

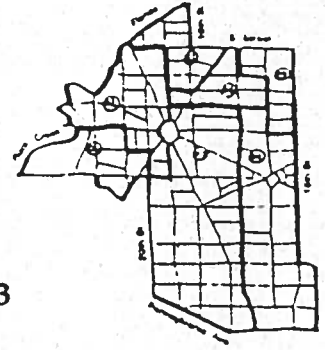


**DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B**

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Letters

To: Chief Soulsby
Re: Gun Recovery

To: Jay Bothwell, Jay Pagano
Re: Comfort station restoration

To; Dept. Public Works
Re: Replace trash cans - 18th & P Sts, N.H. Ave., & Q St.

To: Councilmembers Brazil, Ray, Evans
Re: ABC Private Club Exception Act

To: ABC Board
Re: Casa Pena

To: Councilman Lightfoot
Re: Fire department budget

To: Sgt. Gentile - Public Information Division Metro Police
Re: Reward - shooting 2100 N St.

To: Councilmember Evans
Re: Bill 11-464, Business Improvement District Act

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 1996 PUBLIC MEETING OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

Dr. Fernandez introduced Mr. Fondersmith of the D.C. Office of Planning. Mr. Fondersmith said the D.C. Comprehensive Plan is amended every four years and directed the audiences attention to Handouts on the table. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Fondersmith to explain the Comprehensive Plan to the audience. Mr. Fondersmith said the Plan is an overall city-wide plan for how the city should develop in the future. He said there are 11 elements to the plan. He said the National Capital Planning Commission does the portion of the plan that is Federal in nature. He said that the Office of Planning does the local planning for the city. He said all of this is the first tier - the city level, and the second tier is ward by ward. He said there would be a public meeting held March 12 at the West End Library and that would be a

COMMISSIONERS

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| 01 Brad Haransky
Vice-Chair | 02 Stephen Smith | 03 Jonathan Heller
Treasurer | 04 Donald Jackson | 05 Erik Wemple
Secretary | 06 Henry Fernandez
Chairperson | 07 Kyle Pitsor |
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good place for residents to make recommendations, as there was a four month period in which amendments would be developed. He said that in January of 1997 the Mayor would send the recommended amendments to the City Council.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40p.M.

Introduction of the Commissioners. Commissioners Fernandez, Heller, Wemple, Pitsor and Jackson were present.

The minutes of the January meeting of ANC 2B were unanimously adopted.

POLICE CRIME REPORT

Master Patrol Officer Williams of the Third District gave the crime statistics. She said although theft from autos was down a little that people should stay aware that this is an ongoing problem. She asked the ANC to provide money to have a flyer reproduced warning residents and visitors to the area of the problem of theft from autos and what they can do about it. Dr. Fernandez asked if the audience had any questions. Mr. Carney asked about what he could do to stop skateboarders from damaging property. Officer Williams said to call and give a description and the direction that they leave. Officer Williams said that over the course of four months she has given out thirty vending violation citations and made about four arrests. Dr. Fernandez asked what were the citations for. Officer Williams said the violations were for primarily for not having a license, storage on public space, and improper stands.

Lt. Harasack of the Park Police said the month of January was slow. He said the park Police had been in touch with the Park Service to weld the doors of the Dupont Circle Comfort Station shut until the arrangements are made for a renovation of that facility.

Lt. Cullins of the Second District gave that crime statistics. He said that vending code enforcement will be done on a continuous basis. He said his officers will be looking for vending violations and they will call the vending squad. He said in answer to the question last meeting concerning whether the Second District had officers directing traffic at the Kennedy Center that officers from 2D were not detailed to that location for that purpose. He said that off-duty officers can work directing traffic at the Kennedy Center on their own time. Captain Barnes said that no officers from the Second District were working off hours at the Kennedy Center. She said that vending will be one of the focuses of the Second District. Dr. Fernandez asked if there were any questions from the audience. A resident said that as a member of the Orange Hat Patrol he used to see plainclothes officers and doesn't see that presence in the

neighborhood now. Captain Barnes said the casual clothes unit of 2D has been disbanded as it was not deemed an effective use of money given the budget problems. She said the Third District is the only district in the city which has a plainclothes unit. Dr. Fernandez asked if there would be a reevaluation of the casual clothes unit. Ins. Barnes said ideas and strategies are always being evaluated. She said a big thing that the Second District is considering is a change in the boundaries of 2D. She said in respect to the reevaluation of the effectiveness of the undercover officers that ANC should contact Captain Burrell. Lt. Burrell said as a for instance he had been on a team which set up a theft from auto situation and they waited two and a half hours, meanwhile there were thefts from autos occurring in other areas. He said it is a crime of opportunity - it's a smash and grab. He said that casual clothes does not answer this problem. A resident asked if there was no more gun recovery unit at the Second District. Ins. Barnes said that the article that was written in the N.W. Side Story paper about the Gun Recovery Unit was distorted and she was never given an opportunity to respond to the article. She said the decision to disband the gun recovery unit at 2D was made by the Chief of Police and the U.S. Attorney because the Second District is not deemed to be particularly violent. She said that 2D is the only District of the Metropolitan Police Department which does not have a gun recovery unit, but it does have officers who are trained in gun recovery. Dr. Fernandez said that the Second District is quite large and has different communities and that in some of the areas of 2D there are still problems with guns. Ins. Barnes said she would bring this up with her superiors. A resident said that a four story building, 1420 Hopkins Street, was empty and becoming a flop house. Dr. Fernandez asked Ins. Barnes to give the audience information about the shooting on N Street. Ins. Barnes said the shooting took place around 10p.m. February 9 in the 2100 block of N Street. She said it was a street robbery and the victim, a young female, was shot twice in the face. She said the victim is in the hospital in stable condition. She said that the police would be happy to have any information that any residents had about the shooting. A resident asked if a reward would help. Ins. Barnes said that this would be coordinated with the Crime Solvers Unit and a reward would be under consideration. Dr. Fernandez asked how the ANC could help facilitate a reward being offered. A resident asked if there was a physical description available. Ins. Barnes said yes there was a very good composite drawing that the police had just gotten. Mr. Grandis asked if the composite fitted any persons that the police were aware of. Ins. Barnes said they were starting to question people. Ins. Barnes said that she was sure a reward would be considered. Ins. Barnes said the officer in charge of this investigation was trying to pursue the case very carefully. She said that the department was very cautious as to when they would even distribute the composite picture of the alleged perpetrator. She said that the department had to be very concerned about all the

evidence as once the case is closed and they have someone under arrest they want to be sure to be able to prosecute. She said she needs to get with the investigation officer to determine whether or not the time is right to air this situation on Crime Solvers and that sort of thing. A resident asked if there was a physical description that went with the composite. Lt. Cullins said that was still being worked up as they had a variety of information about the physical description.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Wemple seconded a letter be sent to Sgt. Gentile of the Public Information Unit requesting a reward be offered for the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the armed robbery and assault which occurred in the 2100 block of N Street. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a letter be sent to Chief Soulsby urging him to consider establishing a gun recovery unit especially to cover Sector One of the Second District. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded ANC 2B contribute a hundred dollars to the Third District for the printing costs of a theft from autos prevention flyer. The motion passed unanimously.

ISSUES

(Dr. Fernandez moved Item 1 of Issues to be discussed before the report from Councilmember Jack Evans office to accommodate the representatives from the Second and Third Police Districts).

1. Dr. Fernandez said Mr. Jay Bothwell and Mr. Jay Pagano would present plans for the proposed renovation of the comfort station at Dupont Circle. Mr. Pagano said that he was representing DCCA and Mr. Bothwell was representing the Dupont West Citizens Association. He said that he would discuss the basic concept and that Mr. Bothwell would discuss the architectural drawings. Mr. Pagano said the comfort station at Dupont Circle has been a problem for years due to loitering, consumption of alcohol, and drug dealing. He said the comfort station is a source of crime and drug use and a constant aggravation to the police. He said the proposal is to convert the comfort station to police community resource center. He said the building would be divided into three offices and those would be used by the Second and Third District police and the Park Police, and also one of the offices could be used by the ANC. Mr. Pagano said all parties

involved support the proposal. He said that the conversion to a community resource center would address the problem that the comfort station currently presents and give the police and other interests a base for their operations. Mr. Bothwell said the building is approximately 650 square feet. He said that the plan that was drawn up would provide a good use for the building and the renovation would cost approximately \$100,000 dollars. He said contributions would be necessary for the project, so fund raising would be necessary. He said the architect had already contributed the drawings and that D.C. Map was also a contributor. Ins. Barnes said that this plan would be useful for the police from 2D to do paper work. She said it wouldn't be considered a police sub station as there would not be an officer available to man the station on a regular basis. Lt. Harasack said that the Park Police would have a officer at the facility when an officer was available. He said he saw an emergency call box on the outside of the facility as good for a quick response. Mr. Heller asked who owned the comfort station and would they contribute money to the renovation. Mr. Goldstein of the Park Service said the property was Federal land and there would be no money coming from that source. Mr. Wemple asked if there had been any comments from the neighbors in the area of the comfort station. Mr. Pagano said that that to his knowledge at the last time the neighbors were questioned about the conversion they had no objection. Mr. Pitsor said that to his knowledge this property had been an issue for the past ten years. He said that he was happy with the proposal and the strong support from the residential and business community. He said the proposal will contribute to public safety and contribute to the betterment of the Dupont Circle area. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Goldstein if the bathroom had been opened to the public in the past couple of years. Mr. Goldstein said yes, off and on. Dr. Fernandez asked who would provide the maintenance costs of the building after the renovation. Mr. Goldstein said he thought the Park Service would assume that burden. He said that the Park Service is willing to do whatever it can to expedite the project. He said the Park Service is responsible for the landscaping and maintenance of the building and would continue to be so. He said at this point it is impossible to keep up the maintenance and landscaping because of the people who use the comfort station as a hang out keep tearing it up. Dr. Fernandez asked Ins. Barnes if 2D would be able to cover their expenses. Ins. Barnes said in view of the current budget situation she doubted it. Mr. Goldstein said that Chief Soulsby is 100% for the project and he thought something could be worked out. A resident asked who would prevent breakins. Mr. Pagano said the architect would take care of that problem. Ms. Marilyn Groves, a resident, said this is the first time this project seems really workable. She said the project has the good will of the community and civic groups would be willing to do fund raising. Mr. Grandis said that D.C. MAP supports the outline, but doesn't endorse this particular project. He said that the facility needs to be a community

resource building and should include public bathrooms.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded support for the concept of the renovation of the comfort station for use by the Metropolitan and Park Police, the ANC and other community uses. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Fernandez thanked Mr. Pagano, Mr. Bothwell, Ms. Groves, the Police, and Mr. Goldstein for their efforts in presenting this proposal. Mr. Pitsor asked if the ANC should appoint an ANC liaison to participate formally in the development of the concept of the renovation. Dr. Fernandez said that the ANC could do that in March.

REPORT - COUNCILMEMBER EVANS OFFICE

Michelle Sedgewick said the Business Improvement District legislation passed the Council with several amendments on its first reading. She said the second reading of this legislation will be on the 5th of March. She said the parking legislation introduced by Councilman Evan and Clarke that was discussed at the last ANC meeting was heard in a public meeting on January 24. She said as of this time the Department of Public Works had not submitted comments and the record was still open. She said that the D.C. Budget has not come over from the Office of the Mayor, but that a tentative hearing date was March 15. Hr. Heller asked if there had been any action on the Noise Bill that was introduced last summer. She said she believed it was due for a mark up next week. Mr. Heller suggested that it be made emergency legislation as everything else seemed to be introduced as emergency legislation.

OPEN FORUM (limit 3 minutes per person)

Mr. Carney, a resident, asked if the ANC could have the trash cans reinstalled at the intersections of 18th & P Streets, and New Hampshire Avenue & Q Street.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded to urge the Department of Public Works to reinstall the trash cans on the S.W. corners at the intersections of 18th & P Streets, and at New Hampshire & Q Street. The motion passed unanimously.

ISSUES (continued)

2. Dr. Fernandez introduced the discussion of Bill 11-505, "The Alcohol Beverage Control Private Club Exception Amendment Act of 1995". He said at the last meeting of the ANC the bill was read. Dr. Fernandez summarized the bill as follows: The Bill permits

private clubs located in residential zones to apply for Class "CX" Liquor Licenses. He said that H.H. Leonard's club would be eligible for this license if the bill passes. Dr. Fernandez asked the commissioners how they wanted to proceed on this issue. Mr. Pitsor said he was not at the last meeting and was curious what information was provided as to the city wide need for this piece of legislation. He asked if there were in fact a number of clubs who in fact were caught unaware that they needed the "CX" license in order to serve members, or if the scope of this bill is actually narrower. Dr. Fernandez said he spoke to a staff member in Councilmember Brazil's office and was told that there is a club on Capitol Hill which also wanted to apply for this license. Dr. Fernandez said there is a provision in the bill that would specifically cover H.H. Leonard, which says notwithstanding any liquor license moratorium. Dr. Fernandez said this part of the bill does not affect the club on Capitol Hill. Mr. Wemple said he wanted the issue tabled because there seemed to be some confusion about exactly what clubs would be affected by the bill. He said it seemed important to look into that situation before addressing the issue. He said the bill does not affect a large number of clubs. Dr. Fernandez said it was suggested that other clubs in the area would be affected - the Cosmos Club being mentioned. He said the Cosmos already has a "CX" License and the Cornell Dormitory Building is not interested in a liquor license. Dr. Fernandez said the only club in ANC 2B which is affected by this bill is H.H. Leonard's. Mr. Pitsor said that the application process for new licenses is not corrected by the Brazil bill. Mr. Heller said given what has been presented in this and the last meeting that regardless of the purpose of introducing this bill and regardless of its effect it is onesided and does not take in the concerns of the neighboring residents. Mr. Wemple said he objects to a bill that makes a special exemption to regulations that everyone else has to comply with.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded to oppose Bill 11-505, "The Alcohol Beverage Control Private Club Exception Amendment Act of 1995" as written as it does not address residential concerns and to inform Councilmembers Evans, Ray, and Brazil of ANC 2B's position in this matter. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Dr. Fernandez introduced the discussion for the City Council Business Improvement District Bill. Mr. Pitsor said that this legislation was introduced by Councilmember Evans and Ms. Jarvis authorizes the establishment and the administration of Business Improvement Districts in the District of Columbia and the assessment and collection of fees for the improvement of business improvement districts. Mr. Pitsor summarized the key provisions of the bill and said that through a petition and vote process a business corridor could band together to impose a levy - tax on

themselves and that this monies would be used for improvement projects within the geographic boundaries of the Business Improvement District (BID). He said that some of the amendments provide for the tenants as well as the owners to have a position on decisions. He said that in areas where residential districts are adjacent to BIDs the concerns of the residents would also be taken into consideration. Dr. Fernandez commended Mr. Pitsor on his summary and said that basically this bill was to establish Business Improvement Districts and the districts will tax themselves and use the money for whatever they wanted, extra garbage collection and so on. Ms. Shannon, a resident, said that she was concerned this would create divisions between the haves and the have nots. Mr. Fondersmith said that this districts have been established all across the country except in Chicago and D.C. and this question has come up. Mr. Fondersmith said that the suburban shopping malls are the competitors of the District merchants. He said the downtown partnership fell apart and that something needs to be done. He said that this BID provides an opportunity and that they have been successful in other cities.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a letter be sent to Councilmember Evans expressing support for Bill 11-464, "The Business Improvement Districts Bill" as amended by the City Council's first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Dr. Fernandez introduced the discussion of several liquor license renewals. He said the comment period expired for the four liquor license renewals under consideration and that at the last meeting of ANC 2B a request had been made to the ABC Board for an extension in order to consider these renewal applications. He said that it is not possible to do so. Mr. Heller said in that no residents had expressed concerns over these establishments that ANC 2B not take action. Dr. Fernandez said he would read the list and see if there were any comments. He said they are Casa Pena, 1636 17th Street and asked for comments. A resident said that there are problems with Casa Pena and trash violations. Dr. Fernandez said he would introduce a motion to address that issue. He said the other establishments are Prego Segundo, Metro Market, and Marvis at 1730 Rhode Island Avenue.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Wemple seconded a letter be sent to the ABC Board stating that neighbors had concerns about problems with trash and general sanitation conditions and past sanitation violations at Casa Pena, 1636 17th Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Fernandez said the deplorable conditions at D.C. Village had come to the attention of the ANC. he asked if there was any comment on this issue. Ms. Ruffin said that the funding cuts to the facility had created a situation where residents were living in substandard and unsanitary conditions. She also said that it

had been reported long-time residents were being moved to other facilities without any preparation.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved that ANC send a letter to the Mayor urging that the City provide appropriate services for the residents of D.C. Village. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mr. Pitsor reported he had received a letter from the Department of Public Works (DPW) about the replacement of brick sidewalks on 17th Street. He said the repair, which is in asphalt is temporary and will be replaced with brick. He said he also received a report from DPW on scheduled roadway repair work and they will be repaving Connecticut Avenue between Jefferson Place up to R Street this summer. He said they will also be doing other upgrade and repair in the Dupont Circle area.

Mr. Wemple reported that DPW has done the necessary tree service on O Street.

Mr. Jackson reported he had talked to the new owners of La Fonda Restaurant and they said that the only changes will be an expanded menu. Dr. Fernandez asked if they had any plans for the two lounges upstairs in the restaurant. Mr. Jay Schmidt said that they would only do a face lift. Mr. Jackson said he had a good meeting with the Director of the Green Door. He said that the director said the facilities are available to the ANC.

Mr. Heller reported for Mr. Smith and said that Mr. Smith had acted on complaints on activities at the Frazer Mansion from the Scientologists. He said that the complaints were about trash and aggressive behavior and that Mr. Smith has sent a letter expressing those concerns.

Mr. Heller said that the Firefighters Association was concerned about the alarming budget cuts and problems with equipment. Mr. Heller said that there was an article in the Washington Post about the necessity of reinstating some of the budget cuts and he wanted the ANC to support this view.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded a motion to send a letter to Councilmember Lightfoot urging him to reinstate 10 million dollars of the fire department budget into the D.C. budget to assure there are adequate personnel and equipment for the safety of the residents of the District of Columbia. The motion passed unanimously.

motion

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Heller said that plans are underway for this year's annual Gay pride Celebration and parade and that a presentation of changes in the parade route will be made by the organizers at either the March or April meeting.

Dr. Fernandez said he wanted to put the removal of the payphone and Metro Stop benches at the corner of P and 20th Streets on the March agenda.

A resident asked about the enforcement of the parking restrictions of the street cleaning schedule in that the city has suspended cleaning the streets.

Mr. Wemple said he can't get a clear answer from the DPW. He said that it is suspended until at least the middle of March. He said the DPW has advised the Parking Enforcement not to enforce the restrictions. He suggested the resident call 645-7044 to verify this information. Mr. Pitsor said the DPW has had trouble getting the brushes for the street cleaning machines. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Wemple to get a clarification on the status of the street sweeping program and report to the ANC.

Dr. Fernandez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Wemple
Secretary