

3-29-90

Draft

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 28, 1990 MEETING
OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC

The Dupont Circle ANC (ANC 2B) held a regularly scheduled meeting on March 28, 1990 at St. Thomas Church. All commissioners (Grandis, Moses, Rieffel, Gaugler, Bass, Maggi and Evans) were present.

Mr. Evans called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Representatives of the Third District Police presented a report comparing crime statistics for the months of February, 1989 and 1990 as follows: homicides, 0, 0; robberies, 14, 11; assaults, 4, 2; burglaries, 19, 20; thefts, 35, 41; thefts from autos, 32, 53. Mrs. Rieffel asked him to report back concerning the disposition of a hit and run accident in 1700 block of Q Street and about actions, if any, of the police to curb extensive public urination in the neighborhood. Mr. Gaugler stressed the large number of cars that have been broken into and noted that he has received no response when dialing "911" to report such a crime in progress.

In the Open Forum, Mr. Jim McGrath stated that the ANC should put a padlock on the "sleezehole" Royal Palace, stressed his concerns about the potential destabilization of the 1700 block of N street that will be caused by a proposed PUD there, and announced a RAC meeting on March 3.

Concerning the Royal Palace, Mr. Maggi made, and Mr. Gaugler seconded, a motion that the ANC designate Mr. Bass, Mrs. Rieffel, or any other commissioner appointed by the chairman to represent the ANC at the ABC hearings in this matter. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Brian Moore, representing the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, announced an upcoming workshop on environmental concerns.

Mr. Bobby Pittman of ANC 1D asked for the support of the ANC in writing letters to the Mayor objecting to the practice of the police in ticketing of jaywalkers while ignoring more serious offenses such as endangering pedestrians by blocking pedestrian crosswalks. The commissioners agreed to look at Mr. Pittman's letter and to consider future action in this regard.

Mr. Cedric Hendricks presented brief comments on behalf of the Republic of Zimbabwe, which seeks to open a chancery in the 1600 block of New Hampshire Avenue. He will be working with the

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ANC to attempt to come to an agreement.

The following correction was noted with respect to the February 28 minutes: the last paragraph should read, "After discussion, Mr. Maggi agreed to withdraw...". Mr. Bass made, and Ms. Moses seconded, a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

The following corrections were noted to the March 14 minutes: "CT" should be changed to "CN", the attorney is Mr. McCartes, and a reference should be added noting that Mr. Grandis said that the Cosmos Club is not in compliance with its agreement a year ago with the ANC. Mr. Evans made, and Ms. Moses seconded, a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

Under Commissioner Reports, Ms. Moses noted progress concerning the zoning of a building on 19th Street. Commissioners asked her to request that it be inspected by zoning authorities.

Mr. Gaugler noted progress of a PUD for use by Brigham Young students.

Mr. Bass announced that Con Hitchcock, former president of DCCA, has offered the ANC pro bono help on two issues: Whether the Public Space Committee has violated any sunshine laws in its deliberations, and whether the ABC Board has violated (or will violate) any sunshine laws in making a decision not in a public forum concerning the 17th Street liquor license moratorium. Specifically, Mr. Hitchcock will draft the appropriate documents and report back to the ANC. Mr. Bass made, and Mrs. Rieffel seconded, a motion to accept Mr. Hitchcock's offer. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Maggi noted that the Historic Landmarks hearing for the building at 22 and N Streets has been postponed to April 4.

Mr. Evans noted that he had attended the Mr. P's hearing, which was continued to April 11.

Staff Coordinator Nancy Melville announced that at the next ANC meeting the agenda items would include the 22 and N PUD and an appearance by Harry Singleton, who is seeking election to the seat now held by Fauntroy.

Issues:

1. Review of ABC new application #29143: Crepe Ala Carte Restaurant, 1304 18th Street, N.W. a new restaurant/carryout serving French cafe fare with recorded tapes as entertainment. Messrs. Franklin Porter and John Porter described their operations. They will serve only wine and beer. Mr. Evans moved, and Mr. Gaugler seconded, a motion that the ANC support

their application. The motion was passed, with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Bass and Mrs. Rieffel, who abstained.

2. Review of Public Space Permit application for the above referenced establishment to operate a sidewalk cafe at 1304 18th Street, N.W. Mr. Evans moved, and Mr. Gaugler seconded, a motion that the ANC support this application. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Review of ABC renewal application #11003: Trio Pizza, 1624 O Street, N.W. Mr. George Malios was present to respond to questions about the operation of Trio Pizzas. Mr. Gaugler noted complaints about double parking by delivery vehicles and noted that these problems were increasing with the new building at 17th and Q. These delivery vehicles sometimes block the sidewalk. Mr. Malios noted that the deliveries are limited to an 8 block areas, and that he is giving increased priority to persons who undertake to deliver by bicycle or moped rather than automobile. Mr. Gaugler made, and Mr. Evans seconded, a motion to support this application, with the request that Mr. Malios strive to hire bicycle or moped deliverers and to closely monitor the double parking situation. The motion was passed with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Bass and Mrs. Rieffel, who abstained.

4. Review of BZA Application #15274 of John Vassilas for a variance to allow general offices on the first and second floors in an SP-2 District at 1926 N Street, N.W. A Mr. Clatt (sp?) spoke on behalf of Mr. Vasillas, who operates the restaurant at 20th and N known as the Cozy Corner. The variance would be for the floors above the restaurant. He noted that zoning won't allow any other use for the other 2 floors than single family, and that these floors are now empty. Mr. Evans made, and Mr. Bass seconded, a motion that the ANC take no position with respect to this application. Mr. Maggi proposed an amendment to the effect that the ANC would support the application for a variance provided that one of the 2 floors be used for residential purposes. Mr. Clatt (?) objected that the area is too small for such use. The amendment was not accepted. Mr. Evans clarified his motion to be that the letter will say that the ANC takes no position, but the letter will give no reasons. The motion was passed with all commissioners voting in favor but Mr. Gaugler, who voted in opposition.

5. Review of BZA Application #15278 of John M. Wildman on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Argentina to locate a chancery in an SP-2 District at 1612 18th Street, N.W. Mr. Greg Baer made a presentation on behalf of the Republic of Argentina. He stated that the chancery will have 5 employees and 5 to 8 visitors a day. It plans no structural changes. The building is now vacant. Argentina has no interest in purchasing it, although it had the opportunity to do so during the year it was placed on the market. It will have a minimal effect on parking, as employees will be provided off street parking behind other embassy property, and most visitors are messengers who travel by

bicycle. The hours of operation will be only 9 to 1. The Embassy has no desire to make further purchases on Corcoran Street. The State Department has taken a position that the proposed chancery is acceptable.

The owner, Mr. Wildman, discussed the circumstances of the building being for sale. Mr. Maggi noted that the building is outside the diplomatic overlay. Mr. Gaugler noted that a building at Corcoran and New Hampshire is available for chancery use such as this, that parking is still a concern, and that New Hampshire Avenue is taken up by diplomatic cars. In response to a question by Ms. Moses, Mr. Baer explained the origin of complaints concerning the Argentinean military mission at Connecticut and Bancroft. These problems originated with the previous owner (Saudi Arabia) and according to Mr. Baer have been resolved.

Mrs. Rieffel moved, and Mr. Gaugler seconded, a motion that the ANC oppose this application because the use of this property is inconsistent with the municipal interests for the following reasons:

- The building, which is diminutive in scale, is residential in nature. While its address is on New Hampshire Avenue, it also opens onto Corcoran Street, and it part of an architecturally distinctive and coherent row of small, residential, houses.

- It is located in an SP zone, designed to provide a buffer between residential and commercial zoning. However, the buffer nature of the SP zones in the Dupont Circle area are rapidly eroding. Residential space is being converted to commercial space, but not vice versa.

- It is the longstanding policy of the ANC to oppose any shift from residential to commercial usage.

- The building is outside the diplomatic overlay. If the diplomatic overlay was developed for a reason, it should be adhered to.

- Residents of that block of Corcoran Street have expressed concern that the street is losing its residential character.

- Diplomatic parking continues to be a serious problem in the area.

The motion was passed, with all commissioners voting in favor except Mr. Maggi, who recused himself.

Mr. Grandis made, and Mr. Evans seconded, a motion that the ANC send a letter to Richard Massey of the Office of Foreign Missions at the State Department expressing concern about parking and asking that the State Department contact the ANC before

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making any decisions to approve requests. The motion was approved, with all commissioners voting in favor, except Mr. Maggi, who recused himself.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alaire Bretz Rieffel
Recording Secretary