

Letters

To: HPRB
Re: Wrap Works
1520 16th Street

To: D.C. Property Office
Re: Dupont Down Under

Minutes of Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B
(2B) May 14, 1997

Dr. Cary, Vice Chair opened the meeting at 7:35p.m. Commissioners McRaney, Jackson, Dehart, and Newton were present.

The Commissioners introduced themselves. Dr. Cary welcomed Commissioner Marilyn Newton as the new commissioner for SMD06.

The minutes of the April 9 meeting of the ANC 2B were unanimously adopted.

POLICE CRIME REPORTS

Dr. Cary said she understood that there are many changes going on in the police department, and the ANC appreciates the police giving the ANC monthly reports.

Sgt. Coleman of the 2nd District gave the crime statistics. He said there has been an effort at the 2nd District to address quality of life issues. He said that since the enhancement approach there has been a significant reduction in crime throughout the city. Sgt. Coleman said that the issue of aggressive panhandling that had been brought to the attention of the police at the April meeting has been being addressed and will continue to be a focus of the efforts of 2D. He said there are at this point more officers on the street and as the new initiative and enhancement program of the police department develop there will be still more patrol officers in the future. A resident asked about the problem

of graffiti. Sgt. Coleman said issues of graffiti should be reported.

Sgt. Miller of the 3rd District gave the crime statistics and said there had been a significant reduction in crime in the 3rd District. He said there had been a 70% reduction since March 97 with the implementation of the enhancement efforts. He said there are also more officers on the street in 3D as part of the enhancement effort. A resident said at the last meeting the police had been asked if there were any gangs operating in the Dupont Circle area. Sgt. Miller said there were no gangs in the area. Sgt. Miller said 3D was working on the issue of panhandling at Connecticut Avenue and S Street. He said the efforts would be on going. He said he would discuss the issue of graffiti with his Captain. A resident said there was a continuing problem with trash trucks between 5 and 7a.m. at 17th and R Streets. Sgt. Coleman said he would speak to the Department of Public Works (DPW). A resident said there was a problem of double parking and loud radios on 17th Street. Sgt. Miller said to call the desk sergeant at the station about traffic issues. Mr. Jackson said that there has been an ongoing problem in the 1500 block of Corcoran Street with an individual repairing cars on the street, which are illegally parked and sometimes block traffic. He said this individual also usually plays loud music. Mr. Jackson said he understand that if this individual is given a ticket he has a person who fixes it for him. Sgt. Miller told Mr. Jackson to call him to discuss the issue.

Lt. Harasek of the Park Police gave the crime statistics. He said there has been an increase in drug sales and the Park Police are making arrests. He said they have arrested three persons who are wanted. He said the scooter officer Andy Kness who was assigned to the Dupont Circle area would be back for this summer. Sgt. Harasek addressed issues that had been brought up at the previous ANC meeting. He said the street light that was out was passed on to the Park Service, and they have spoken to the lady distributing excessive quantities of bird seed in the Circle a couple of times. He said the Park Service has been made aware of the damaged sidewalks in Scott Circle and the problem with trash generated by the food wagon feeding the homeless. Sgt. Harasek said Superintendent Goldstein of the Park Service said he wasn't sure of what to do about the trash. Sgt. Harasek suggest that the residents express their concerns to the group feeding the homeless and ask them to monitor and clean up the trash that is generated. Ms. Dehart asked if the light pole was also the responsibility of the Park Service. Sgt. Harasek said that would be PEPCO's responsibility. A resident asked who could be contacted to have the main entrance of the Dupont Down Under closed as it had become a nuisance. Sgt. Harasek said that was not the responsibility for the Park Service. He said the police could try and monitor that area more. Mr. Jackson said a letter can be sent to the D.C. Property Office. He said DCMAP is also concerned with this problem. Judy Werdell, a resident, said a lot of the "walk - don't

walk" signs on the circle don't function. Sgt. Harasek said he would bring that to the attention of the Superintendent. A resident asked about the problem of loud boom boxes. Sgt. Harasek said the resident should call the non emergency number of the Park Police.

OPEN FORUM - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Fiedler, a resident, complained of loud music from the Fireplace Restaurant. She said she and other neighbors have asked the Fireplace to keep the noise level under control. She said she met the police once in front of the restaurant after complaining and the police said there was nothing that they could do. Dr. Cary said that it was her understanding that the police could now give tickets for noise violations, however it is a new law. Dr. Cary said she would talk to Jack Evans office about the implementation of the new law. Mr. Jackson suggested the resident call Captain Cocket of the 2nd District.

ISSUES

1. Ms. Libby Lawson of the Water Authority gave a presentation on the role of this newly created agency. She said an important aspect of the Authority being a separate agency is that all money paid to the authority would be used to provide water related services. She said the Authority takes care of water distribution and waste water treatment. She said after an analysis of costs by Blank and Beech, an engineering firm which specializes in rate studies, there had been a proposed rate increase of 78%, and that this rate was subsequently reduced to 42%. She said the increase is necessary in order to do much needed repairs to the system and provide quality service to the residents of D.C. Ms. Lawson said the scare about unsafe water that happened in the summer was based on a misinterpretation of water study results and the water was actually safe to drink. She said there was not any harmful bacteria in the water supply. Ms. Lawson said the pipes in the city will be flushed out neighborhood by neighborhood, and when this happens residents will notice the water will run brown with rust initially. She said the program will be running through November 1997, and signs will be posted announcing when the work will be done. Mr. Furioso, a neighborhood builder, suggested the Authority meter condo units individual rather than collectively. Ms. Lawson said that some cities are now doing that and she would bring it to the attention of Ms. Castina Kennedy, Chief of the water billing and measurement division. Ms. Lawson said the Authority offers free plumbing classes. Ms. McRaney asked if the balance of the suggested rate increase would be implemented in the next year. Ms. Lawson said not to her knowledge. Ms. Werdell, a resident, asked when the catch basins would be cleaned. Ms. Lawson said that would be done Ward by Ward over the next year. Ms. Dehart said the rate increase would be more tolerable if the public was given a clear plan as to how the money would be used. Ms.

Lawson said this information is in the packet that had been handed out, and further she would be happy to provide additional information if it was desired. Ms. Dehart said that in her neighborhood some repairs to the pipes had been made. Ms. Lawson said that the pipes in the city required substantial repair work. She said this is part of a six year plan that will cost over a billion dollars.

2. Ms. Dehart said Mr. Eric Colbert and Mr. George Furioso had been asked to come back before the ANC to further clarify the design plans for the renovation of 1520 16th Street. Mr. Colbert presented a three dimensional model and explanation of the proposed changes to help residents understand what the building would look like when completed. He said the aim of the design is to improve on the existing aesthetic. He said that the number of units will be reduced from 55 to about 32. He said the Dupont Circle Conservancy had given their support to the design. Ms. McRaney said in that Mr. Colbert described the building at the last meeting could he explain why he was at the ANC meeting tonight in accordance with the approval from historic preservation groups to go ahead with this plan. Mr. Colbert said he had appeared before the HPRB and the design was approved and given to staff to review. Mr. Colbert said HPRB asked him to present the design to the Conservancy for the second time, and also give a presentation to the ANC as a courtesy. Mr. Colbert said the project can proceed in two stages as they have two separate permits. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any changes to the facade since the last presentation. Mr. Colbert said yes a structural detail had been simplified, and the windows no longer extend as bays but are in line with the profile of the building.

Mr. Cary asked if Mr. Colbert's purpose, in that the plans had been revised and approved by the Conservancy and the HPRB, was to give the ANC an update on the design. Mr. Colbert said that was correct. Mr. Heller, a resident, asked why it was necessary to have the Conservancy's approval. Mr. Colbert said that the HPRB gives great consideration to the Conservancy because it represents the Dupont Circle area. Mr. Colbert said however, the HPRB had the authority to approve a design without it having gone before the Conservancy or the ANC, but HPRB wants to give the Conservancy and ANC the opportunity to comment on designs.

MOTION

Ms. Dehart moved and Mr. Jackson seconded the ANC approve the plans as presented for the renovation of the building at 1520 16th Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dehart said that she understands that the demolition is virtually complete, and asked Mr. Furioso to comment on the schedule for the construction. Mr. Furioso said the project has three separate permits which allowed them to begin the demolition work before the plans were officially approved. He said there would be models to show by September and the hope was the project would be completed within 6 months.

3. Mr. William MacBeth, the architect for Wrap Works, 1601 Connecticut Avenue presented proposed plans for the construction of an 8 foot high cedar plank fence in the rear of Wrap Works. He said the purpose of the fence would be to enclose the restaurants dumpsters. Mr. MacBeth said he has worked with the HPRB on the design for the fence. He said the fence will be heavy duty and would have a sliding gate. He said he presented the design to the Conservancy and they gave their approval with one suggestion on a change in the design. Mr. MacBeth said the suggested change is reflected in the plans. He said one important purpose for enclosing the dumpsters is to keep people from using or moving them, as well as for aesthetic reason. A resident asked about the lighting and safety. Mr. Macbeth said the lighting will be good and the fence being 8 feet tall will make it difficult for people to climb over and hide. Mr. Jackson asked if storing the trash anywhere else had been considered. Mr. MacBeth said there is no other room. Mr. Jackson said residents had expressed their concerns about Wrap Works blocking the alley. Mr. Jackson asked about delivery trucks blocking the alley. Mr. ? said the deliveries could be made from the street.

MOTION

Ms. Dehart moved and Ms. McRaney seconded ANC 2B support the design for an eight foot high cedar plank fence, Wrap Works, 1601 Connecticut Avenue, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Ms. Newton said the Bell Atlantic Co. has proposed the installation of a telephone redistribution box. She said the box contains cross connections needed for installing new service for residents and small businesses. Ms. Newton gave the dimensions of the service box, and said the box will be on P Street between 21st and 22nd Streets, 27' west of the alley on the south side of the street. Ms. Newton said she would contact Bell Atlantic about the exact location of the box prior to its installation. The commission had no objection to the installation of the Bell Atlantic relay box.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Jackson referred the audience to the announcement on the agenda of a community meeting on homeless issues. He said the group is hoping for an attendance of 100 people. He said the organizers of the meeting want input from the community on how to deal with the issues. He said the time of the meeting will be from 1-5p.m. He said it will be a very well structured day as they have a facilitating group to help focus the discussions.

Dr. Cary announced there will be a public hearing on improving the processing of permits and license applications in the District. She said the focus will be on examining the laws governing the issuance of licenses and permits. She said there will be a meeting on May 21 and on June 4. She asked any interested residents to

give her a call for more specific information. Dr. Cary announced the National Capital Planning Commission will be holding a hearing on the Washington Convention Center, Wednesday, May 28, the Mayor is having a Clean-up Day on May 17, The American Red Cross will be having hearings on proposed changes to their building at 2020 I Street, June 5, Thursday at 7:00p.m. at the Red Cross, and D.C. Child and Family Services is having a meeting on June 7 on adopting children with disabilities at Sharpe Hops School

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Mr. Jackson reported there was a problem with the parking situation around the Jewish Community Center. He asked any one concerned to provide input as he is planning a meeting to address the situation.

TREASURERS REPORT

Ms. Dehart said the submitted quarterly financial report that had been submitted to the D.C. auditor had been accepted, and the ANC had received its quarterly allotment. She said the ANC had received two refund checks from the IRS one for \$501.80 and another for \$11.00.

MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved and Ms. McRaney seconded Ms. Dehart be reimbursed \$63.00, an amount she had covered with a personal check, for an IRS payment. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson, Secretary
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle