

Letters:

To: Mayor Kelly
Re: Operation Rescue

To: HPRB
Re: postponement of hearing for 1312 21st Street, N.W.

To: BZA
Re: Application No. 15613, 1622 18th Street, N.W.

To: Mr. Joe Baxter, Registrar of Voters
Re: voting precincts and ANC boundaries

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 1992 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 1992, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas' Parish. Commissioners Bass, Grandis, Shannon, Schwager, and Taylor were present.

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introduced Capt. Swope of the second district police department who gave a police report.

Chairman Bass recognized and welcomed Larry D. Soulsby, Commander of the Third Police District. Commander Soulsby gave a short presentation explaining his goals as the new Commander of the third precinct: 1) to provide quality police service; 2) for every police officer to want to work in the third district; 3) employ community empowerment, ie. more foot patrols; 4) have each officer act as a commander in his/her patrol area. Commissioner Schwager informed Commander Soulsby about a friend who was mugged on 17th and O Streets and asked the police to please be aware that the muggings are going on. Chairman Bass also informed Commander Soulsby that Father Keller, of St. Thomas' complained of growing problems on Church Street and supplied him with a schedule of activities in the Church building. Mr. Grandis inquired about the "Hate Crimes Act" and asked Commander Soulsby if he, like his predecessor, would address this issue. Commander Soulsby said that he will be addressing this issue and that his officers will be trained to treat everyone with respect. Capt. Ralph Moore, Sector Commander of the Dupont Circle area was also at the meeting and gave a police report.

During the Open Forum, a resident brought to the attention of the ANC his concern over the anti-abortion group, Operation Rescue, coming into D.C. on January 20th. He explained that there is a large number of demonstrators expected and suggested that advanced planning may be needed so incidents will not occur, especially with Planned Parenthood being in the neighborhood. Commander Soulsby assured the resident that he was aware of the demonstration and that 500-600 officers will be assigned to the areas in which the demonstrations will be held.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to inform the Mayor that ANC 2B welcomes any individual or groups to express their beliefs - peacefully - but expects them to attain all necessary permits and to abide by laws. If laws are violated ANC 2B expects that violators will be prosecuted. Planning with the Police and funding should be appropriated now to prevent any incidents from occurring. This motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Taylor moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion that the minutes of the December 11, 1991 meeting be approved with the following amendment: Under the Open Forum: add that Bob Westgate (resident) also asked Ms. Schwager to look into the townhouse on Jefferson St., because he was concerned about vacancies in the buildings on the block and feared that they will be torn down. The motion passed unanimously.

Issues:

I.

Paul Reneau, owner of the property at 1312 21st Street, N.W., was present at the meeting and gave a short presentation. Mr. Reneau said that he purchased the building in November 1990 and converted it into condominiums. Mr. Reneau contends that he thought the contractors he hired to do work on the premises had obtained all the necessary permits. A Stop Work order was issued in June 1991. Mr. Reneau went on to say that he wants to settle this issue as soon as possible and is willing to work with the ANC in order to do so. Mr. Reneau however, did not bring with him any blueprints of the building for the Commission to view so the following motion was made:

Ms. Taylor moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that ANC 2B requests the HPRB postpone consideration of this issue for one month until ANC 2B can view the plans submitted to the HPRB. This motion was passed unanimously.

II.

Mr. Iverson Mitchell, representative for 1622 18th Street, BZA application No. 15613, and Mr. Schinder, architect for the building, were present at the meeting and presented plans for the proposed zoning variances. The proposed variances would include an increase in the FAR and a curb cut on 18th Street. Voicing opposition to the proposed variances were Richard Nettler, attorney for the 18th and R condo, and members of the association.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that ANC 2B

recommend to the BZA that it deny Application #15613 for the requested variances for the following reasons: 1) there is nothing unique or exceptional about the subject site in comparison with surrounding lots; 2) increases in density and in FAR are inconsistent with present zoning and the objectives of the Dupont Circle Overlay enacted by the Zoning Commission; 3) ANC 2B has consistently opposed new curb cuts because of their adverse impact on parking availability and traffic safety, and this is particularly a problem at 18th and R Streets; and 4) such a variance will have a detrimental impact on the light and air quality to the occupants of the contiguous building primarily due to the increase in the FAR requested. The ANC's opposition in this case, should not indicate that the ANC opposes a "matter of right building" on this property. This motion passed unanimously.

III. Election of ANC 2B Officers

Ms. Taylor moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that the 1991 Officers of ANC 2B be elected to continue serving during 1992. This motion passed unanimously.

IV.

Loretta Caldwell, Executive Director of the Washington Halfway House for Women and Tawana Evans, were present at the meeting and gave a short presentation. They informed the Commission that the Halfway House has been at its present address, 1816 19th Street, for 20 years and has been accredited by the American Corrections Assoc. Ms. Caldwell stated that they are asking the ANC to support them in their pending application to the BZA for a special exception to increase the number of residents at the halfway house from 22 to 30 persons. After the presentation the following motion was made:

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion that ANC 2B supports their request for a special exception to increase the number of residents from 22 to 30 as long as this increase does not violate any fire, safety or health codes. This motion passed unanimously.

Under Commissioner Reports:

Mr. Grandis reported that the account balance for the ANC is \$14,110.64, as of December 31, 1991. Mr. Grandis also reported that the cost of photocopying is a concern and that he will work with the staff coordinator, Hollie Saiz, to try and keep this expense within budget.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to submit the first quarterly report. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to establish a petty cash fund of \$50 for the ANC office. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass reported on the work of the Ward 2 Re-Districting Task Force last summer and the problem they noted with the inconsistency between voting precincts and ANC/SMD boundaries.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to send a letter to Joe Baxter, Voting Registrar, requesting that as much as possible voting precincts be redrawn so as to be consistent with ANC boundaries. This motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Taylor reported on the owners of the P.U.D. at 23rd and N Street and their plans to purchase adjacent property on 22nd Street for open space use.

Ms. Schwager reported that the sidewalks at 17th and P Street have been repaired. She also reported that Sabina's, 1813 M Street, N.W. is under investigation by the ABC Board and that their file has been temporarily closed.

Old Business:

Mr. Bass reported on a letter he received from David Hall, President, D.C. Board of Education concerning the grant for Ross Elementary School. Mr. Hall assured Mr. Bass that the grant money will indeed go to Ross Elementary now that all the necessary paper work has been completed. Mr. Bass said that the next issue he will bring to the attention of Mr. Hall is the question of the interest that has accrued from the grant money. Mr. Bass said the interest should also go to Ross Elementary.

New Business:

Mr. Bass requested that a copy of the letter he sent to Mr. Ronald S. Mlotek, Chief Legal Counsel of the Office of the Foreign Missions concerning the location of embassies and chanceries be sent to Mayor Kelly and Council Chairman John Wilson.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shannon
Martha Shannon
Secretary ANC 2B
(H.S.)