

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 Brookings Institution

The September 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), Bob Meehan (2B03), Jack Jacobson (2B04), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08), and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Stephens made a motion to approve the July minutes. Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Public Announcements

Public Safety Meeting to be held Tuesday, September 2011.

Reminder that there two ANC intern positions open. ANC 2B is accepting applications for these positions.

Announcements

Commissioners Meheen and Estrada announced disruptions on 17th St due to a bomb scare.

Commissioner Wexler announced that Friends of Stead Park will be meeting on 9/27/11 to elect officers.

Commissioner Silverstein announced that the median at Connecticut & K, will be dedicated on 9/15/11

Commissioner O'Connor announced that WMATA will be closing Dupont South Metro exit for a year.

Commissioner Jacobson announced the upcoming 17th street festival; 17thstreetfestival.org

Commissioner Estrada announced that Commissioner Spencer has resigned his position as Commissioner and special election will be held to replace him

Paul Williams with Dupont Circle Main St announced High Heel Race on 10/25/11, Grant projects: Historic Façade Improvements & Storefront

General Items

Resolution in support of Foundry United Methodist Church use of Stead Park for their annual picnic on Sunday, October 2, 2011 (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler read the following resolution in support:

Whereas, Foundry Methodist Church is in the practice of using Stead Park for their annual picnics, and

Whereas, Foundry contributes to the upkeep and welfare of Stead Park

Be it resolved that ANC 2B support Foundry's request to use Stead for this expressed purpose on Sunday, October 2, 2011

Commissioner Feldstein seconded. The motion carried 9-0.

Request for support of Washington Humane Society's "Walk for the Animals" 10/1, /2011

Emily Miller, Manager announced the 6th Annual DC Walk for animals to be held at Marie Reid Elementary School. She requested a letter of support.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to support and Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0.

Endorsement of ANC 2B Redistricting Plan for submission to Council

Commissioner Stephens provided a brief overview of the changes included in the proposal for redistricting,

Commissioner Stephens moved to endorse the plan and Commissioner Estrada seconded.

The motion carried 9-0.

Regulatory

Request for a letter of support for G-Star RAW to install security gate on store interior (2B02)

Commissioner O'Connor: G-Star RAW located 1666 Connecticut Avenue, is requesting a letter of support. Commissioner O'Conner moved to issue a letter of support/does not object to installation of a gate.
Commissioner Jacobson seconded and the motion carried 9-0.

HPRB & Zoning Applications

Request for support for HPRB concept design, zoning variances, and zoning special exception for development at 17th & O Streets, First Baptist Church (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler's Resolution for ANC2B to support the design request for new structure:

Whereas, the applicant has requested approval from the Historic Preservation Board (HPRB) for a concept design for the new structure on 17th and O Streets NW; and

Whereas, the applicant has submitted to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) an application for (1) Special Exception Relief from the Uniform Roof Structure Height (411.5) to permit the construction of a mechanical penthouse on said property, (2) a Variance for Height (530.1) from the SP-1 restriction of a maximum of 65 feet on which the apartment houses will be built, up to 90 feet and (3) a Variance of Size of Parking Spaces (2115-4) regarding the location of compact car spaces; and

Whereas, the applicant's HPRB hearing is scheduled for late September 2011, and the applicant's BZA hearing is scheduled for November 2011; and

Whereas, ANC 2B believes that a residential building at this location will be an improvement for the neighborhood over the existing parking lot; and

Whereas, ANC 2B appreciates the applicant's time and effort to provide information and explanation to the ANC (and the community) at multiple public meetings; and

Whereas, ANC 2B similarly appreciates the input and comments provided by the community, including nearby residents, business owners, property owners, and others; and

Whereas, the Dupont Circle Conservancy (DCC) has reviewed the concept design and provided support for the design as drawn; and

Whereas, the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff report also supports the project's concept design;

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B supports the concept design application to the HPRB; and

Whereas, the ANC recognizes that the applicant has included in the building design the minimum number of parking space required by current zoning rules; and

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B finds the parking variance request is de minimus, and therefore supports the request; and

Whereas, both the Special Exception and the Height Variance take the proposed construction well above the levels ordinarily limited by the SP-1 regulations, to wit, above 100 feet for portions of the penthouse structure, and up to 90 feet for the remainder of the apartment building; and

Whereas, this considerable Height Variance will provide the applicant with valuable added size, density, and profit; and

Whereas, the ANC acknowledges the many objections of the nearby neighbors about the project and the zoning relief requested; and

Whereas, ANC 2B is concerned about the lack of exterior green space demonstrated in the applicant's designs; and

Whereas, ANC 2B recognizes that there are many other potential designs that the applicant could build as a matter of right, without requesting this zoning relief; and

Whereas, the 90-foot height is in scale with neighboring structures on 17th Street; and

Whereas, ANC 2B appreciates that the applicant has committed orally to modify the rooftop design so as to move residents' common space for recreation and other purposes to the south side only, away from the side facing O Street NW; and

Whereas the applicant has provided the ANC with (1) the modified penthouse and rooftop designs, (2) a description of the modified unit-sized breakdown planned for the building; and (3) a plan for incorporating exterior green space. Therefore be it resolved that the ANC supports the Special Exception and Height Variance

Applicant stated that they are prepared to comply with the request for changes included in the resolution now. Commissioner Jacobson expressed concerns with the clause that was included in the original resolution which decreased the number of efficiencies in the building; felt that it may appear to be discriminatory based on income, status, and/or demographic.

The applicant assured the ANC that such was not the case and that this was done to provide larger units as opposed to smaller ones so that families may continue to reside within the city.

Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to strike the "Whereas" clause regarding the number of efficiencies and to support the rest of the resolution. Commissioner Jacobson seconded. The motion carried 9-0.

ABC Applications

Application by Irish Whiskey, 1207 19th St NW, for new Class CT license for tavern serving American cuisine with the following: occupancy load 180; sidewalk cafe w/36 seats; hours of operation (interior & sidewalk cafe) Sun-Thu 8am-2am, Fri-Sat 8am-3am; hours of alcohol sales/service/consumption (interior & sidewalk cafe) Sun-Thu 10am-2am, Fri-Sat 8am-3am; entertainment endorsement (DJ) with hours Sun-Thu 6pm-2am, Fri-Sat 6pm-3am (2B06)

Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to protest subject to a VA or negotiation and amended application regarding hours. Commissioner Estrada seconded. The motion passed 8-0, Commissioner Silverstein stepped out of the room.

Application by Cafe AKA White House, 1710 H St NW, for CT (tavern) license for new tavern serving breakfast, salads, & appetizers/snack foods until midnight. No entertainment other than recorded background music. Seating capacity 58, total occupancy 58. Hours of operation daily 7am-12am; hours of sales/service daily 12pm-12am. (2B06)

Applicants are applying for a license to operate in the interior of the building for residents of the property. Establishment will not have an entrance from the exterior. Seating capacity will be approximately 58.

Commissioner Feldstein made the recommendation to take no action.

Public Space Applications

Application by Ohfish, 1899 L Street NW (entrance on 19th Street) for sidewalk cafe with 18 seats. Jessica Tu will present. (2B06)

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support, Commissioner Stephens seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

Application by Upper Crust, 1747 Penn. Ave. NW for sidewalk cafe w/12 tables, 24 seats, 6 umbrellas. (2B06)

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support, Commissioner Stephens seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

Application by Bistro Bistro, 1727 Conn. Ave. NW for valet parking. (2B01)

Commissioner Feldstein recommended not to approve and to reject. The application is not complete, and the establishment has been operating illegal valet parking.

Commissioner Jacobson seconded. The motion passed 8-0. Commissioner Estrada stepped out of the room.

Application by Sette Osteria, 1666 Conn. Ave. NW for convert to Enclosed Café. (2B02)

Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to support subject to complete 10ft clearance to not enclose with glass.

Commissioner Stephens seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

Committee Reports

ABRA Policy Committee: Nothing to Report/ No Updates

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee:

New business: Triangle Park at Dupont North Metro exit

Commissioner O'Connor read resolution and expressed concerns regarding pedestrian access to the sidewalk by the 42 Bus stop. Increase in Pedestrian foot traffic due to closure of Dupont South Metro exit for a year.

Whereas Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B (ANC2B) recognizes that the Triangle Park between Q Street NW, 20th Street NW, and Conn. Ave. NW (the park) has gone without needed renovations for years;

Whereas ANC2B values public park space as of a resource to all of Dupont Circle;

Whereas the welfare and public safety of the residents and visitors of Dupont Circle is of the utmost concern of ANC2B;

Whereas ANC2B has concerns about pedestrian safety along the 26 inch width sidewalk on the Connecticut Avenue NW side of the park and a fence may further restrict the public's access to Metrobus services in addition to regular access to the sidewalk;

Whereas neither the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), nor any other transportation safety expert has weighed in on the pedestrian safety concerns along the Connecticut Avenue NW side of the park;

Whereas, WMATA has just announced that the Dupont South Metro stop will be shut down for up to a year for replacement of escalator systems, putting additional pedestrian pressures on the area around the Dupont North Metro stop and the Triangle Park;and

Whereas ANC2B recognizes the significant time and effort by local residents, community groups including Historic Dupont Main Streets, the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and, in particular Ingrid Suisman, as well as the National Park Service have put into the development of a plan to renovate the park;

Be it therefore resolved that ANC2B accepts the proposed park renovations subject to either:

- 1) the removal of the proposed fence on the Southside of the park; or*
- 2) confirmation from a transportation planning expert that the proposed renovations will not pose a significant impediment to pedestrian safety;*

Be it further resolved that ANC2B work with WMATA at the possibility of moving the 42 bus stop along Connecticut Avenue NW and Q Street NW should the National Park Service adopt the proposed renovations;

Be it further resolved that ANC2B recommend that the National Park Service abandon the outdated 1929 guidelines for the park so that in the future, the community will have greater weight in the development of the park.

Community Involvement Committee: No Updates

Dupont West Moratorium Ad Hoc Committee: No new applications

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

1. Black Fox Lounge: VA amendment (2B01) – Submitted and approved
2. Marrakesh: CT tavern renewal (2B02) – No Updates
3. 1506 19th St NW: alteration of facade & green space (2B02) – No Updates
4. 2018 Hillyer Place NW: zoning relief for porch (2B02) - Approved
5. Whyland Condo: temporary parking space (2B03) – No Updates
6. Pinkberry: public space sidewalk cafe (2B05) – Approved
7. 1776 Mass Ave: public space signage (2B05) – No Updates
8. Guitar Bar: new license (2B06) – Negotiations still ongoing

9. 1729 H St NW Zoning Relief (2B06) – No Updates
10. Kabab-Ji (et al): valet parking (2B07) – No Updates
11. Penthouse Bar: new ABC license (2B08) – VA Signed
12. Policy: 14th St & T St sidewalk cafes (2B09) – No Updates
13. Whitman Walker project car-sharing space (2B09) –No Updates
14. MPD police boundary realignment (Stephens)–No changes based on ANC requests & no further updates
15. DPW trash/recycling enforcement (Stephens) – No Updates
16. Precinct 141 voting location (Stephens/Estrada) – No Updates
17. 17th Street Festival “grant” (Silverstein) - \$1260 spent on Porter Johns
18. Diegos Public Space - Approved

Administrative/Financial Matters

1. Finances/Treasurer Report (if any)
2. Update: Resource Center renovation & leasing, approval of gutter repair charge- Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to pay \$200 for gutter repair. Commissioner Stephens seconded. Motion carried 9-0
3. Other Admin items (if any)
4. Approval of Web/IT consultant contract

Adjournment (9:50pm)