

Letters:

To: ABC
Re: Skewers

To: PSC
Re: Public Payphones, 2159 & 2161 P Street, N.W.

To: Gary Burch, Jack Evans, Harry Thomas
Re: Public Works projects for 1995 budget

To: Dorothy Stokes
Re: Property at 1601 R Street, N.W.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 1993 PUBLIC MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly schedule public meeting on September 22, 1993 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Ray, Pagano, Shannon, Bass, and Gamble were present. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt November 17 and December 15 as the ANC meeting dates for those months. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass moved and Mr. Ray seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution regarding the passing of Phyllis Nelson. This motion passed unanimously.

Lt. Shannon Cockett of the third district gave a police report. She once again warned residents not to leave items in cars, citing that theft from autos is still on the rise. She also informed the ANC and those present that the next D.C. Nights Out are scheduled for Oct. 22 and December 7. Anyone interested in more information should call Office Melvin Scott at 673-6920. Commissioner Gamble asked about how Lt. Cockett felt the Panhandling law was being implemented. She said that there was some success in implementing the law, but she would like to see offense of aggressive panhandling be changed to a probable cause misdemeanor. Sergeant James of the second district and Lt. Dan Walters of the U.S. Park Police, also gave a police reports.

Adoption of the Minutes

Ms. Shannon moved and Mr. Ray seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 21 ANC meeting with the following amendment:

On page 4, under Commissioner Ray's Report it should read; Mr. Ray reported that he has worked out a voluntary agreement with Tan Inc., t/a Larry's Lounge in regard to their ABC Application for a "CT" tavern license which he has sent to the ABC. This motion passed unanimously.

Issues

I. Ms. Dorothy Stokes of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs was present at the meeting to discuss the condition of the building owned by the Association located at 1601 R Street, N.W. Ms. Stokes began by saying that the Association, which is the oldest African-American Women's Organization, plans to use the building at 1601 R Street, as its future national headquarters. She went on to say that she is aware that the grounds need to be cleaned up and she has already contracted with a lawn and maintenance service to come once or twice a week to clean. She pointed out, however, that the residents in the area also dump trash on the property and park illegally in the driveway. Ms. Stokes said that she has personally monitored the illegal parking and that cars have been ticketed and towed. Signs that were posted on the premises warning against illegal parking were removed. Ms. Stokes said that a permit to install a temporary chain-link fence around the property was denied. Mr. Bass, within whose SMD this property lies, said that the chain-link fence was not acceptable, but the ANC would support the installation of bollards in the driveway to inhibit illegal parking. Resident, Dennis Gaugler, brought up the fact that homeless people are climbing up into the second floor of the building by using the fire escape. He suggested that the fire escape be secured so that it can not be used. Ms. Stokes said that there was no evidence that persons were now living in the building but that she would of course, take precautions and secure the fire escape. Mr. Bass thanked Ms. Stokes for her cooperation in improving conditions at the building.

II.

Representatives from the FBI, Mr. Richard Mansfield and Greg Ellison, were present at the meeting to inform the ANC and those present about public corruption. Mr. Mansfield defined Public Corruption as a breach of the public trust by elected and appointed public servants at all levels of government, who use their office for personal gain. Mr. Mansfield urged anyone who is aware of criminal activity involving public corruption or government fraud, to call the FBI at 202-337-TIPS.

III. Skewers, 1633 P Street, N.W.

Mr. Gamble began the discussion by saying that he had already worked out a voluntary agreement with the owners of Skewers. Skewers will be installing a fence around its dumpsters in the rear of the property and will have the garbage picked up 4 days a week or more if necessary. The owners have also agreed to wash down the garbage area daily. Mr. Gamble went on to say that the owners were very cooperative.

Mr. Gamble moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt the voluntary agreement with Skewers. This motion passed unanimously.

The voluntary agreement will be incorporated into the reissuance of the license.

IV. Buffalo Billiards, 1333 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.

The owners of Buffalo Billiards, Geoff Dawson and Mark Handwerger, came before the ANC to inform them that they have now signed their lease for the property at 1333 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. They went on to say that they have not, as yet, applied for

an ABC license but they do have an appointment with the ABC on October 4. Mr. Bass asked them what class of license they will be applying for and they replied a "CT". Mr. Bass said that under the terms of a "CT" license dancing is allowed and asked if they planned on having dancing. Mr. Dawson replied "No" they will not have dancing. Mr. Dawson went on to say that they do have plans to use the public space outside as a possible Bocci court. Mr. Bass thanked the owners for coming to the meeting and asked that their license application reflect no dancing. The license will also not be transferrable. They will come back to the ANC once their ABC application has been filed.

V. Payphones at 2159 and 2161 P Street, N.W.

Mr. Pagano moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that ANC 2B support the removal of the public payphones at 2159 and 2161 P Street, N.W. because; 1) the operation of these phones contribute to public nuisance and vagrancy; 2) there are already a sufficient number of payphones in the vicinity (at least 5 within one block). This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bill Manthey, manager of the Fireplace, 2161 P Street, N.W., said that he is in support of the removal of the payphone outside his establishment on condition that the one owned by State Liquor, 2159 P, is also removed. Mr. Pagano said that if the owner so desires, the ANC would support installation of a payphone inside the premises.

VI. Office of the Peoples Counsel/Pepco

Ms. Arminda Valles, representative from the Office of the Peoples Counsel, was present at the meeting to discuss the proposed C & P and Pepco rate increases. Ms. Valles informed the ANC and those present, that C & P has requested a \$39.1 million rate increase citing poor earnings and increased costs. She went on to say that Pepco has requested a \$101.7 million rate increase. Ms. Valles advised those present to attend community hearings scheduled for Sept. 28, Oct. 16, and Oct. 20 to find out more about these increases. The Office of the Peoples Counsel is opposing the rate increases. Ms. Nancy Moses, of Pepco was also present at the meeting and said that Pepco is not sure what amount of an increase it will ask for at this time. Mr. Bass suggested that the representatives come back to the ANC once the rate increases are final to discuss this issue further.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Ray encouraged everyone to pick up a copy of his latest newsletter.

Mr. Gamble reported that the St. Thomas Park Day September 19, was successful. Mr. Gamble introduced Mr. Ronald Moore, Director of Stead Playground, who informed the ANC that Stead opened its doors the first Monday in September. He said that there are now three soccer teams and two football teams at Stead as well as classes in aerobics and art. Mr. Moore also said that they are proposing a cooking class for adults. Mr. Moore handed out fliers with information about Stead's after-school programs for "latch-key" kids

to attend.

Old Business

Mr. Bass reported that the final briefs for the H.H. Leonards ABC case have been filed. He said that neighbors are planning an appeal. Money is needed to purchase the transcripts of the hearing because they are very costly.

Mr. Bass moved and Mr. Gamble seconded, a motion that ANC 2B appropriate \$150 to help defray the cost of the transcripts. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass also reported that the final briefs for the Rascals ABC case have been filed. The ABC Board is expected to render a decision soon. He went on to say that DCCA has obtained a lawyer to help fight the certificate of occupancy issue in this case. Mr. Bass reported that Riggs Bank has refused local artist, Byron Peck, to paint a mural on the building owned by the bank after promising the ANC it would grant Mr. Peck permission. In other issues, Mr. Bass said that The Barclay, 1616 16th Street, N.W., has been fined \$5000 for illegal dumping. Finally, Mr. Bass reported that a revised application to expand the Logan Circle Historic District has been filed, and that the HPRB has requested the name of the district be changed to the Greater 14th Street Historic District. The new District will include several blocks that are part of the Dupont Circle ANC (1500 blocks from P to S St.).

New Business

Mr. Bass discussed his proposed testimony for the October 14 hearing before the Committee on Government Operations which he and Mr. Ray will be attending. He briefly outlined the testimony which will include recommendations on such issues regarding "great weight" given to ANC's decisions and a proposal that the Committee approve legislation that would require that agencies give special attention and consideration to ANC recommendations. Another recommendation regarding timely notice to ANCs would request that legislation be passed providing strict legislative guidance on legally sufficient notice to ANCs. Mr. Bass then asked his fellow Commissioners if they had any suggestions or comments on this testimony. Ms. Shannon thanked Mr. Bass for all his hard work on the testimony and reminded him of her recommendations which they discussed earlier. Mr. Ray also thanked Mr. Bass and offered the following suggestions; 1) on page 4, second paragraph, there are two agencies which are commended, the Public Space Permits Division and the Public Service Commission. Mr. Ray thought it would be a good idea to expand on this paragraph a little more; 2) page 5, Mr. Ray asked whether the Historic Preservation Division worked under the Historic Preservation Review Board. Mr. Bass explained that the Historic Preservation Division is the staff of the Historic Preservation Review Board such as the ABC Division is the staff of the ABC Board.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt the testimony with amendments. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass said that Councilmember Ray will be holding a hearing regarding Casino Gambling in D.C. He asked the Commissioners what their thoughts on the matter were. Mr. Gamble commented that the residents seem to be split on the subject but that he personally, thought it was not a good way to balance the budget. John Ralls of Councilmember Evans office said that his office has received unanimous comments against the idea and that Jack Evans feels that the issue needs to be studied.

Ms. Shannon discussed proposed public works capitol improvements in the Dupont Circle area for the 1995 fiscal year. Suggestions made were to 1) issue a study of a parking arrangement on Church and Corcoran Streets, which would include the use of plantings and parking on alternate sides of the street to slow down traffic; 2) repave 17th Street between P and S Streets; 3) secure loose bricks on the sidewalk on 17th Street from P - S Sts.; 4) renovate the underpasses under Dupont and Scott Circles; 5) increase the number of public trash bins installed on Q Street between 17th and 18th Streets.

Ms. Shannon moved and Mr. Gamble seconded, a motion to submit the list of public works proposals to the Dept. of Public Works. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass said that the Whitman-Walker Clinic is applying for a certificate of need to establish a home health care program for persons with AIDS and is asking the ANC for its support.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Shannon seconded a motion that ANC 2B support the Certificate of Need for the Whitman-Walker Clinic to establish a home health care service for persons with AIDS who are homebound and who require in-home skilled nursing and personal care assistance to sustain themselves in a home environment. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass went on to say that the ANC feels strongly that this is a needed service that is the least expensive and most humane care option for persons with AIDS.

Open Forum

Mr. George Nelson asked the ANC if it is aware that Annie's Paramount Steak House on 17th Street is now open 24 hours and if they plan on doing something about it? Ms. Shannon said that she is very aware of this situation and is looking into it.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha T. Shannon
Secretary
Dupont Circle ANC 2B