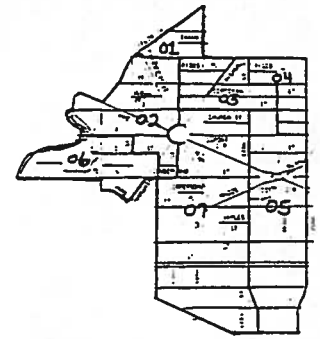




**DUPONT CIRCLE  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B  
P.O. Box 33224  
Washington, D.C. 20033-0224  
Telephone: 202-822-6222      Fax: 202-822-6223**



Letters

To: DPW  
Re: Commercial parking zone - R Street at 17th

To: Public Space  
Re: Wrapworks

To: Inspector Sonia Proctor  
Re: Promotion

To: Studio Theater  
Re: Congratulations

To: HPRB  
Re: O Street Condominium

To: Zoning Commission  
Re: 1616 R.I. Ave. - PUD

To: DCRA  
Re: 2020 O Street

Minutes public meeting Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B (ANC 2B)  
- March 12, 1997.

Mr. Pitsor called the meeting to order at 7:35p.m. Commissioners Jackson, Cary, and DeHart were present.

The minutes of the February 12, 1997 meeting were approved as amended.

Police Report

Sgt. Sickon of the Third District said that she will no longer be with the Third District. She introduced Sgt. Frank who will be her replacement. She also introduced a new beat officer, Officer Walter Faryniarz, and said that she personally recommended him for the job because of his high level of involvement with the residents and their problems. Sgt. Sickon said that crime is significantly down over the year and month from last year. A resident asked if

**COMMISSIONERS**

SMD 01  
Laine McRaney  
Vice Chair-Communications

SMD 02  
Stephen Angle

SMD 03  
Francine Cary  
Vice Chair-Operations

SMD 04  
Donald Jackson  
Secretary

SMD 05  
Meredith De Hart  
Treasurer

SMD 06  
Vacant

SMD 07  
Kyle Pitsor  
Chair

there had been any resolution with the robbery at gun point at 16th and Q Streets. Sgt. Sickon said that Captain Westover would address that. She said they had a suspect. A resident said there is a homeless couple living in the parking lot at 15 & P Streets. Sgt. Frank said he was aware of them and would talk to them. He said they had moved there because one of them had been robbed of medication. Mr. Carney, a resident said he was still very concerned about the proliferation of graffiti in the neighborhood. Sgt. Sickon said the graffiti is not gang related. It is done by tag artists. She said the person in charge of the graffiti is Detective LeDane. Mr. Pitsor showed some photos taken by Mr. Carney, the photos were of swastikas in the Third District. Sgt. Sickon said she was aware of this and would discuss it with Det. LeDane. Mr. Pitsor said the tag graffiti is at Stead Playground, Fox and Hounds, Randy's delivery truck, and JR's rear wall. Sgt. Sickon said it is of course, disturbing, however it is good that it is not gang related. A resident asked about the situation with the homeless. Mr. Jackson said there would be a meeting at Foundry Church, 16th And P Streets, March 31 to discuss how to help the homeless. Captain Westover said his effort at this time is to stabilize robberies in the area between O and Q Streets and 12th and 17th Streets. He said he is deploying officers to this area. He said that his efforts have reduced the robberies in this area from 11 to 2 incidents. Mr. Pitsor said he hoped that the results of the effort could be maintained and congratulated Captain Westover on his success.

Mr. Pitsor said that Inspector Stanley, the new Inspector for the Third District would not be able to introduce himself to the ANC at this time. Mr. Pitsor said that Ins. Stanley hoped to be able to come to the April meeting.

Lt. Trippi of the Second District gave the crime statistics. He said that crime is down. He said the majority of the assaults which have occurred in the 2nd District have been solved. He said that officers are working overtime especially on thefts from autos. He said there is a tactical team assigned to Sector One that is focusing on disorder and nuisance crimes. He gave the residents his number - 282-1162 - 21445. He said the 2nd District is starting a program which targets the vagrants. He said part of this program is that the police alert homeless advocates about persons who are in danger of being arrested.

Sgt. Haransack of the Park Police said the officer that was assigned to Dupont Circle will be re-deployed starting May 1, from noon to about 8p.m. He reported that a resident is putting out 5, 50lb. bags of bird seed daily. He is considering approaching the Park Service and asking the resident if she would like to donate the bird seed for the Park Service to distribute.

Dr. Carey said she would like the police to report back to the ANC about what had been done to remedy issues raised at the ANC

meetings. She said that rats are going to be a major problem due to the warm winter. Dr. Carey cited other problems and asked the police to report back with a status report on specific issues that were raised.

Sgt. Mallory of the Metro Police said his department had been addressing the specific problem of the homeless in bus shelter that was raised at the last meeting. Sgt. Mallory gave the residents a number to call with complaints.

#### Open Forum

Mr. Pitsor announced the vacancy is SMD06. He said the Board of Elections had petitions available for individuals who wished to seek the seat.

Mr. Carney, a resident, said the annual spring clean up effort would take place April 19, 9a.m.-noon.

Mr. Jackson said there would be performances over the weekend of "A Winter Tale" at St. Thomas. He said that proceeds from the five dollar admission fee would benefit St. Thomas' building fund.

Mr. Haransky, a resident, announced local restaurants are participating in a fund raiser. He said 25 percent of the bill in participating restaurants will go to Food and Friends. Mr. Herman, resident, alleged that the establishment at 2020 O Street is in violation of many of the terms of their license. He asked if the ANC would write to the appropriate agencies, and ask that possible violations be investigated.

#### MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Cary seconded a letter be sent to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs requesting them to investigate and report on the operation at 2020 O Street, N.W. regarding home occupancy bed and breakfast license and requirements. Further, the ANC would like to have a report on alleged retail sales and the type of license that is held by this establishment. The motion passed unanimously.

#### MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded a letter be sent to Inspector Sonia Proctor congratulating her on her promotion, and thanking her for her service to the Dupont Circle community. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Issues

1. Commissioner DeHart introduced Mr. Gary Squire and Mr. Eric Colbert who gave a presentation on new residential construction at 1520 O Street. He said his organization has been working closely with the community

and the Historic Preservation Review Board staff during the planning of this project. He said the building will have 32 up-scale units. He said there will be parking for the eighteen residents of the new complex on the property. Mr. Pitsor said the complex is in the Greater 14th Street Historic District.

MOTION

Ms. DeHart moved and Dr. Carey seconded to send a letter to the Historic Preservation Review Board indicating the ANC endorses the residential development at 1520 O Street. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Epps of St. Luke's Church at 15th and P Streets asked the ANC to support the special zoning exception to operate a parking lot at 15th and P Streets and also in the 1500 block of Church Street. Mr. Epps said the income that is generated from the parking lot is necessary for the operation of the church. Mr. Jackson said the community had some questions concerning the approval of the special exception. He said the past approval and terms of the granting of the special exception required that the church repair the brick wall and replace the chain link fence on Church Street and that the landscaping be properly kept at all times. He said the regulations require a solid wall around the lot. Mr. Jackson said that St. Luke's owns four of the eight lots that comprise the Church Street parking lot. A resident said that he had been doing a lot of the upkeep on the Church Street lot. He said that St. Luke's has neglected to maintain the property. He said because this has been the situation for the past five years and the residents don't believe if St. Luke's is given support to operate the lot that they will comply with the terms. Mr. Pitsor clarified what area is actually covered by the variance. Ms. White said that members of the church had worked on one Saturday in the summer tending the property. She asked why the neighbors never voiced their concerns to St. Luke's. Mr. Jackson said that the brick wall on the Church Street side is in disrepair and the grass is often not cut. He said that one of the conditions of the special exception was that the landscaping be kept in a healthy growing condition and properly maintained. Mr. Epps said the congregation of St. Luke's is primarily elderly and it has been difficult for them to provide the maintenance. Mr. Pitsor said that the ANC is looking at the conditions set down in the special exception and the problem is that some of those conditions have not been met. Mr. Jackson said the conditions were of concern five years ago and they are still concerns. Mr. Epps said the church is willing to do whatever is necessary to have the approval of the residents and the ANC. Mr. Epps said some of the concerns are a surprise and asked why the residents did not call St. Luke's with their concerns. A resident said that it was impossible to get regulations enforced once variances are granted. He said the lot and the sidewalk and tree boxes on Church Street are not kept free of trash. The sidewalk is in disrepair, and the required lighting is not put in. He said he had replaced the light bulb himself. Mr. Epps asked why the church was not told of these problems. Ms.

DeHart said she knows the area in front of the church is well kept. She asked why the other areas have not been maintained. Ms. Lane, a resident, asked for the residents who were complaining to have a little more consideration for an organization that had been part of the neighborhood for 120 years. She said that it seemed to her that the church was willing to do what was necessary to satisfy the neighbors on Church Street. A resident of Church Street said the negotiations for the terms for a special exception defined five years ago are not being complied with. Mr. Jackson requested the issue be tabled until the next meeting of ANC 2B after he as the SMD commissioner had met with the residents and church to discuss the situation. Mr. Jackson said there are options, such as a one-year variance.

3. Mr. Grandis said he is representing Wrapworks, 1601 Connecticut Ave. and was seeking support for the proposed use of public space for an outdoor cafe. The architect for Wrapworks presented the plans for the cafe. He said the cafe would be 12 feet from the curb. He said they had factored in the obstacles when creating the plans. He said after meeting with the Conservancy, the plans had been further adjusted, and objects that had not been considered obstacles, such as Pepco grates, were now being considered as such. He said he thinks the plans now reflect adequate clearance for pedestrian traffic. Ms. Zelda Zeldin, a resident, said that the traffic in the alley behind the establishment has become a problem for the residents whose houses back on the alley. She said people can't move their cars in the morning because of delivery and trash trucks. Mr. Pitsor said there had been numerous concerns raised by residents and neighborhood organizations about the plans for the use of the space. Mr. Pitsor said one of the concerns was about the refrigeration truck that is parked on the rear of the property. He said in that this concern is not about public space he would first like to address that issue, and asked for comments. A resident said that the noise generated by the outdoor refrigeration system (the truck) makes it impossible for people to sleep at night. She said that when this was brought to the attention of a manager of Wrapworks they seemed unconcerned. A resident said that the restaurants on that corner had always been a problem in terms of rats and trash, and Wrapworks continued to be so. Ms. Susan Cram, president of Wrapworks said the truck was temporary and would be gone in two weeks. She said the restaurant did not anticipate the volume the restaurant would be doing immediately upon opening, and it will still be two weeks before the truck can be replaced with a permanent refrigeration unit, which will not make any noise. Dr. Carey asked how Wrapworks was going to manage the increase in volume of an outdoor cafe when they were already unable to manage the problems of an unanticipated high volume for the inside of the restaurant. Dr. Carey said the area is already heavily congested and the lines at Wrapworks add to this problem. Ms. Cram said that Wrapworks is going to re-configure where staff is placed to help take care of the problem of the service line. She said also some of the interior seats would be taken outdoors. Ms. Taylor, a

resident, commented that the space that is allocated for parking has become the permanent spot for the refrigeration system. Ms. Taylor said it appeared that the present volume of business of the establishment was not being properly accommodated by the facility. Ms. Shannon, a resident, asked Ms. Cram if she needed a permit for the unit, and if she had that permit. Ms. Cram said a permit was required, but she didn't have one yet. Mr. Pitsor said that what troubles him is that when Wrapworks took a lease on the space they were aware of the storage capacity of the building, and when that capacity was taxed the owners used space outside to accommodate extra storage. Mr. Pitsor said he is glad that the truck will be gone by the 25th of March. He said he would like to meet with the owners to discuss the location of the storage to be assured there will not be a continuing problem with noise. Mr. Pitsor asked Ms. Cram how Wrapworks planned to address sanitation issues on the patio. Ms. Cram said the area will be staff assigned to buss and maintain the outdoor area. A resident said that there is not adequate clearance for pedestrian traffic on the corner of Conn. and Q Street. A resident said that an outdoor cafe would create a safety hazard. A resident said that the Dupont Circle area already has adequate seating for restaurants. Mr. Jackson asked why if a marketing study had been done that Wrapworks selected such a small space. Mr. Meehan, a resident, said that the corner is so congested that pedestrians cross the street outside of the white lines, and that people congregate on that corner to get their bearings. He said the grates and the handicap access cut away on the corner are hazards now and would be worse if there was space taken away for pedestrian traffic. A resident said that just following the required guidelines for use of public space was not always enough, as even the strictest guidelines did not really address the situation. She said in this situation although the tables were not directly on grates people would have to walk across the grates to get to the tables. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC has noted that the area is heavily congested and that the Pepco vaults, Metro vaults, and handicap cutaways impact on public access and space. Mr. Pitsor moved that the ANC support, (1 the applicants demountable and removable railings, and tables, chairs and umbrellas as long as they are stored off public space during the off season, 2) that the minimum clearance provision of the public space regulations must be fully applied along with additional protections in order for this proposed use to be in the public interest. ANC 2B requests the following: 1) the west side of the space not exceed past the Conn. Ave. building line with no ingress or exit onto the public space, 2) access to the public space is only through entering the restaurant 3) the intersection of Conn. Ave and Q Street railings shall be cut back and angled to conform with the configuration of the corner, 4) the railings on Q Street not extend past 12 feet from the building line, and 5) the railing on the east side provide for an exit only. There was no second and the motion failed.

MOTION

Dr. Carey moved and Mr. Jackson seconded ANC oppose the

application for the use of public space because no amount of adjustment to the proposed plan adequately addresses the problems brought forward and stated by the residents concerning the following: 1) the corner is too heavily trafficked, 2) the Pepco grates leave insufficient room for service in an outdoor cafe, 3) adjustments to the configuration of the plan is impossible in relation to the angle of the corner of Conn. Ave. and Q Street. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Pitsor introduced the issue of a request for an extension for 1616 Rhode Island Avenue planned unit development (PUD) and operation of an interim parking lot. Ms. DeHart said the original zoning order was issued in 1989. She said the owners did want to move on the development of the property. Ms. DeHart said she felt a two year extension was acceptable. Mr. Pitsor said the situation with PUDs generally is that they are approved at a point in time because of special circumstances and they age and have to be reviewed even though the situation under which they were granted has changed. He said it is a mixed use PUD. He said that it should be clear that this will be the last renewal approved by the ANC and this development should move forward. Mr. Pitsor said there will be a hearing before the zoning commission and the applicant is asked to show good cause for requesting an extension of their PUD status. Mr. Jackson said in his observation the current parking lot has always been well maintained.

#### MOTION

Ms. DeHart moved and Mr. Jackson seconded support for the request for the extension of the PUD status and interim parking use for 1616 Rhode Island Avenue with the understanding that the ANC has grave concerns about additional extensions. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Mr. Pitsor introduced the issue of two proposed pay phones on Connecticut Avenue at 1710 and 1734. A resident said the areas are too congested already. Dr. Carey said that it didn't seem there was a need for more phones on that block of Connecticut Avenue.

#### MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a motion that the Public Service Commission be told ANC 2B reiterates its opposition to the installation of the proposed public payphones at 1710 and 1734 Connecticut Avenue as it interferes with the flow of pedestrian traffic on Connecticut Avenue and that sufficient outside phones already exist. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Commissioners Reports

Dr. Carey reported on the need for a commercial only parking area on R Street in front of the Aster Florist shop. She said this area is zoned no parking, and creates a hardship on the establishment.

MOTION

Dr. Carey moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded a letter be sent to the Department of Public Works requesting they consider changing the parking restriction on R Street, N.W. at 17th Street from a no parking zone to a commercial vehicle loading zone between the hours of 7a.m to 7p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jackson gave an update on the continuing discussions of homelessness on the east side of Dupont Circle at Foundry Methodist Church. Discussions at the meeting centered on the scope of assistance (bathroom only to overnight shelters) and determining resources available for assistance. He said the Next meeting will be at Foundry Methodist Church on March 31, at 7p.m. Mr. Jackson said he would like to send a letter to Studio Theater congratulating them on their efforts in revitalizing 14th Street.

New Business

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a motion that ANC 2B support Councilmember Jarvis's Bill 12-83 which would support the suspension of liquor licenses of establishments who consistently 1) have problems of violence and complaint by neighbors of violence, 2) have situations that develop which call for police intervention on a regular basis, and 3) have incidents of assault and abuse of residents, police officers, building inspectors, and government inspectors within 1,000 feet of the establishment. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor said this bill will be under review by the City Council in response to the Ibex incident.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson, Secretary  
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle