet pending a successful resolution of a Voluntary Agreement. Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0) with Commissioner Silverstein not participating, due to his position on the ABC Board.

Application #ABRA-071913 by Leeds the Way to allow expansion of Hank's Oyster Bar, 1624 Q St N.W. to include an increase to a total of 80 seats, in addition to an increase in the sidewalk cafe seating by 20 seats. 2B05

The Commission took no action.

Application by TGR, Inc. t/a Teatro Goldoni, 1909 K St NW, for (1) extension of operation & sales/service Sun-Th 11:30am-2am, F-Sat 11:30am-3am; (2) new entertainment endorsement to include DJ, Live Entertainment, Dancing Sun-Th 6pm-2am, F-Sat 6pm-3am; and (3) Cover Charge (petition date 8/9/2010). 2B06

Commissioner Meehan made a motion to protest this license application on the basis of peace, order and quiet pending a successful resolution of a Voluntary Agreement. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0) with Commissioner Silverstein not participating due to his position on the ABC Board.

Application by Zodiac Rest. Group, Inc. t/a Scion, 2100 P St NW, for substantial change to include extension of hours of operation & sales/service Sun 10am-2am, M-F 11am-2am, Sat 10am-2am (petition date 8/9/2010). 2B02

Commissioner Patel made the following motion:

Regarding the Application by Zodiac Rest. Group, Inc. t/a Scion, 2100 P St NW, for substantial change to include extension of hours of operation & sales/service Sun 10am-2am, M-F 11am-2am, Sat 10am-2am (petition date 8/9/2010)

Whereas

The Zodiac Rest. Group, Inc. t/a Scion, 2100 P St NW, took over an existing license as a new establishment in 2009 with clear understanding of the license hours.

Whereas

Well over 20 ABC licenses are saturated within a 3 block stretch of P street (between 19th and 22nd), an area which also contains substantial residential complexes

Whereas

Providing an extension to one establishment would set a precedent for at least 20 other establishments to request similar extensions within a 3 block stretch; potentially changing the dynamic of the neighborhood and area, as well as create further security and traffic concerns later into the night in a highly saturated corridor.

Whereas

Other neighboring establishments on P Street such as SOHO and Kabob House have been denied support for similar extension requests on similar grounds

Be it resolved that

the ANC opposes the request for a substantial change by Zodiac Rest. Group, Inc. t/a Scion, 2100 P St NW, on the basis of peace, order and quiet, subject to the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement.

Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0) with Commissioner Silverstein not participating due to his position on the ABC Board.

Zoning & HPRB Applications

Application to construct a rear garage at 1524 Corcoran Street, NW. 2B04

Commissioner Meehan made a motion to support the request. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Application from National Restaurant Association (Z.C. Case No. 10-17) to amend zoning map from from DC/SP-2 to DC/C-4 at 1200 17th St.N.W. to allow development consistent with the high-density designation of the surrounding properties. 2B05

Commissioner Wexler made a motion to support the request, subject to the park in the southwest corner not being compromised.

Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Concept review for plans submitted to HPRB for 1461 S Street NW. 2B09

Commissioner Estrada made the following motion:

While we feel that a third story addition visible from the street should only be allowed in extraordinary circumstances, the role of this building in the larger historic district and in relation to the other corners as an anchor building justifies an exception. We feel that this project would enhance the overall character of 15th Street and therefore support the project as presented.

Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Administrative/Financial Matters

Financial Matters

Policy & Procedures Manual

Commissioner Stephens tabled these items until the August meeting. He requested Commissioners with motions longer than the standard language typically used, to write motions out prior to each meeting.

At 10:00 PM, Commissioner Stephens moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed by acclimation.

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 7:00 PM at the Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW – 1st Floor, Falk Auditorium .

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Blicher, Jr.
Executive Director
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B
ADOPTED: August 11, 2010