

Letters:

To: Armando Lourenco, DCRA, Permits Processing Division
Re: Demolition of existing building at Francis Pool

To: Councilmember Jack Evans
Re: Buffer Zone Act of 1993, Bill 10-22

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 1993 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled meeting on February 24 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Ray, Bass, Gamble, Holmes, Taylor and Pagano were present. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Adoption of the Minutes

Mr. Holmes moved and Mr. Bass seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 10 meeting with the following amendment offered by Mr. Ray: at the end of the Bedrock Billiards discussion, Mr. Ray advised the Bedrock Billiard representatives that letters of support from neighbors would be persuasive. This motion passed with Ms. Taylor in abstention.

Issues:

I. Neighborhood Planning Council

Commissioner Ray began his report by saying that he attended the first NPC meeting since their elections of officers. He informed the ANC that all the members of the NPC are volunteers who seemed very eager to help children. He also observed that a large number of children attended the meeting. One concern Mr. Ray brought up was that there was confusion over the financial situation of the NPC. Many of the officers said they did not know what their allotment from the government is and that whatever the amount, they still had not received it. The NPC officers said that they feel that the Mayor is cutting the NPC out of the budget unfairly. They said that the problems are not with the NPCs but rather with the Dept. of Recreation's inefficiency and cited the lack of information about the NPC's finances as an example. In Mr. Ray's report he also mentioned that last year Councilmember Evans was supportive of the NPC but he did not know what his position is now.

Mr. Ray moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, the following motion:

Because children and youth and programs for them, are one of our highest priorities, and

Because, based on initial research our National Planning Council 3 seems

to be directed by dedicated volunteers and enthusiastically received by neighborhood children,

We request that Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly and Councilperson Jack Evans scrutinize the Mayor's zero budgeting of this project.

The following amendment was offered by Mr. Holmes and accepted by Mr. Ray:

We request that Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly and Councilperson Jack Evans review the Mayor's zero budgeting of this project. This motion passed unanimously.

Police Report

At this time, Officer Joe Sandora of the third district gave a police report. He informed the ANC and those present that thefts from cars is still on the rise. He warned people not to leave anything visible in their cars. He also informed the ANC that 3 new footpatrol officers have been assigned to the 17th and Connecticut and Q Street to S Street areas. Those officers are, Dobbins, Johnson, and Campbell.

Mr. Ray asked Officer Sandora if it was true that the Corporation Counsel does not prosecute cases of theft from autos. Officer Sandora replied that that was not true as far as he knew.

II. Francis Pool

The Dept. of Recreation made a request to the ANC that it write a letter to the DCRA permits division in support of the demolition of the existing building at the Francis Pool. Ms. Taylor told the Dept. of Recreation that the ANC would not agree to do that before seeing the plans for the pool. Ted Pocter of the Dept. of Recreation then supplied the ANC with a copy of the plans and after carefully reviewing them, the following motion was made:

Ms. Taylor moved and Mr. Gamble seconded, a motion that ANC 2B support the demolition of the existing bathhouse building at Francis Pool 2) approve the plans for the new building dated 1/12/93; and 3) expect that the city will move expeditiously to complete the construction and open the pool on June 1, 1993, as promised by City Administrator Robert Mallett. This motion passed with Mr. Holmes in abstention.

III. Food For Thought

Mr. Pagano said that the applicants in this case did not enter into a voluntary agreement with the ANC but did agree informally to correct the concerns of the ANC and the residents in the area. Mr. Pagano said that the immediate concerns were satisfied and

Ms. Taylor said that she too, noticed that the conditions of the area were improved. The following motion was then made:

Mr. Pagano moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that based on the good faith effort of the applicants to rectify the concerns of the ANC, ANC 2B hereby withdraws its opposition to ABC Application No. 10227 for Food For Thought. This motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Ray reported that there is going to be a meeting of the ANC Public Safety Committee March 16 at the Hotel Dupont. Second and Third district police and members of DCCA as well as others are expected to attend the meeting. Mr. Ray also reported that a meeting has been set up between the second district police and the Pink Panthers for March 3 at 12:00. The meeting will take place at the second district police department.

Mr. Gamble reported back to the ANC his findings concerning the Buffer Zone Act of 1993, Bill 10-22. The Bill is intended to provide barriers, through physical design or vegetation, to minimize the impact of construction and renovation in "high density" areas adjacent to "low density areas". The Bill also has provisions which will prevent undue hardship on individual properties, while requiring review by the ANC, prior to any waiver by BZA. After the report the following motion was made:

Mr. Gamble moved and Mr. Ray seconded, a motion that ANC 2B, upon review of proposed legislation titled Buffer Zone Act of 1993, Bill 10-22, recommends that the Committee of the Whole take prompt action to approve the legislation as it will restrict and ameliorate the impact of commercial and or major residential construction on existing adjacent lower density residential areas. This motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Taylor reported that she met with residents from the O Street and Hopkins Street area. She said that one of the main concerns of the residents was aggressive panhandling. Ms. Taylor offered to chair the ANC Committee on Panhandling. Chairman Bass then officially appointed her to that position. One of the goals of the Public Safety Committee chaired by Mr. Ray was to curb aggressive panhandling. That project will now be handled by Ms. Taylor.

Mr. Holmes reported that the ANC has finally received the last two funding allotments from the D.C. government. He also once again reminded the Commission that the ANC is still looking for office space.

Mr. Bass reported that he and Ms. Taylor attended a luncheon with DCMAP and the police, fire and vendors squad as well as representatives of the Corporation Counsel. One of the subjects that was brought up was aggressive panhandling. Mr. Bass was informed that police are anxious to do what the ANC and the residents want in regards to

panhandling, but the corporation Counsel will not permit them to use existing laws to do so because of their alleged unconstitutionality. Mr. Horowitz of the Corporation Counsel said they would be willing to prosecute for aggressive panhandling if the new aggressive panhandling law is passed. In regard to vendors, Mr Bass reported that the vending regulations are in the process of being revised. Mr. Bass commented that there is a lot of illegal vending going on. Ms. Taylor informed the audience that DCMAP is planning to print a brochure regarding aggressive panhandling which basically says that anyone who gives to panhandlers is an enabler and that businesses and residents should not further encourage panhandling.

New Business

Mr. James Radack of the Office of Constituent Services, announced that there is going to be a meeting with the Mayor March 11 at Shaw Jr. High School. At this meeting, residents will get a chance to meet the new Chief of Police and discuss other issues.

A resident asked about the status of Stead Recreation Center. Commissioner Gamble said that he has noticed some construction going on at the park but it is doubtful that the park will open by summer. Mr. Gamble will continue looking into the situation.

Mr. Bass reported that there is going to be a RAC seminar on how to appeal your property tax assessment February 27 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Parish. He said the seminar is very helpful and encouraged all to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Bass", written in a cursive style.

Dennis Bass
Chair
ANC 2B