

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
HELD MARCH 22, 1989

DRAFT

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission notes with deep sorrow the recent death of its Staff Coordinator, Vernon Palmer.

A regularly stated meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) was held on Wednesday, March 22, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. All commissioners (Bass, Evans, Gaugler, Grandis, Maggi, Moses, and Rieffel) were present.

Mr. Evans announced that Vernon Palmer, the ANC's Staff Coordinator, died during the preceding week. The commissioners and the audience observed a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Palmer.

1. Mr. Maggi moved, and Mr. Bass seconded, a motion that:

In recognition of Vernon Palmer's unflinching and uncompromising dedication to our community and city and in acknowledgement of his tireless work on behalf of the citizens and residents of the city and his neighbors along 17th Street, the Commission send a letter to Councilman John Wilson respectfully requesting that he sponsor a motion to the City Council whereby upon completion of the park planned for the area between 17th Street, N.W. and the Stead Playground, that the park be designated the "Vernon Palmer Park" and that appropriate funds allocated to the project be designated for an appropriate plaque and a dedication ceremony, and further, that the chairman of the ANC send letters to the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and the 17th Street Merchants Association notifying them of our recommendation and inviting them to join us in urging such action.

EG

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Mr. Grandis moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion that the Chairman of the ANC send a letter to Councilman John Wilson asking him to set up an annual leadership award, to be provided by the Council and to be known as the "Vernon Palmer Leadership Award." The motion was approved unanimously.

EG

3. The following matters were raised during the Open Forum:

-Mr. Westgate noted that a sign on the northwest corner of 17th and P is still missing, that Taste of China is still delivering from its 17th Street location rather than its new location as promised, and that the signs advertising "Erol's" Video Store are offensively large and gaudy and are not consistently turned off at night.

JE's

~~JE's~~
SMD

-Ms. Shushan Israel noted that there will be a hearing on her application for a Zoning Variance (BZA Application 15020) on April 19. This item is on the agenda of the April 12 meeting of the ANC. Commissioners noted that the ANC meeting will be held less than 7 days before the hearing, and that the BZA requires that ANC's submit comments at least 7 days prior to a hearing. It was agreed that the record would reflect the fact that the applicant, Ms. Israel, requested that this item be on the April 19 agenda.

DG's

SMD

4. Mr. Stephen Raiche, program manager of the D.C. Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), presented remarks on the procedures of the Office of Historic Preservation. He was accompanied by Ms. Suzanne Ganshinietz. Mr. Raiche noted that the OHP is required to provide 30 days notice of impending hearings to ANC's, and that one reason for his appearance at the meeting was to address concerns expressed by the ANC about delays in receiving these notices. He told the commissioners that 10 days before each hearing conducted by the Historic Preservation Review Board, a calendar is made up of the items to be considered. After extensive discussion, the commissioners and Mr. Raiche agreed that the ANC would telephone Ms. Ganshinietz at that point to learn what items affecting this ANC will be considered. In many cases, it will be helpful for ANC commissioners to also review the files on the case at the offices of the OHP. While most cases will not present issues of concern to the ANC, in those cases where the ANC wishes to study the matter and provide comments, the ANC may request that the hearing be postponed until the following month. Should the ANC so request, and should the request be granted, the

EG -

letter
from
JE
thanking
for
coming.

ANC will have received 30 days notice. In other cases, the process can continue without undue delay to the applicants. The commissioners agreed that Doreen Moses, in her capacity as chairperson of the ANC's Historic Preservation Committee, would be responsible for making the telephone calls to determine the agenda of the OHP, and for notifying the appropriate commissioner of matters in his or her SMD.

Mr. Raiche also noted that the OHP does not provide enforcement assistance; enforcement is performed by the Building Inspection Division. The contact person there is Jim delGado, who can be reached at 727-7506.

5. The matter of the alley closing in the 2100 block of Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. requested by the Cosmos Club (Bill 8-80) was tabled until the next meeting of the ANC, since no representatives of the Cosmos Club were present to address the issue.

Doreen's
SMD?

6. Mr. Grandis moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion that the ANC notify the ABC Board that the ANC takes no position on ABC Application No. 11220 for a new retailer's Class D/R liquor license for "Health-A-Poppin'", 2020 K Street, N.W. Mr. Grandis noted that this application merely reflects a change in ownership rather than a change in the status of this establishment. The motion was approved unanimously.

EG

7. Mrs. Rieffel moved, and Mr. Grandis seconded, a motion to support the application of the Dupont Szechuan Restaurant at 1606 17th Street for a new retailer's Class C/R liquor license (ABC Application No. 27105). Mrs. Rieffel noted that consistent with statements made in conjunction with the liquor license moratorium, the ANC's policy is not to oppose current liquor-licensed establishments so long as they create no problems for the neighborhood. She noted that she passes this restaurant at least twice daily, and has never observed boisterous conduct, litter, or other problems being generated by this establishment, but that they have been "good neighbors". The motion was approved, with all commissioners voting in favor, except Mr. Bass, who abstained.

EG

8. Mr. Evans moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion that the ANC support the application of "LaTaberna" at 1776 I Street, N.W. for a new retailers Class C/R liquor license (ABC Application No. 28294). This support is

EG

based on the fact that this restaurant is in a downtown commercial area rather than a residential area. Tina O'Donnell, attorney for the applicant, noted that the "X's" on the application which fell between lines were meant to indicate that the establishment may provide "Dancing by entertainers", not that the establishment may provide "Nude or semi-nude dancing." The motion was approved with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Bass, who abstained.

9. Mr. Evans moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that the ANC support the application of "21 Federal" at 1736 L Street, N.W. for a new retailer's Class C/R liquor license (ABC Application No. 24461). Mr. Evans noted that he works in the same building and has eaten at this establishment, and has never noticed problems associated with a liquor license there. This restaurant is in a commercial district; it is not a new license but a conversion of a provisional to a regular license. The motion was approved, with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Bass, who abstained. EG

10. Mr. Grandis moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that ANC 2B write to ANC 1C expressing the support of the ANC 2B for the application of "A Touch of Lemon Grass" (1808 18th Street, N.W., ABC Application No. 22087) for a new retailer's Class C/R liquor license. (This establishment is located within the boundaries of ANC 1C, but is adjacent to ANC 2B and may create parking problems within ANC 2B). The support of the Dupont Circle ANC is contingent, however, on the ABC Board making part of its ABC permit the restriction that the management of this establishment develop a sign warning patrons not to park in private restricted residential parking spaces. The commissioners noted that these comments were to be addressed to ANC 1C rather than the ABC Board so as not to undercut ANC 1C should that ANC decide to oppose the application for any reason. The motion was approved, with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Bass, who abstained. EG

11. The motion by Ms. Moses, seconded by Mr. Maggi, that the ANC accept the minutes of the last meeting was approved, with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Maggi, who abstained. ABR

12. The motion by Mr. Grandis, seconded by Mr. Maggi, that the ANC reimburse Bill Rice for the costs of photographs of the vistas which will be affected by a new sidewalk cafe at 11 Dupont Circle, and related vistas, in a sum not to exceed \$50, was approved unanimously. DG

13. The motion by Mr. Bass, seconded by Mr. Maggi, that the ANC write a letter to the appropriate agency

objecting to the fact that the "PSI Company" discharges passengers in an unsafe fashion at 1509 16th Street, N.W. These passengers are physically and mentally handicapped, and are brought to this address in vans. Several vans will arrive at the same time, making it impossible for all to use the driveway. Consequently, the drivers of the vans discharge these passengers directly into the street. They are inadequately supervised and wander off down the street, rather than directly entering the building. The motion was approved unanimously.

EG

14. The motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Bass, that the ANC employ Doreen Moses for a period of two weeks at the same rate Vernon Palmer was paid, for the purpose of organizing the offices of the ANC, was approved, with Ms. Moses abstaining and Mr. Maggi voting in opposition. Mr. Evans and Mr. Gaugler have looked into the possible conflict of interest created by hiring an ANC commissioner and have been informed by the Board of Elections and Ethics that this arrangement is "probably not a problem." However, the ANC will obtain written permission to hire Ms. Moses before hiring her on a permanent basis. In addition, a committee has been established to conduct the hiring process.

DG,
Doreen

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alaire Bretz Rieffel
Secretary