

FINAL

Letters:

To: Public Space.

Re: El Bodegon, 1637 R Street, N.W.

To: BZA.

Re: BZA Application No. 15756, 1718 N Street, N.W.

To: HPRB.

Re: 11 Dupont Circle, N.W.

To: Dupont Circle Neighborhood Ecology Center.

Re: Recycling Center, 25th and N Streets, N.W.

To: GLAA.

Re: ANC Donation for "Walk Without Fear".

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 1992 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B**

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on September 9, 1992 at St. Thomas Parish. Officer Zelinka of the third district gave a police report.

During the Open Forum, residents voiced their concern over escalating criminal activities occurring specifically in the area of 21st and N Street, and Newport Place, N.W. The residents said that they would like to see more lighting in alleys and more police foot patrols. They have also requested from the police plates with street numbers to attach to their homes but have not yet received them. Office Zelinka, of the third district informed them that the plates are available and need to be picked up. Commissioner Pam Taylor, within whose SMD this area is located, said that she would work with the residents and Commissioner Harry Meier to address their problems. Bob Westgate commented that he would like to see the empty lots behind the Brookings building and the old American Trucking building cleaned up. Commissioner Shannon is going to look into the latter.

Adoption of the Minutes

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 12, 1992 meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC 2B. This motion passed unanimously.

Issues:

I.

Ted Pocter and Benjamin McCottry of the Dept. of Recreation and Parks were present at the meeting to discuss the revised plans for the renovation of Francis Pool. The revised plans include:

- 1) the length will be shortened by 25 meters, thus enlarging the deck space
- 2) no slide will be installed

- 3) wading pool with 0 degree approach will be separated from the other swimming area by a removable bulkhead
- 4) a single filter system is going to be used
- 5) no diving boards higher than 1 meter
- 6) funding will stay within the allotted amount of \$1.5 million

Barbara Kahlow of the Foggy Bottom ANC voiced her concerns about the plan for the pool, specifically:

- 1) the Dept. of Recreation should have also come before the Foggy Bottom ANC to discuss these plans
- 2) 25 meters is still too large, but Ms. Kahlow later rescinded this statement when she was informed that this is the original size of the pool
- 3) no diving boards be installed
- 4) where does the Dept. of Recreation propose the people who come to the pool will park? The parking situation will greatly affect the Foggy Bottom area.
- 5) the children's pool should be separated from the adult pool.

Pam Taylor requested that Mr. Poctor return to the ANC when elevations for the pool have been completed. Chairman Bass also reminded Mr. Poctor that the ANC still has reservations about the use of one filter system and not separating the children's pool from the adult pool. Mr. Poctor agreed to come back to the ANC with elevations when they are available.

II.

David Fernandez, attorney for El Bodegon, 1637 R Street, N.W. was present at the meeting to discuss the public space application for a temporary unenclosed sidewalk cafe. The application includes plans for the addition of 15 extra seats and 5 tables. There will be no external sound amplification. Commissioner Shannon, within whose district El Bodegon is located, asked Mr. Fernandez what the hours of operation will be. He responded that they expect to comply with the hours of the surrounding outdoor establishments. Ms. Shannon then asked Mr. Fernandez where the outdoor furniture will be stored when not in use. He replied that it will be stored off the public space.

Ms. Shannon moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion that ANC 2B support the public space application for El Bodegon, 1637 R Street, N.W. for an outdoor cafe with the following conditions:

- 1) "Last Call" for food and beverages in the outside patio area no later than 12 midnight Sunday evening thru Thursday no later than 1:30 on the morning following Friday and Saturday evenings.
- 2) All patrons to be cleared from the outside patio area no later than 12:30 a.m. on the mornings following Sunday - Thursday evenings, and 2:00 a.m. on the mornings following Friday and Saturday evenings.
- 3) Since the outdoor patio area is to be used from March through September, all outdoor furniture is to be removed from the public space from October through

February.

4) No trash is to be stored on the outdoor patio area.

This motion passed with Commissioner Grandis in abstention.

III.

Laura Witherspoon of the Employee Relocation Council, 1718 N Street, N.W. was present at the meeting to ask the ANC's support in BZA application No. 15756 for a variance for FAR. The HPRB has approved the plans for work in the rear of the building.

(Mr. Pagano left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.)

Ms. Schwager moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that ANC 2B support BZA Application No. 15756 for the Employee Relocation Council to build an exterior addition comprised of an elevator, elevator machine room and corridor into the rear of the building at 1718 N St., N.W. according to the plans presented to the ANC. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pagano was absent from the vote.

IV.

Representatives for 11 Dupont Circle and Crown Books were present at the meeting to discuss HPRB Application No. 92-482 for renovation of the building and signage. The plans for the building include:

- 1) raising the elevation of the windows on the lower level and installing clear glass around the front of the building
- 2) locating an 11,000 sq. ft. SuperCrown Bookstore on the ground floor.
- 3) installation of two back-lit SuperCrown signs

Mr. Grandis asked Commissioner Meier within whose district this building is located, to investigate into whether or not this building is matter of right. Mr. Grandis also commented that he felt a SuperCrown bookstore is not appropriate in this neighborhood and that the smaller bookstores in the area will be affected. Ms. Schwager said that she felt the ground floor of the building was more appropriate for office space and was alarmed to find that a retail space was located right on the Circle. The Commission felt that the installation of clear glass along with the illumination of florescent lights from the store would flood the area with a harsh light and change the texture of the area. The Commission also felt that lowering the sill of the bottom windows would change the visual impact of the building. It is proposed to install two white, 24" signs with plexiglass fronts that will be back lit with neon light. The signs are to be installed into the recess of the building in conformity with building codes.

Mr. Meier moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that ANC 2B requests the HPRB to postpone consideration of HPRB Application No. 92-482, for 11 Dupont Circle, N.W. to allow time for further consideration of the ANC's concerns about this application. If this request is denied, ANC 2B must oppose HPRB Application No.

92-482 for alteration to the building and signage:

Alteration to the Building

- 1) the use of a band of clear glass with retail lighting creates an overly bright visual "hotspot" that detracts from the appearance of the building and of the Dupont Circle itself; and
- 2) the lowering of the brick sill underneath the new windows conflicts with the design of the upper windows and changes the visual impact of the entire building.

Signage

The two signs proposed are not compatible with other signage on the Circle.

- 1) it is excessive to have two signs given the size of the space;
- 2) the size of the lettering is too large; and
- 3) back lighting of the signage is too harsh.

This motion passed unanimously with Mr. Pagano absent from the vote.

V.

Mr. Bill Freese of the Dupont Circle Neighborhood Ecology Center located at 25th and N Streets, N.W. and Ms. Evelyn Shields, D.C. Recycling Coordinator, were present at the meeting to discuss the operation of the recycling center at 25th and N Sts., N.W. The ANC has received several complaints that the center is not being maintained and has become a public safety hazard. Mr. Freese said that the center is operated on a volunteer basis on Saturdays and Sundays. He went on to say that part of the problem is that more people are recycling now and that people drop off materials at the site that the center does not recycle. Mr. Freese said that he is very aware that the center has problems and he is trying to find solutions to those problems. He has installed a third green igloo for glass and has been in touch with both the glass and aluminum collectors who have promised to keep on schedule with their pickups. They are also trying to get more volunteers to help. Ms. Shields said that the city is currently picking up the newspapers at the site and would continue to do so. She also said that the city has proposed to take over the site completely but the Ecology Center has thus far rejected this offer. Mr. Grandis suggested that perhaps Mr. Freese could post a sign on the premises stating that fines will be charged if anyone leaves materials that the Center does not accept.

(Ms. Schwager left the meeting at 10:40 p.m.)

Ms. Taylor moved and Mr. Bass seconded a motion that ANC 2B write a letter to Mr. Freese stating the following:

First, ANC 2B would like to endorse the agreement under which the city will continue picking up the newspapers at the site located at 25th and N Streets, N.W. Secondly, the Neighborhood Ecology Center ensure regular monitoring and collection of

recyclable materials in order to comply with municipal sanitation and public health regulations. ANC 2B also urges the Ecology Center to post a sign on the premises stating what materials are recycled at the site or risk a fine for illegally dumping waste there. Lastly, Mr. Freese is invited to attend the October 28th meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC 2B to discuss progress toward meeting these requirements. This motion passed unanimously. Ms. Schwager absent from the vote.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt the amended second quarterly financial report. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pagano and Ms. Schwager were absent from the vote.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to adopt the third quarter financial report. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pagano and Ms. Schwager were absent from the vote.

Mr. Bass asked the ANC to support the next annual "Walk Without Fear" by making a small donation.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that ANC 2B donate \$50 to the Walk Without Fear. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pagano and Ms. Schwager were absent from the vote.

Ms. Taylor reported that she was informed by a Wilkes Artis attorney that there are parties interested in converting the parking lot behind the Duke Ellington building into a public paid parking lot.

Mr. Bass reported that there is going to be a conversion of use of the building at 16th and R from office to residential.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha T. Shannon

Martha Shannon
Secretary, ANC 2B