

Letters

To: BZA  
Re: St. Luke's Church parking lot

To: Elections and Ethics  
Re: Appointment Marilyn Newton

To: Office of Emergency Preparedness  
Re: Freedom Festival

Minutes of the public meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission  
the April 9, 1997.

Mr. Pitsor opened the meeting at 7:35p.m. Commissioners Cary,  
Jackson, Dehart and McRaney were present. Mr. Pitsor said that  
commissioner Angle would be attending the meeting, but he would be  
late.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The minutes were adopted as amended.

Mr. Pitsor announced the Board of Elections and Ethics informed him  
that only one person had filed for the required petitions for the  
vacant seat in SMD2B07.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Jackson seconded to appoint Ms.  
Marilyn Newton as the commissioner for SMD06. The motion  
passed unanimously.

Ms. Newton introduced herself to the audience.

POLICE REPORT

Mr. Pitsor asked the representatives for the police to include in  
their reports suggestions and information about prevention as well  
as giving the crime statistics. He asked them to focus on these  
prevention efforts.

Sgt. Bryan Grogan of the 2nd District told the audience his  
jurisdiction. He gave the statistics and said bicycles and

articles left in cars were being targeted in the Dupont Circle area. He said that since February there had been more plainclothes officers working foot beats and since that time there had been over forty arrests for various crimes. He said there had been an arrest of a suspect in the stabbing on the stairs of the Dupont Down Under. Sgt. Grogan said he contacted the Park Police about the rush hour back up of cars on 22nd and 23rd Streets and there will be efforts to solve that problem. Mr. Pitsor asked if the problem of panhandlers standing in the street during rush hour and asking motorists for money had been taken care of. Sgt. Grogan said he would ask Captain Cocket about this. Mr. Pitsor asked if the plainclothes patrols were the same effort that Sgt. Trippi had referred to at the previous meeting. Sgt. Grogan said the effort to have the plainclothes concentrated in the Dupont Circle area came out of the evening shift, and they also have enhanced the Enforcement Operation where each District would pick a troubled area. Mr. Pitsor said he met with Lt. Cullin who heads up the enhancement enforcement effort and that unit is presently working in the area of I to M Streets between 14th and 21st Streets. He said the focus was issues of panhandling, theft from auto, stolen autos, parking problems and office theft. Mr. Pitsor said he expressed he hoped that effort would move north of M Street. Sgt. Grogan said they will concentrate on the area and see where that is going and then identify new areas. He said that at the time the area was targeted was because the crime in the area was up. Ms. Pam Taylor said there was a problem in the 1700 block of Connecticut Avenue with panhandlers congregating, drinking, and harassing pedestrians.

Sgt. Vaccaro gave the crime statistics for the 3rd District. Mr. Pitsor asked about the status of a robbery at gun point which occurred at 16th and Q Street. Mr. Pitsor said it was his impression that a suspect had been arrested for that crime. Sgt. Vaccaro said he would let Mr. Pitsor know about the status of that robbery. Mr. Pitsor said that the commission had also asked the Third District about the graffiti problems in the neighborhood at the last meeting. Sgt. Vaccaro said the graffiti was not gang related. Dr. Cary asked what the police were doing to address nuisance crimes. She said that some of the graffiti is swastikas. Sgt. Vaccaro said that it is hoped the federal government will help the city out financially. Sgt. Vaccaro said the police are trying to make a lot of arrests, but they are short on equipment and money. Mr. Pitsor asked if the Corporation Counsel was effectively helping the police efforts. Sgt. Vaccaro said they have been good in papering the cases. Sgt. Vaccaro said that the police presence signs in the all night places - convenience stores and so forth, have helped reduce loitering. A resident said that people are being robbed on the side streets. She asked what one could do to prevent this. Sgt. Vaccaro said that residents need to be aware of what is going on around them at all times. A street vendor said that vendors could be active in spotting problems if their hours were extended to be the same as the time of the bar closings. A

resident said it would be helpful if the vendors could work cooperatively with the police and the residents. Sgt. Vaccaro suggested a signal such as a light from the vendors to alert police to problems. He said the purpose of the new police initiative is to give citizens a sense of safety.

#### PRESENTATION - COUNCILMEMBER EVAN'S OFFICE

Ms. Sedgewick said the police initiative is having an impact on other D.C. agencies. There are efforts from the offices of the Corporation Counsel and the Mayor to coordinate efforts and prevent obstructing bottlenecks in the process of arrest and prosecution. She said that Mr. Evan's committee is holding budget hearings on the courts, pre-trial and the police. Ms. Taylor asked about an invitation that had been extended to Councilmember Evans. Mr. Pitsor said that invitation could be re-extended. A resident asked about having laws which would allow the police to arrest loiterers. Ms. Sedgewick said the existing statutes make that problematic.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS and OPEN FORUM

Mr. Pitsor announced there would be a neighborhood clean-up on April 19. He said interested residents could call 462-2054 for more information. Also there would be a meeting at Sumner School at 7p.m. on April 10th of the Federation of Citizens Association with the D.C. Agenda Task Force on D.C. Governance. He said this task force is organized by the Federal City Council and they would be discussing the organization of the D.C. Government respective to issues such as home rule, city council, the mayor form of government, etc.

Mr. Pitsor announced that on March 14th Bill 11-525 was made law, (The Private Club Liquor License Amendment Act). Mr. Pitsor said this was of particular interest to Dupont Circle because of 2020 O Street, H.H Leonard's establishment. A resident said that street weeping was going to be restored. He said he was afraid the efforts would be minimal and asked the ANC to write a letter asking for a consistent effort in street cleaning. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC had already addressed this issue in a letter to the DPW, but could reiterate them. A resident said the street signage is often inconsistent and unclear. Mr. Pitsor said there are efforts being made to clarify these signs. Dr. Cary said that there is a city wide transportation task force that is looking into the issues of language; placement and clarity of signs, etc. She said that the ANC would include the issue of the street sweeping signs in the letter. She said the Dept. of Transportation is aware of the problems with signage. Dr. Cary said she wants her constituents to know that she is in touch with the problems on 17th Street respective to issues of public space. She said she is in touch with the Public Space Commission and DCRA. She said the ANC has asked for updates on permits, licenses, and certificates of occupancy.

Ann Yonkers of Farm Land Trust said that the Trust had met with city officials about the location of the farmers market.

#### ISSUES

1. Consideration of special zoning exception, St. Luke's Church, to operate a parking lot on P Street and Church. Mr. Jackson said that since the meeting last month of the ANC he had met with the residents and church three times to discuss the various issues that had come up concerning the reissuance of the special exception for a parking lot. He said the issues focused on how to make the lot more attractive. He said the biggest point of concern is the deterioration of the wall of the Church Street lot, lighting, and the existence of a commercial lot in a residential area. Mr. Jackson said one of the neighbors presented a design for a new fence, which included closing the entrance to the lot on Church Street be closed. Mr. Jackson said that St. Luke's agreed to the design for the wall and the vestry of the church is going to initiate the project to change the wall. Ms. White of St. Luke's said she had been happy to meet with Mr. Jackson and the residents. Mr. Pitsor said the current order which permits use for parking has a provision which states that an applicant shall maintain a retaining wall between the subject site and adjacent public space. Mr. Jackson said the new wall will also be moved back to allow for plantings, which would further screen the lot. Mr. Jackson said that all regulations as to height, etc. would be met. Mr. Pitsor asked if the owners of the adjoining parking lot had been notified of what changes were being asked for and if they would participate. Mr. Jackson said the lot owned by the NAEYC would be up for renewal in 2 years. Mr. Pitsor asked if the request for the extension was for 5 years, or more or less time. Mr. Jackson said the period of time for renewal that had been discuss was 5 years. A representative of the church said the church wished to extend the permit for 10 years as the process for getting an extension was very expensive. A resident said the lot generated enough money for the church to afford the five year process. Mr. Jackson said this was the first he'd heard of the church wanting an extension for 10 years. Ms. Shannon, a resident, said that 10 years would be a big risk. Mr. Pitsor said the reason he raised the issue of time is that the adjacent lot comes up for renewal in 1999. Mr. Jackson said he wished to make a motion that the ANC support the renewal for a special exception for five years. Dr. Cary said she wished to propose an amendment to the motion to have St. Luke's permit only renewed for 2 years to put it in sync with the lot owned by NAEYC. Ms. McRaney said she didn't see a reason to penalize St. Luke's for the convenience of the residents. The proposed amendment was seconded by Ms. Dehart and failed 2-3.

#### MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded to support the renewal of the zoning variance for St. Luke's Church to operate a parking lot in a residential neighborhood contingent on the following conditions: 1) the new Church

Street fence be constructed as close to the proposal (Jeff Hopp, 4/2/97) as allowed by historic review board(s), and copies of the construction contract and deposit check are provided by the date of the zoning hearing, 2) the site plan on file be modified to reflect the new location of the Church Street fence and the closure of the driveway, and 3) responsibility of the maintenance of the new landscape areas be written into the job responsibilities of the parish sexton or other church employee to insure that it is maintained in a manner that complies with the landscaping requirements in the parking lot regulations (i.e. healthy and orderly appearance). The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dehart asked if the owners of the other portion of the lot had been approached and asked to participate. Mr. Jackson said no. He said the agreement had just been reached with St. Luke's.

MOTION

Ms. McRaney moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded a letter be sent to the NAEYC reminding them they are coming up for renewal in 1999 and to ask them to bring their parking lot into compliance with any regulations that are part of their contract to operate a parking lot in a residential neighborhood. Further, that NAEYC should be in contact with St. Luke's to see if they would be amenable to their idea and make it easier for everyone. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Ms. Dehart introduced Mr. Eric Corbert, the architect for a condominium development project at 1520 16th Street. Ms. Dehart said the building, formerly known as the Churchhill, is now vacant. Mr. Corbert gave a presentation on the plans for the development of the property. He said the development would pursue a very modern design and would convert 55 existing units into 32 or less because the design for the units is flexible and can accommodate the needs of the buyers. Mr. Corbert said that HPRB is comfortable with the proposed design. He said the design is to create a very streamlined look rather than attempt to make the building appear ornamental. He said that there would be parking provided, a total of 17 spaces. Mr. Corbert said the trash would be kept in an indoor storage area and picked up at a loading dock. Mr. Pitsor said the plans had gone before the Dupont Circle Conservancy in early March and also before the HPRB. Mr. Pitsor said as he understood it the Conservancy had approved the general approach to the form of fenestration, but they were concerned as to the treatment of the balconies. He asked if those issues had been addressed. Mr. Corbert said he was scheduled to present that issue. Mr. Corbert said one of the concerns of the Conservancy is the enclosing of the balconies, and his research indicates that the balconies can be enclosed as a matter of right. Mr. Jackson said that one of the concerns of his SMD is the noise from the construction and the possible obstruction of traffic at rush hour.

Mr. Furioso said that issue would be addressed before they started building. Mr. Colbert said that the building they would be renovating is the only building on one side of Church Street and they have room to position cranes, etc. Mr. Furioso said he would provide phones for the job and work would not start before 7 or 7:30am. He said the heavy construction (installation of steel members) would take no more than a week of the construction time. Ms. Dehart said she was very happy to see something happening with this building. She said the commission needs to see the final plans before giving the project the ANC's approval.

4. Mr. Cary Gilbert and Mr. Chris Lamp of Whitman-Walker Clinic presented plans for the Annual Gay Pride Festival to take place in June. Mr. Gilbert said that a new route for the parade has been proposed to avoid bottle necks of traffic in the neighborhood. He said this plan will be discussed with the police. He said that they would be using Stead Playground for the dance because it is the most cost effective location. He said the dance would be from 6:00 to 10:00pm. and tickets would be available at various business locations in the neighborhood. Mr. Pitsor said the festival will be on Sunday, June 8th, and the street festival will be held about two blocks east of Freedom Plaza. Ms. Taylor, a resident said in order to keep the good will of the neighborhood it was important for the trash to be picked up. A resident said that he hoped the marshals could keep the attendees quiet on 17th street. Mr. Angle said most of the people who attend the festival are from the Dupont Circle neighborhood and it was important to keep in mind the festival last only one night. Mr. Jackson said the issue of the noise is the amplified music reflecting off of the surrounding buildings can be very loud, so the concerns about noise are well founded. Dr. Cary asked if the playground was the best site for the dance as a fundraiser. Mr. Gilbert said yes and that businesses wanted it. Mr. Pitsor said the reviewing stand would be set up on 17th Street near Church between JR's and Randy's. Mr. Gilbert said that JR's is going to handle the details of the reviewing stand.

#### MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Ms. McRaney seconded ANC 2B's support for the plans for the 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival organized by Whitman/Walker and One in Ten Organizations. ANC 2B endorses the new parade route and requests the organizers take measures to protect private property and tree boxes along the parade route. Further, ANC 2B understands that special attention will be given by the organizers to provide additional trash containers in the principle areas of the festival and these containers will be emptied through the organizers working with the DPW. In addition, that the dance at Stead Field will begin no earlier than 6p.m. and will end by 10p.m. and that the dance shall comply with all D.C. regulations. The motion passed 5-0-1. Dr. Cary abstained.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Dehart reported four thousand and eleven dollars and seven cents was carried forward from 1996. Ms. Dehart said the ANC received their allotment from the District in two parts for the first quarter. Ms. Dehart gave the amounts and expenses for the quarter. Ms. Dehart said ANC 2B is in fairly good shape and she is expecting some refunds.

### MOTION

Ms. Dehart moved and Dr. Cary seconded a motion to accept the quarterly report. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor commended Ms. Dehart for her work as treasurer.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Mr. Angle said that it was his understanding that Cafe Japone, 2032 P Street expanded their restaurant space. Mr. Angle said he thinks that they have put in a night club instead of a restaurant. He said the music from the club can be heard by the neighbors until 4a.m. Mr. Pitsor suggested that ANC research the request for the expansion and the terms of that expansion and write letters to the appropriate agencies.

Mr. Angle reported there is a continuing problem with H.H. Leonard's establishment. He said it is questionable whether or not she is in compliance with regulations governing a bed and breakfast. He said an example is that there are always valet parkers in front of the establishment no matter what the time of day or night. Mr. Pitsor said ANC has recently sent letters asking the appropriate agencies to investigate various issues. Mr. Pitsor said that the special exception bill has become law, but the H.H. still has to apply for a license.

Dr. Cary said she thought it was important for the neighborhood to support Ross School because it is a multi-cultural environment and is important to the community.

Dr. Cary reported that a letter has been sent to Michelle Pourcieu of the Public Space Committee concerning complaints about some establishments having out-of-date certificate of occupancy permits and other possible violations of use of public space permits. Dr. Cary said she will keep the commission and residents informed on the responses by the agencies concerned.

## STAFF CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

Ms. Ruffin the office co-ordinator reported the office is in need of a new computer. Dr. Cary said she would like to work on this issue.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dwyer, a resident, said there were problems on 20th Street with delivery trucks double parking he said it seems the problem is that the loading zones are not adequate. Dr. Cary said she would be happy to work with Mr. Angle on this problem.

MOTION

Mr. Angle moved and Dr. Cary seconded suggesting Market Day make a request for an expanded loading zone. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jackson said that several months ago Mr. Harold Smith from the DPW reported that parking is under review in Dupont Circle. Mr. Jackson said that one regulation states that there cannot be residential parking next to a commercial building. Mr. Jackson suggested Mr. Smith be a person to contact to clarify the regulations governing parking.

OPEN FORUM

A resident said that the Riggs Parking lot and 19th Street were rejected for possible spaces for the Farmer's Market proposed by Farmland Trust. He said that Jack Evans supports the proposed Connecticut Avenue site. The resident asked if the ANC knew why the sites had been rejected and accepted. Mr. Pitsor said a variety of sites were looked at during meetings between Farmland Trust and the Office of Mass Transit, DPW, and Metro. He said there was strong opposition to the Connecticut Avenue site by Metro and Mass Transit, and they suggest that the block of 20th Street between Mass. and Q Street as a site because there are no bus routes operating on Sundays. Mr. Pitsor said the 19th Street site that was proposed was opposed by DCMAP, Kramer's and the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Mr. Pitsor said that Farmland Trust will be making two applications to the city. He said the proposed sites are either Connecticut Avenue or 20th Street. Mr. Pitsor said the project will need the broad support of the community.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Jackson, Secretary  
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle