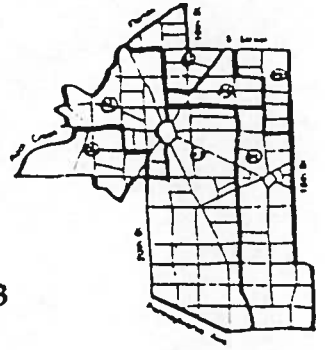




DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

The Dupont Down Under Mall
1900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036



Telephone: (202) 82 ANC 2B [822-6222] Fax: (202) 822-6223

Letters

To: 2D, 3D
Re: Graffiti

To: HPRB
Re: Cosmos Club

To: BZA
Re: Appl. No. 16148

To: PSC
Re: Embassy of Bulgaria

To: Karen Shook
Re: School Closings

To: ABC
Re: Cafe Japonese

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS PUBLIC MEETING MAY 8, 1996

Dr. Fernandez opened the meeting at 7:35p.m.

Introduction of the Commissioners. Dr. Fernandez said that Mr. Smith, SMD02 would be resigning. Commissioners Fernandez, Heller, Haransky, Wemple, and Jackson were present.

Dr. Fernandez said that if there were no objections he would move Administrative Matters until after the Open Forum.

POLICE CRIME REPORT

Captain Burrell of the Second District gave the crime statistics, comparing the statistics of April 1995 to 1996. She clarified the numbers of the statistics by saying the majority of the burglaries were in office buildings. She said that although only one building was broken into that statistics counted each entry into an individual office as a burglary. A resident asked where a citizen reported incidents of graffiti. Captain Burrell said if it's on

COMMISSIONERS

01 Brad Haransky 02 Stephen Smith 03 Jonathan Heller 04 Donald Jackson 05 Erik Wemple 06 Henry Fernandez 07 Kyle Pitsor
Vice-Chair Treasurer Secretary Chairperson

the West side of Connecticut Avenue it is reported to the 2nd District and if on the East side then to the 3rd District.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a letter be sent to Inspector Barnes and Inspector Proctor expressing the ANCs concerns about the increase in the incidents of graffiti and urging them to take appropriate action to solve the problem. The motion passed unanimously.

Captain Burrell said that the 2nd District has a Detective who handles the graffiti problem throughout the 2nd District. She said she would provide this officer's name and number. Mr. Haransky said that some buildings have outdoor cameras. He suggested the 2nd District seek some cooperative effort with the buildings that have these surveillance systems. Captain Burrell said she would check into it. A resident suggested the ANC contact an organization called Ready, Willing, and Able, who employ the homeless to see if they could remove the graffiti.

Dr. Fernandez said he understood that there is still no suspect in the shooting that occurred two months ago in the 2100 block of N Street. Dr. Fernandez said that the ANC would like a gun recovery unit established in the 2nd District. He said that the 2nd District is the only one of the seven police districts that does not have a Gun Recovery Unit. Captain Burrell said establishing the unit is still being explored. She said another possibility is if the 2nd District doesn't get a gun recovery unit that they would have some of their officers get the same training. She said this would give them the ability to utilize this type of expertise. Dr. Fernandez said his suggestion to Inspector Barnes was the Gun Recovery Unit of the 3rd District also patrol the Western side of the Dupont Circle area. Lt. Cullen said the 2nd District is going to go over strategies on prevention of burglaries with building managers to help solve this problem. He said that he was going to make the voice mail numbers of officers available to the public.

Master Patrol Office Sickon gave the crime statistics for the 3rd District. She said the 3rd District's motorcycle patrol had been effective in reducing the number of burglaries in 3D. Mike Dwyer said there was a problem with trucks unloading outside of the loading zone on 20th street. Officer Sickon said she would look into it. A resident asked if "The Club" (an anti-theft device for the car steering wheel) was a good deterrent for auto theft. Officer Sickon said the "J" bar was good but should only be used in a bright orange color to keep people from breaking the window. Dr. Fernandez commended Officer Sickon for scoring first in her class on a test taken for a promotion to Sergeant.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The minutes were adopted as amended 3-0-2, Mr. Heller and Mr. Wemple abstained.

Dr. Fernandez said he would like to bring up something in the minutes. He said at the last ANC meeting a commissioner made some inappropriate comments in response to comments from the audience. He said that he expects that all the commissioners observe the decorum that is expected of all elect officials. He said that he would urge that all ANC commissioners respect people's comments and voiced opinions without prejudice.

ISSUES

1. Ms. Sara O'Neill, the architect for the Cosmos Club, gave the presentation for proposed renovation and construction. She said the renovation is for 2164 Florida Avenue, a building which has been unoccupied for the past twelve years. She said the deterioration of the building has been stabilized. She said the building would be renovated and turned into a facility to house guests. She said the second part of the project is to build a connector from the annex to the renovated building. Mr. Jackson asked how long the project would take to complete. Ms. O'Neill said one year. Dr. Fernandez asked if the Cosmos Club was currently using the space for parking. Ms. O'Neill said yes. He asked if there would be additional spaces added as a result of this project or was it just an interior renovation. Ms. O'Neill said it was just an interior renovation. Dr. Fernandez said that the project had the support of the Dupont Circle Conservancy. Ms. O'Neill said the project is now before the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) and has the approval of the staff.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Wemple seconded the ANC send a letter to the HPRB supporting the project as presented for the renovation and construction at 2164 Florida Avenue - Cosmos Club. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Jackson introduced Mr. Steve Altman, a representative of the Jewish Community Center (JCC). Mr. Altman gave some history of the JCC. He thanked the neighbors for their patience during the construction. He said the project has been a 12 month project and cost thirteen and a half million dollars. He said the center will be having its grand opening in mid-November 1996. Mr. Altman described the situation for parking and dropping off and picking up people using the facility. He said the center will be using valet parking as well as their own facility after 5p.m. as the need arises. He said the first floor has a library, social hall, gallery, classrooms, and Cafe. He said the lower level contains the health club. He said another part of the health club is on the fourth floor, which also house the center's offices. he said there is a theater which will hold about 260 people. He said the center will be closed on Friday night and will reopen Saturday morning. He said the theater would be available to the community on a rental bases when not in use by the centers company. He said the center is in the process of working up a fee schedule for this. He said the center wants to be a good community member and have good relationships with the residents and the business community. He

said the center will make every effort to serve the community and hopes the residents will feel free to ask questions about any of the construction that is going on and the future offerings of the center. He said the center is giving tours of the building on June 23 and July 21. He said if there was a group that couldn't make those dates but wanted to see the building that this could be arranged. Mr. Heller asked if the center would be providing any place for the seniors to go, or if they would be providing any scholarships. Mr. Altman said the center would try to provide scholarships for some people, but it would probably be limited. He said the building is physically accessible to everyone. A representative of JCC said that they do work with the office of aging for the District and have programs available through Addis Israel. A resident asked if the staff would be parking in the lot. Mr. Altman said no. That the lot would be used for short term parking, handicapped, turning around, and drop off. Dr. Fernandez asked if the 50 spaces on 17th and Q Streets were only long term parking. Mr. Altman said yes. Mr. Altman said the center is going to make arrangements to use a large lot in the evenings when the center is busy. He said they were also discussing a shuttle service to the Metro. A representative of the JCC said the JCC would probably be coming back to the ANC for permission to serve beer and wine during intermissions in the lobby. Mr. Altman said he would like to come back to have the ANC approve banners they would have on the front of the building to announce events. Mr. Haransky asked if all the food requirements would be kosher. Mr. Altman said yes. Dr. Fernandez expressed a concern about available parking on a busy night when the JCC would have more than 500 people using the facility. He wondered if the previous ANC or residents had expressed much concern when the project was approved.

3. Mr. Heller introduced Mr. Faucett. Mr. Faucett said he is asking for support for two BZA variances to build an outdoor deck on the rear of his house. He said the reason they need the variances is that the building is old and is a non-conforming structure. He said the design had been approved by the Dupont Circle Conservancy and that there had been a favorable staff report from the HPRB. He said the deck is not visible from the street. He said the area is about 12' by 12', or 700 square feet.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded to support BZA application number 16148. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Dr Fernandez introduced the presentation for a temporary use of public space permit for the installation of a sculpture at 22nd and R Street, the Embassy of Bulgaria. Mr. Joe Walmouth, the representative for the embassy, said the installation is a sculpture approximately 7 feet tall and would go in front of the embassy. He said they have applied for a temporary permit with the Public Space Commission. He said that Mr. Downing of Public Space directed Mr. Walmouth to bring the matter before the ANC for approval. Mr. Walmouth said that the reason the application is only for a temporary permit is the embassy is planning to move

eventually. He said the installation has the approval of the Department of State.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Heller seconded the ANC send a letter of support to the Public Space Commission in support of the issuance of a temporary permit for the installation of the sculpture at the Embassy of Bulgaria. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wemple said that he wished to table the issue of the removal of the public pay phone at 15th and O Streets until the June meeting.

5. Mr. Wemple said there would be no position taken by the ANC on the application for a liquor license by MacCormick and Smick's in the 1600 block of K Street.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Fernandez announced that on Thursday, May 16, 7p.m. at the Third District Police Headquarters there is to be a joint meeting with ANC 1C to discuss the proposed fire station closings and the realignment of the equipment. He said the fire chief has proposed to remove Engine Company No. Nine from the 1600 block of U Street and he has proposed the removal of Engine Company Number One from M and 23rd streets. He said there would be no fire trucks in the fire station on U Street and one ladder truck left at M Street. Dr. Fernandez said that Fire Chief Otis will attend that meeting. Mr. Haransky said that is important to attend to keep the fire stations. Dr. Fernandez said he urges people to come to the meeting. Mr. Bud Lane, a resident, asked where the city council stand on the issue. Dr. Fernandez said he didn't know yet. He said that the lawyer for the Control Board publicly stated that the proposal, made by the Fire Chief, seemed appropriate.

6. Dr. Fernandez introduced Anne Wilcox, a school board member for Ward Two. Ms. Wilcox said that the consolidation of the Hardy School and the Filmore Arts Center into the Rosario Center was viewed as a good idea. She said the original idea was to continue registration for the adult ed programs at Rosario Center. She said a final decision had not yet been made. She said that she would keep the ANC updated on the decisions on various issues. She said the vote which would formally decide the closings would take place on Thursday, May 16. She said the Board hope was that everyone's interests would be satisfied as much as possible. She said that although the Board thought that Adult Education was important, there were also many other issues which had to be considered. She said that there had been budget cuts by the Control Board. She said that there had been positive turnouts to volunteer to fix up schools. Dr. Fernandez said that a year ago he was appointed to the Goals 2,000 School Reform panel by the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools. He said that he has spent hours and hours working with other committed people on this project. He said this effort was to develop a plan on comprehensive school reform.

He said it is to be the blue print of school reform and improvement into the year 2,000. He said the topics covered by this plan include everything from the construction of buildings, to children ready-to-learn in school all the way through adult literacy. He said this plan should be finished in two more months. He said after it is finished it will be circulated through the community and then there will be a meeting to solicit additional comments from key stakeholders. He said the group has talked to teachers, parents, principals, business leaders and many others. Dr. Fernandez said that over the last 10 or even 30 years the population of the District has dropped, however the population of the schools has remained the same. He said that the District has to service the same population of students with less money. A resident said that the cost per child in the District is one of the highest in the country. She asked if the 'plan' was addressing the fundamental issues of the problems of education in the District. Dr. Fernandez said yes it was. He said first of all teachers have to be prepared to deal with the students that they are facing today, so there is a professional development plan for teachers. He said there is also a goal of 90% or more high school graduation to put the District closer to the national level. He said this also includes a program for high student achievement especially in math and science. He said there is also a time line and hopefully there will be funds available from congress. He said there is a cross section of people involved in the project in is a large committee. He said the plan will be delivered to the school board for approval and additional comments and then it will go to the Federal government for implementation and funding. He said that the philanthropic organizations have hired a consultant to help them streamline their giving to the public schools to come up with a master plan for giving which will complement the Goals 2,000 plan. He said this is bringing a lot of efforts together. A resident said the Washington Post said the school system didn't even know how many children were in the schools. Ms. Wilcox said that was a mis-perception. She said the schools had taken a census and the numbers were consistent with their numbers. She said the difference in the numbers was in not including some of the programs. Dr. Fernandez asked Ms. Wilcox what was going to happen to the day program at the Rosario Center, which has more than a thousand students for each session (day and evening). Ms. Wilcox said they are looking for other places to hold classes. Dr. Fernandez said, "so in other words you're going to have more than a thousand adults competing for space with children in elementary or high schools." Dr. Fernandez said the closing is going to disproportionately hit the hard working immigrant community. Dr. Fernandez said that with dispersing the night adult education people you are conceivably putting adults in class rooms meant for 2nd graders. Dr. Fernandez said that he had already stated that he thought the Rosario Center and Armstrong should remain open for another year to give other providers, UDC or the Department of Agriculture Adult Ed program or some other entity, to take over the adult ed program. He said another year was needed for the adult learners, especially the immigrants. Mr. Haransky said the schools are in deplorable condition. He said that they look abandoned now.

He said to a point he can buy the constant complaint of financial duress, but when you talk about kids and self-esteem it comes from their surroundings.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a motion to send a letter to Karen Shook, the President of the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools asking that the decision to close Rosario Adult Ed Center and Armstrong be postponed for one year and urge them to find an alternate provider for adult education services which are appropriate to their needs. The motion passed 4-0-1. Mr. Heller abstained.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Fernandez said he designed a tutoring program for the Metropolitan Police Third District for the off-duty police to tutor kids in reading, math, and English as a Second Language. He said this program has now been funded by the Cafritz Foundation. He said the program will start up in September.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Dr. Fernandez reported that Ms. Cynthia Eastment received an award from the Second District for organizing the Orange Hat Patrol.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Fernandez said he had asked Cafe Japone, 2032 P Street, to present their plans for their expansion. He said that Cafe Japone has applied for an amendment to their ABC license. He said that because they did not come to tonight's meeting to present the plans and because the comment period for review expires May 24 he wanted the ANC to protest the amendment to the ABC license on the ground of noise. He said the owner is willing to present the plans in June, but the ANC has to file its comments before that meeting. He said after Cafe Japone presents the plans the ANC can remove its protest.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Haransky seconded to protest the amendment to the liquor license for Cafe Japone, 2032 P Street which would allow the expansion of the restaurant because of problems with noise and trash. The motion passed 4-1. Mr. Heller opposed.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Haransky announced that a van was parked on a street in his SMD and the police said that they were most likely casing the neighborhood. He said it is a good idea for neighbors to exchange information about this situations.

Mr. Heller said there have been neighborhood meetings about the alleged drug trafficking on 17th Street. He said the neighbors on

that block are very concerned about and have met with the police. He said the police advised them as to what to look out for and what to do and not to do about. He said that in the past month there has been some improvement for various reasons. He said he thinks the situation will continue to improve. He said that some of the people who were involved in the activity had been, or are being evicted. Eventually he said he and the concerned neighbors hope to have information out to all the residents about how to know what is going on. He said that the police are on top of the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Wemple, Secretary
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle