

MINUTES OF THE
NOVEMBER 8, 1989 MEETING
OF ANC 2B (THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC was held on Wednesday, November 8, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church. Commissioners Evans, Maggi, Moses, Grandis, Bass and Rieffel and Staff Director Nancy Melville were present; Commissioner Gaugler was absent.

During the Open Forum, Mike Dwyer of 1717 20th Street complained about the bad conditions at Larimer's in the rear of Larimer's store. Trucks are blocking the street while loading and unloading; recently a fire truck was blocked in attempting to move along 20th Street. Businesses in that block treat 20th Street as an alley, although it is also a residential street.

The ANC commissioners agreed to contact Larimer's and adjacent businesses to attempt to resolve the problems.

Lt. McDonald of the 2nd District Police presented statistics concerning crime in that district, and Lt. Harriston presented statistics concerning crime in the 3rd District. An annual "Christmas Detail" of 30 to 40 offices will be added to the foot patrol soon.

A citizen complained about buses travelling on 20th and 21st Streets between Massachusetts and P Streets in a "no bus" zone. Lt. McDonald agreed to look into the problem.

Mrs. Rieffel moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion to approve the quarterly report of the Treasurer for the quarter ending September 30, 1989. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Grandis reported on the ABC hearing concerning Straits of Malaya. Minor changes to the agreement proposed by the ANC are to be signed by Jack Evans.

Ms. Moses reported that the Court of Appeals has remanded the Four Ways case back to the Zoning Commission to clarify issues concerning covenants and matter of right structures.

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Mrs. Rieffel reported that the owner of Peoples Cleaners on 17th Street recently died. He had done business in that location for several decades.

Mr. Bass moved, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion that

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B requests that the D.C. Department of Finance and Revenue immediately assess and levy a real property tax on the property located at 1333 16th Street (Square 195, southeast corner of 16th and O Streets). This property is not currently being taxed. Although it is owned by the Embassy of Nigeria, the building is vacant, has not been used for embassy purposes for many years, and is therefore subject to D.C. property taxes according to the Office of Foreign Missions, U.S. Department of State.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The commissioners agreed to send a letter to the "Washington is a Capital City" program asking for ANC input into programs that group sponsors.

Mr. Bass moved, and Mr. Grandis seconded the following motion.

That the ANC send a letter to the Historic Preservation Review Board supporting approval of the status of the Cairo Apartment building as an historic landmark, based on the unique nature of the building.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Maggi noted that a Bed and Breakfast is being considered at 2016 O Street. While this matter is not yet on the agenda, he solicits the commissioners views on this proposal. Mr. Bass pointed out that the proposed establishment was too large to qualify as a Bed and Breakfast, and should be considered a hotel.

Ms. Moses complained about noise emanating from the disco at the Empress Restaurant.

Ms. Melville reported that she is upgrading the mailing list.

Mr. Evans presented four responses the ANC has received from Councilmembers concerning the Farrakan motion passed at the previous ANC meeting.

Mr. Dixon of the Society of the Cincinnati presented the request of that organization for the support of the ANC for Bill 8-423, a proposed alley closing behind the Society of the Cincinnati, located at 22nd Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Ms. Moses moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, the following motion.

That the ANC support the alley closing on the condition that the closed alley not be used for development (except for a chain to secure it).

Mr. Grandis moved, and Mr. Maggi seconded, a motion that the motion be amended by adding a stipulation that

When the Society of Cincinnati sells or divests the property affected by the alley closing, the title of the property will revert back to the District.

The amendment passed, with Maggi, Bass, and Grandis voting in favor, Evans and Rieffel voting in opposition, and Moses abstaining.

The amended motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Debbie Duel of the Washington Humane Society discussed the activities of her organization, stressing that due to staff cuts, the organization desperately needs volunteer clerical assistance, dog walkers, and fundraisers.

Due to the inability of the presenter to be at the meeting, the presentation concerning Bill 8-156 was postponed to a future meeting.

Representatives of the Department of Public Works discussed the trees in the neighborhood. Spraying of female ginkgo trees has been discontinued because the manufacturer of the chemical no longer produces the chemical. Priority in replacing dead trees is given to those trees for which the public makes a request. The ANC is encouraged to transmit a letter to DPW requesting the replacement of specific trees. The need to replace two diseased trees in the 1800 block of Corcoran was mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alaire Bretz Rieffel
Recording Secretary