

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 9, 2011 Brookings Institution**

The October 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), Kevin O'Connor (2B02), Jack Jacobson (2B04), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Phil Carney (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08), and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Bob Meehan (2B03) expected for a late arrival.

Circulation of Monthly Work Calendar: Next Monthly Meeting is on December 14, 2011 and the next ZPD Meeting is on December 6, 2011.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to approve the August and October minutes. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Announcements

Commissioner Stephens announced ANC 2B website updates. All minutes from meetings going dating back to 1988 are posted on the website.

Commissioner Stephens announced that council member Jack Evans will be attending next month's meeting as well as Eric Watson who will be reporting on the work being done on the escalators at the Dupont South Metro Exit.

Commissioner Estrada congratulated new commissioner at 1D 02 (14th & U Streets).

Commissioner Carney announced that the funds raised for the Ross Elementary Library are the result of the efforts of Millie Paxel and others. The library has been renovated twice. He also thanked Commissioner Wexler for the work done towards improving the landscaping and Stead Playground. 17 new butterfly bushes and 10 new rose bushes have been planted at Stead Park.

Commissioner O'Connor wished a Happy Birthday to the Philips Collection and encouraged more Twitter usage (#ANC2B).

Commissioner Stephens encouraged more Facebook usage as well.

Commissioner Jacobson announced that Floriana Restaurant received a good review in the Washington Post. Prego Deli is up for a license renewal (this item was not included in the agenda). Commissioner Jacobson also announced that he is working on an Ethics & Accountability proposal and would discuss details later in the meeting. Lastly, the mailbox in front of the Cairo Embassy has been removed.

Commissioner Stephens announced Ward 2 issue has been resolved.

Commissioner O'Connor introduced Bananas Restaurant who will be applying for a DR license. The establishment is a small (20 seat) fast casual restaurant whose specialty is empanadas.

Andrew Huff from Council member Evans office announced that there will be a Community Open House Meeting on Monday November 14, 2011 from 5pm-8pm.

General Items

Presentation on proposed upgrades to Resource Center (John Jedzinak)

Commissioner Stephens presented a package about potential upgrades to the Resource Center. He briefly gave the history and background on the building. Commissioner Stephens mentioned the different lease option agreements: 5 year instead versus a 2 year “no-lease” agreement. There are necessary repairs (i.e. wear & tear damage and some electrical work). He also brought up future maintenance issues such as door plates, more storage space, etc. Architect John Jedzinak has volunteered his services for this project. He presented the proposed design plan and layout for the interior of the structure.

Commissioner Jacobson asked about approximate costs of the proposed renovation.

Commissioner Stephens is not sure of the costs but assumes that it will be less than \$30,000.

Commissioner Jacobson asked about the amount of the ANC’s annual budget and Commissioner Silverstein replied that there is approximately \$24,000.

Commissioner Jacobson stated concerns of whether or not the renovation is partially the National Park responsibility and asked how many other groups have requested upgrades. Per Commissioner Stephens, exterior repairs such as outdoor lighting, etc. are the responsibility of National Parks.

Commissioner Stephens replied that DCCA and Mainstreams have requested upgrades as well.

In response to Commissioner O’Connor’s question pertaining to a time frame, Commissioner Stephens stated that it was dependent upon the reaction of National Parks to the proposed changes.

Commissioner O’Connor would like to post documents for proposed plans to the website.

Commissioner Feldstein suggested having a ZPD meeting which will feature this issue.

Consideration of letter of support for DCCA/Friends of S & T Street Parks partnership proposal

Iris Molotsky gave background information on Friends of S&T Street Parks and how their efforts have helped clean and revitalize parks, and establish dog parks.

Requesting a letter to support the partnership of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) and Friends of S & T Street Parks as the designated partners of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the S & T Street Parks.

Commissioner Stephens motioned to support and Commissioner Meehan seconded. The motion carried 9-0.

Regulatory HPRB & Zoning Applications

Request for approval of concept design review for the Third Church of Christ, Scientist, in preparation for presentation at HPRB. Report by Zoning, Preservation, & Development Committee (2B05)

The applicant presented the proposed structure and design.

The following motion which includes a friendly amendment by Commissioner Feldstein to include a clause of support was seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and approved 9-0.

ANC 2B supports the concept design as presented and makes the following observations:

1. The ANC appreciates the open design and inviting 16th Street entrance, especially the faceted crystalline ornamentation atop the church entrance;

2. The ANC also appreciates the preservation and expansion of vegetative space and efforts to accommodate large trees between the sidewalk and building facade, as well as smaller street trees in a pattern matching the master landscaping plan of 16th Street.

3. The ANC is concerned that the parking vault may impede the growth of trees and suggests limiting the vault to the 2nd and 3rd parking levels;

4. The ANC has the following comment about the massing of the structure: The ANC feels that the 1st setback of the glass section (9th floor along 16th Street and 10th floor along I Street) might better relate to the cornices of the adjacent buildings on both 16th and I Streets

Public Space Applications

Request by Freshfarm Markets for letter of support for Dupont Circle farmers' market DDOT Public Space permit for 2012.

The applicant is requesting a letter of support for their renewal public space permit and 3 reserved parking spaces. Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to support. Commissioner Feldstein seconded. The motion carried 9-0.

Amended application by several establishments on the 1300 block of Conn. Ave. NW (Kabab-Ji, Heritage India, etc.) for valet parking. DDOT hearing 11/2011. (2B07)

Commissioner Carney read the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. The motion carried 9-0.

Be it resolved that ANC 2B approves this amended application for two valet parking spaces between 1327 and 1329 Connecticut Ave NW, provided that the two parking spaces are no further north than 1329 Connecticut Ave NW because of traffic safety and congestion concerns at the northbound one lane Connecticut Avenue NW approach to Dupont Circle.

Application for rental parking at 1841 16th Street NW (2B09)

Applicant would like to rent driveway for parking. The property was previously saved from being destroyed based on historical precedence. The property already has curb cuts. Commissioner Estrada moved not to object. Commissioner Feldstein seconded. The motion carried 7-1-1.

ABC Applications

ABC Grocery License Renewals

Group #1 (Petition due 11/14/11, Hearing 11/28/11):

1. 1500 Market, 1500 Mass Ave NW (Class B Grocery) (2B05)

Group #2 (Petition due 11/21/11, Hearing 12/5/11):

1. Dupont Market, 1807 18th St NW (Class B Grocery) (2B01)
2. New Hampshire Market, 1900 16th St NW (Class B Grocery) (2B09)
3. Prego Deli

No action taken on any of the above renewals.

Request by Crown Liquors, 1325 Conn. Ave. NW, for Class A liquor store license with tasting endorsement, hours 9am to 10pm Mon-Sat (closed Sunday). Petition due 12/12/11; Roll-Call Hearing 12/27/11. (2B07)

Applicant stated that there are legal issues involved. The liquor store that was there previously was evicted. The current applicant is seeking a stipulated license in order to take advantage of holiday season sales opportunities.

Former owner of the liquor store stated that their inventory and merchandise is still in the store. He is asking that ANC wait until after the hearing with ABRA.

Due to the seriousness of the legal issues the Commissioners (Stephens and O'Connor) voiced their concern about taking any action on this matter.

The following motion carried by a vote of 5-0, with 3 abstentions and 1 non-participant. Commissioner Mike Silverstein did not participate due to his position on the ABC Board.

ANC 2B objects to the stipulated license application by Crown Liquors, 1325 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC.

We did not take any action on the underlying Class A license application. After we voted to object to the stipulated license, we learned that Class A liquor store applicants might not be eligible for stipulated licenses. We would appreciate clarification on that point from ABRA.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to object to the stipulated license. Commissioner Feldstein seconded.

Request by Komi Restaurant, 1509 17th St. N.W., for amendment to Voluntary Agreement dated 2006, allowing an addition of 40 seats downstairs in the former Dunkin' Donuts space, and to permit inside dining, Sun-Sat (7 nights), until 1 am. Current VA allows interior hours: 11:30-midnight, Su-Th and Fri.& Sat, 11:30- 1:00am. (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler stated that the establishment is quiet and does not see the expansion as a threat to the peace and quiet and therefore moved to support and Commissioner O'Connor seconded. Motion carried 7-0. Commissioner Jacobson stepped out of the room and Commissioner Mike Silverstein did not participate due to his position on the ABC Board.

Application by Board Room, 1737 Conn. Ave. NW, for new CT (tavern) license with vintage game room and jukebox; occupancy load 251; seating capacity 90; hours of operation/sales/service/consumption Sun-Thu 8am-2am, Fri-Sat 8am-3am. Petition due 11/28/11; Roll-call Hearing 12/12/11. (2B01)

Commissioner Feldstein recommended approval, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. The motion carried 7-0, with 1 abstaining.

Committee Reports

ABRA Policy Committee

Commissioner Estrada provided feedback from the meeting regarding the Club Central Resolution. Concerns about litter and trash as well as how the closing of Dupont Circle South Metro Entrance/Exit may affect business, were addressed. There is no need to revisit the Club Central issue.

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

Next ZPD Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2011, 7pm at the Resource Center

Commissioner Feldstein reported that the Virtual Tunnel is now in operation.

Community Involvement Committee

Community "Grants" Policy: Commissioner Feldstein presented a rough draft of the Grants Paper.

Dupont West Moratorium Ad Hoc Committee

Per Commissioner O'Connor they've heard the first liquor application since the change of the CRDR.

Commissioner Reports

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

Short Reports on Old Business (if any)

1. Bistro Bistro: valet parking (2B01) **No update**
2. 2018 Hillyer Place NW: zoning relief for porch (2B02) **Application Approved**
3. G-Star Raw security gate (2B02) **No update**
4. Sette Osteria: sidewalk cafe redesign (2B02) **No update**
5. Whyland Condo: temporary parking space (2B03) **No update**
6. Congo Embassy (2B04) **No update**
7. First Baptist Church 17 & O: Zoning relief (2B05) **Hearing coming up**
8. Boqueria: New CR license (2B06) **No update**
9. IMF: BZA Application (hearing 12/13) (2B06) **Hearing coming up, no update**
10. Guitar Bar: new license (2B06) **Still in negotiations**
11. 1729 H St NW: Zoning Relief (2B06) **Application approved**
12. Ohfish: public space sidewalk cafe (2B06) **No update**
13. Upper Crust Pizzeria: public space sidewalk cafe (2B06) **No update**
14. Irish Whiskey: new CT license (2B06) **Protest has been withdrawn**
15. El Tamarindo: sidewalk cafe (2B08) **Issue is in discussion with attorneys**
16. Precinct 141 voting location (Stephens/Estrada) **No update, still in process**
17. ANC 2B Redistricting (Stephens) **Issue is still before council**

Administrative/Financial Matters

Checking: \$73,379.96

The savings account is officially closed.

Commissioner Stephens brought up the emailing issue of ANC related emails being sent from personal email addresses. Looking into the options of having accounts linked automatically to personal emails or setting up separate email accounts for everyone to use for ANC related business.

Consideration of an amendment to the Policies and Procedures manual entitled “Ethics and Accountability”
Commissioner Jacobson circulated the amendment for Commissioners to review.

Commissioner made the argument that this matter may not completely apply to the ANC due to the fact that they are an entity of the government and that the Commissioners are elected officials. Suggested researching “Accountability in Government” instead.

Commissioner Jacobson agreed but also thinks that accountability procedures could prove to be beneficial with respect to the how the Commissioners govern themselves.

Commissioner Stephens stated that knowing what Commissioners are subject to would be useful.

Commissioner O’Connor stated that this would be useful for handling very specific circumstances such as “acts of bad faith” (for lack of a better term).

Commissioner Silverstein thinks that it would be a good idea to have a group of Commissioners work on this project so that one individual would not be held solely responsible.

Adjournment