

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 1994 PUBLIC MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on March 9, 1994 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Shannon, Gamble, Bass, Taylor, Pagano and Holmes were present. Larry Ray was absent. Chairman Gamble called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 pm.

Adoption of the minutes

Procedural Business

Mr. Gamble motioned and Ms. Taylor seconded the hire of new Staff Coordinator Karen Ruffin for 20 hours per week at \$10.00 per hour with benefits. Motioned accepted unanimously with one abstention.

Local Crime Reports

Captain Boggs of the 3rd. District reported the there has been an overall decrease in crime, specifically a decrease in auto theft. Additionally, a desk has been assigned to evaluate patterns of area burglaries with the intention of narrowing the investigation to one or two suspects. The following blocks were cited as problem areas; 2000 16th Street, 1600 New Hampshire Avenue, and 1500 P Street. The Captain added that in the course of canvassing during the investigation witnesses were found who had not called the police. Ms. Taylor queried the office of the breadth of the problem area and was told it was large enough that one individual could have expanded or the activity is the result of multiple individuals. Mr. Bass asked about drug activity at 1605 S Street referencing a problem that had come to the attention of the ANC in prior meetings. The Captain reported that attempts to condemn the building were unsuccessful. An additional report of drug activity at 1767 P Street and the illegal use of premises has resulted in a warning to the owner. Discussion of the issue of abandoned cars revealed that Environmental Services of the Department of Public Works handles the towing. Ms. Taylor asked if helps when citizens call and was assured that it does.

Lt. Walters, U.S. Park Police, gave a crime report and cited the need for additional foot and plains clothes patrols. Mr. Gamble indicated ANC willingness to help coordinate the three polices divisions that cover the Dupont Circle area. Mr. Gamble inquired about harassment problems at P Street Beach and was told that there have been two arrests stemming from a January 4th incident.

Officer Connor from the 2nd District provided crime statistics, gave instructions on the use of the Car Club, general crime prevention tactics, and a number to report abandoned cars, 673-6993. Mr. Gamble asked if there were discernable patterns to robberies in the 2nd District and was told they appear random.

Issues

Mr. Gamble reported on the timetable for the opening of the Underground, possibly summer. Mr. Gamble further reported that the City and Park Service are working on the zoning legalities.

The design for townhouses that was submitted in November for 1622 P Street was modified to accommodate the ANC's request for the modification of the garage doors. The presenter indicated that the application was complete and asked for the ANC's support. Mr. Gamble moved that the ANC support the application. Ms. Taylor seconded. Mr. Bass clarified that the Commission was not voting on Historic Preservation review. Any significant changes would have to be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

On the issue of a fourth floor addition to 1312 21st Street, Paul Reneau asked the ANC to request that the B.Z.A. defer to the upcoming hearing in District Court. He stated that the ANC was responsible for the need for the appeal, a characterization Mr. Bass objected to. Motion by Ms. Taylor, seconded, and passed unanimously that the certificate of occupancy should be revoked because the fourth floor had been illegally constructed.

Concerning the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation request for revocation of the public space permit of the Dupont Circle Recycling Project drop-off center on 25th Street, motion by Ms. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Shannon, and passed with one abstention (Mr. Holmes) to take no position.

B.Z.A. Appeal #15927 for a variance regarding non-conforming use and seating capacity of restaurant and delicatessen at 1523 20th Street, N.W. Although notified, the applicant was not present. Motion to oppose was unanimously approved because no good cause had been presented in support of the variance.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Pagano reported that the Victor Gatans Gallery at 2106 R Street requested a variance for outside space but Mr. Gamble pointed out that there was nothing specific to evaluate. Mr. Pagano confirmed that the variance must come formally before the ANC.

Mr. Bass reported that there are a number of ABC licenses in the area that must be renewed and voluntary agreements to be considered. By March 15th the ANC will know if H.H.Leonard's appeal goes forward.

Old Business (At this time Ms. Shannon left the meeting.)

According to Mr. Bass, the minutes of the February 23, 1994 meeting should be amended to clarify that the \$500.00 contribution by the ANC is for expenses related to the administrative hearing on the H.H.Leonard case before the ABC.

Treasurer's Report

The Quarterly report was presented. The total of all accounts are within budget. The Quarterly report was adopted.

General Statement

Mr. Gamble noted that the ANC has a library which is available to the Commissioners and the public. The Commissioners have keys or Mr. Gamble can be contacted if need be.

New Business

Comments from the Historic Preservation Review Board as part of Commissioner Taylor's report. The following listing indicates locations and modifications that were approved by the H.P.R. Board: 1606 20th Street, 1st floor Vinchinzo's awning; 1605 16th Street, window alteration, restored to original; 1525 New Hampshire Ave., iron railing on balustrade; 1759 T Street, condo conversion.

District Budget: Mr. Bass expressed need to respond to Mayor's proposed parking surcharge. Mr. Holmes indicated that his concern lay with amount of the surcharge and the negative effect on businesses. Ms. Taylor asked why the ANC needs to support the measure. Mr. Bass pointed out that there was pressure from the business community and further noted that the parking surcharge represents the only real new revenue for the Mayor. Mr. Gamble shared the concern voiced by Mr. Holmes but indicated support of the concept. He also expressed support for the surcharge as opposed to an increase in property taxes. Mr. Bass added that there is a need to cut payroll and expenses. Ms. Taylor asked why a decision had to be made to which Mr. Bass responded that a parking surcharge was the only way to recoup costs, a sort of commuter tax, and that it might improve mass transit usage. Mr. Holmes suggested postponing a decision for two weeks until April 5th and moved that the ANC support the surcharge on parking if the D.C. Government reduces payroll.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.