

Embassy of Phillipines
Logan Circle Historic District
Metro Bike Lockers
Staff Coordinator contract

Letters:

to: Zoning
re: ANC approval of 22nd & N PUD

to: ABC Board
re: Cairo Liquor serving 19 yr-old on
Channel 7

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 1991, MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC (ANC 2B)

The Dupont Circle ANC held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church. Commissioners Rieffel, Grandis, Taylor, Bass and Evans were present; Commissioner Moses was absent.

Chairman Rieffel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Captain MacDonald, of the Second District Police, gave a crime report.

During the open forum, Ms. Emily Young, co-chair of the Ross Elementary School PTA, introduced herself and talked briefly on progress the school is making with its new principle. Ms. Clarene Martin, a candidate for the Ward Two Council seat, introduced herself and suggested that schools must be given priority in P.U.D. amenities. Mr. Bob Westgate then commented that parking signs appear to have been illegally removed from the south side of P Street between 15th and 17th Streets. Mr. Craig Kirby then introduced himself as a representative of Councilmember Linda Cropp's office and volunteered the help of the Councilmember in any Dupont Circle community affairs.

Due to the lengthy agenda, normal procedure was changed to allow the presentation of agenda issues first.

ISSUES:

I. Representatives of the **Embassy of the Phillipines** made presentations regarding their application to construct a new chancery at 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Allison Prince, the applicant's attorney, made the first presentation, explaining that the property is currently owned by the government of the Phillipines and serves as the parking lot for their existing Embassy, which is across the street. Ms. Prince stated that the proposed project would have a total f.a.r. of 2.5; would consist of three stories; and would be 51 feet in height, although the zoning, which is SP, allows a total of 65 feet in height. No variances would be sought for the project.

Ms. Anne Seline, who was in the audience, noted that the northwest corner of the

lot was in an historic district, and would thus be subject to approval by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). When Ms. Prince responded that she had written confirmation from Steve Raiche of the HPRB that the project was not in an historic district, Ms. Seline produced a map that she said had been officially sponsored by the city, showing that the northwest corner was, in fact, in an historic district. Ms. Prince reviewed the map and agreed to check into the situation before proceeding with the application.

Next, an administrator of the Embassy made a presentation regarding the activities and logistics of the facility. She stated that the current Embassy employs 48 staff people and numerous offices, and that conditions of overcrowding and inadequate bathroom and handicapped facilities in the building would all be resolved by the new building.

The applicant's architect then presented drawings and preliminary plans showing the neo-classical building as being set in a garden with a 7 foot high fence surrounding the property. The plans also indicated a roof structure that would rise 12 1/2 feet above the stated building height, with a set-back of the same distance. Two curb cuts on the Massachusetts side of the building were also shown in the plans.

Mr. Gaugler moved, and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that the ANC approve the BZA application of the Embassy of the Phillipines to construct a chancery at 1600 Massachusetts Avenue under the condition that the applicant settle the question of whether or not the northwest corner of the property is in an historic district. Mr. Grandis, distressed that the applicant had initially presented the project as having a height of 51 feet, only to show later that the roof structure added an additional 12 1/2 feet to the height, implored that applicants should indicate from the start the true height of a project, including roof structures, when making presentations. He also voiced strong objections to the proposed curb cuts, stating the the ANC has been traditionally opposed to curb-cuts in historic districts.

Mr. Grandis then proposed, and Mr. Bass seconded, an amendment that a condition be added to Mr. Gaugler's motion that the height of the fence be lowered to a height of between 4 - 5 feet. The motion failed to pass by a vote of two in favor (Mr. Grandis and Mr. Bass), and three opposing (Ms. Rieffel, Ms Taylor, and Mr. Gaugler).

Ms. Rieffel then proposed an amendment that a condition be added to Mr. Gaugler's motion that the lot be cleaned and maintained until the construction of the building begins. The motion was passed with four voting in favor (Ms. Rieffel, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Gaugler and Mr. Bass) and one in opposition (Mr. Grandis).

II. Mr. Andy Witherell, of the Logan Circle Community Association, made a presentation regarding his organization's attempt to have the 1500 block between Massachusetts Avenue to the south, and S Street to the north, declared part of the Logan Circle Historic District.

Mr. Bass moved, and Mr. Grandis seconded, a motion that the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission endorses the application for a "Logan Circle Historic District Expansion" grant. ANC 2B supports the inclusion of the 1500 blocks from S Street to Massachusetts Avenue in the application for an expanded Logan Circle Historic District, and we urge the Historic Preservation Review Board to approve the application to provide much-needed historic protection for this area.

While the Dupont Circle community retains much affinity for these blocks and the Commission in particular wishes them to remain part of ANC 2B, we believe that it is of paramount importance to include these blocks in a historic district to preserve their largely uninterrupted fabric of row houses and small apartment buildings. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Mr. Kyle Pitsor, representing the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, made a presentation regarding the removal/relocation of the Metro bike lockers on Q Street. Mr. Pitsor stated that his organization had conducted a study of the lockers and came up with the information that although 22 of the lockers are rented, most do not appear to be used by bikers, and 11 are in disrepair. The lockers that are rented are sometimes used by people who simply have no storage of their own for bikes, as well as messengers. Metro has stated that it cannot fix the lockers that are in disrepair because the parts are no longer manufactured.

(get motion from Alaire)

Following the presentations, official business was resumed.

Ms. Rieffel moved, and Ms. Taylor seconded, that the ANC approve the minutes of the February 27, 1991, meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Under Commissioner reports, the following motions were made:

Ms. Taylor moved, and Ms. Rieffel seconded, a motion that the ANC send a letter to the Zoning Commission stating that the ANC has no further objections to the P.U.D at 22nd and N Streets, NW. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Rieffel moved, and Mr. Bass seconded, a motion that the ANC send a letter to the ABC Board requesting an investigation into the report on Channel 7 News showing a 19 year-old being served alcoholic beverages in

Cairo Liquor Store. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Rieffel moved, and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that Nancy Melville's contract be extended one more month until its impact on the budget can be reviewed. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Melville
Staff Coordinator