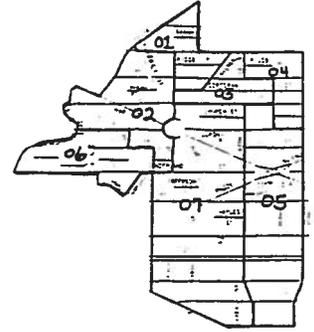




DUPONT CIRCLE
 ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B
 P.O. Box 33224
 Washington, D.C. 20033-0224
 Telephone: 202-822-6222



Letters

To: Office of Emergency Preparedness
 Re: Street closing - Halloween

To: DPW
 Re: Street sign - 17th and Corcoran Sts.

To: PSC
 Re: Telephone removals - P Street

To: Fresh Fields
 Re: location Dupont/Logan Circle

Minutes Public Meeting Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B October 8, 1997.

Mr. Pitsor opened the meeting at 7:30p.m. Commissioners Jackson, Dehart, Cary, and Newton were present.

Mr. Pitsor said that Commissioner Laine McRaney submitted her resignation effective October 7, 1997. He said the position will be filled in accordance with ANC process and statutes.

POLICE REPORT

Sgt. Vincent from the 2nd District gave the police crime and safety report. Sgt. Vincent told the audience the perimeters of his area. He said there had been two arrests for burglary in the 17th and N Street area. He said that although crime has gone down significantly it will probably go up around Xmas. He said that the residents should report any suspicious activities. Mr. Pitsor said that when the new boundaries were drawn up between the 2nd and 3rd District there was concern about the communication between the Districts.

Officer Williams of the 3rd District gave the crime statistics for his area. He said that crime is down 36%, but theft from auto continues to be a problem. A resident complained about the persons

COMMISSIONERS

SMD 01
 (vacant)

SMD 02
 Stephen Angle

SMD 03
 Francine Cary
 Vice Chair-Operations

SMD 04
 Donald Jackson
 Secretary

SMD 05
 Meredith De Hart
 Treasurer

SMD 06
 Marilyn Newton

SMD 07
 Kyle Pitsor
 Chair

riding their bikes on the sidewalk. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC would need further information on this issue and would ask for a report at the next meeting. Mr. Loyal Green expressed his concerns about lack of police response and follow up to a purse snatching on 17th Street. Mr. Pitsor asked Officer Williams to report on this at the next ANC meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Pitsor introduced Mr. David Watts, the new Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Mr. Pitsor said the ANC has worked closely with the DCRA over the years in many areas. Mr. Watts said that although the DCRA is not yet at the implementation stage they have slated many reforms in their programs. He said one of the areas of important change will be management reform. The plan for these reforms will be submitted to Congress February 1, 1997. He said for the plan the Control Board was directed to consider recommendations from the Business Regulatory Reform Commission (BRRC). He said the report on the reforms will have 122 items which will have a city-wide impact on the business and residential environment of the City. These items will also involve other agencies; DPW, Human Services - Dept. of Health, and others. He said the DCRA will do their best to accommodate all the recommendations that are made.

Mr. Watts said there are also a number of policy issues that will have to be resolved in a public forum. He said these issues will be reviewed by a number of agencies including the Office of the Mayor and City Council and others. Mr. Watts said the Revitalization Act focusses on the impact that DCRA has both on businesses and residents and as such is very complex to implement. Mr. Watts said he expects to have a regulatory reform plan ready to go to Congress by the first part of February. He said there will be implementation plans for management reform by the first part of December. He said that DCRA recognizes the need for change in many areas, licensing for instance. He said this can be effected by reassessing the priorities involved and eliminating where necessary. He said the aim is to better utilize the resources to provide better services.

Mr. Pitsor asked how large the KPMG team would be and if there are avenues to provide recommendations to the consultants and will the consultants be conferring with the communities and businesses - soliciting their views along with the public hearing on the City Council level. Mr. Watts said there is already a proposed schedule for some of the business and non-business groups. He said he would find out when KPMG would be talking to the ANCs. Ms. Dehart asked if there had been any thought given to establishing standard procedures for accomplishing business with DCRA, and perhaps preparing a pamphlet for public use. Mr. Watts said that an important part of the plan for DCRA is making all processes easier and more efficient for the public. Ms. Dehart said a big problem

for the public in securing permits is the inconsistency in information when one is speaking to staff member of DCRA. Mr. Watts said that is a problem that DCRA hopes to eliminate. Mr. Pitsor said that a problem the ANC and residents have had with the Zoning Administrator is having to wait unduly long periods of time to get responses on questions addressed to that office. Mr. Watts said that the changes that are being proposed address this issue. He said that the DCRA has had a problem with a 50% loss of resources and staff over a five year period and an increase in activity. He said they are trying to apply resources to the backlog as quickly as possible.

Mr. Jackson said the use of consultants bothers him, because he is aware of the fact that managers from successful corporations had been involved in attempts to help streamline the DCRA. He asked why was the District paying for this service all over again when major corporations had already donated the time and services of their experts. He said he hoped the consultants that were currently working on the problem were using all the information that had already been gathered and presented. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC and residents hoped there would be outreach efforts by the consultants to solicit advise and comments from the ANC and residents on issues and problems.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Tony Robinson, public affairs administrator for the Convention Center, said he was concerned that some of the information that appears in the newspapers has not been particularly accurate. He said he wished to present the Washington Convention Center's version of what is occurring. He said it is the biggest economic development project in the city. Mr. Robinson said the question that Commissioner Jackson was concerned about was the routes that traffic would take to get to the convention center. He said that the center has ways the public can get information, there is an advisory committee that meets the first Thursday of every month and questions can be addressed at these meetings.

Margaret Young, a resident, announced the schedule for the DCCA House Tour.

Dave Young, a resident, said 75% of the funds for the renovation of the Comfort Station had been raised and a contractor had been secured.

Ms. June Hirsch announced that she would be replacing Michelle Sedgewick as the Dupont Circle representative for Councilmember Jack Evans office. She announced their newsletter is out. She said there would be a benefit fund raiser for constituent services.

Ms. Joan Feraris announced that Fresh Fields Corporation was investigating a store location in the Dupont/Logan Circles area.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Cary seconded support for Fresh Fields opening a store in the community. The motion passed unanimously.

A resident asked that a special management group be established to address the issue of the proposed convention center.

Ms. Judy Werdell announced that the Safeway Focus Group had reformed. She gave residents her number for comments.

ISSUES

1. Mr. Pitsor introduced Mr. David Taylor the representative for the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID). He said there would be no action at this meeting as the presentation was informational. He said BID legislation was approved and implemented last year. Mr. Taylor indicated the boundaries of the BID. He said business would voluntarily tax themselves to provide monies for improvements within specific boundaries. He said this process speeds up the process of improvement and stimulates business growth. He gave the statistical information that defines how a BID can be established. He said the hope was the BID in Dupont Circle would be fully operational by March 1998. He said the effort is to supplement money provided by the city for public services. He said there would be safety patrols 8am to midnight and they would be in radio contact with the Metropolitan Police. They will also assist tourists. He said all the work provide would be on a contract basis. He said a BID has a sunset provision for 5 years and can be extended for three additional 5 year periods. Additionally the main goals are safety, cleanliness, and controlling vendors, public postings, and newspaper boxes.

Dr. Cary asked if there was a BID plan that would be implemented. Mr. Taylor said there are 6 directors at the moment and there is a plan that he would be happy to make available. He said that generally the plan is to clean up the streets, make the area a desirable place to live and work to encourage people to come back to the cities, and hopefully raise rents and taxes to increase revenue for the city.

2. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC would be discussing the plans for the Halloween Celebration which are still being worked out at this point. Mr. Frank Cooper of Randy's Restaurant and Mr. Frank Hornstein of the DCCA safety committee gave the presentation for the plans. Mr. Hornstein said that JR's is not co-sponsoring the event. He said that their effort will be to keep the event local and to work with the police to spread the crowd out and keep access to buildings clear. He said the merchants will be responsible for cleaning up the trash. He said the race would be longer with police all along the route and 17th Street would be closed for two hours - from 8p.m to 10p.m. Mr. Cooper said one recommendation is

that the volunteer security force would be on the streets and sidewalks especially in the residential areas to help maintain order. He said the volunteers would also take care of the trash.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Cary seconded support for the plans for the Halloween high heel race on October 28. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC received a letter from the Board of Directors of the Dupont West Condo Association expressing concerns with two pay phones. Ms. Karen Rosenthal, a representative of the Dupont West Condo Association, asked the ANC to request the Public Service Commission to remove two public payphones located at 2159 and 2161 P Street as they are creating and encouraging loitering and drug dealing. Mr. Hornstein said the police had recommended that the phones be removed. Mr. Heller, a resident, said that it was unfair to lump all pay phones into a category of attracting drug dealers and loitering. He objected that this attitude deprives the public of access to public phones. Mr. Pitsor said that in 1994 these two phones had their service altered so that they could only be used for outgoing calls and would not work except to connect to 911 between midnight and 6a.m. Ms. Rosenthal said this has not corrected the problem associated with the phones.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Jackson seconded ANC 2B ask the Public Service Commission to remove the public payphones (COCOTs) at 2159 and 2161 P Street, N.W. due to problems with crime, loitering, and trash. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor said the issue of the conversion of the gas station at 21st and P Streets from a full service station to a mini mart and gas only would be discussed at a later meeting..

4. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC is required to review the adoption of its FY 1998 Budget at a public meeting. Mr. Pitsor said there is also a 4th Quarterly Financial Report for 1997 that needs to be discussed and approved. Ms. Dehart, the ANC Treasurer, presented both reports.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Ms. Newton moved the ANC 2B accept Fourth Quarter FY 1997 statement and the FY 1998 Budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Ms. Newton reported the ABC Board hearing for the consideration for a CX license for the Mansion at 2020 O Street has been postponed until October 29.

Mr. Jackson reported the Dupont East Community Project, which is

involved with issues on the homeless, is applying to be a non-profit corporation and is very active. He said at this point one of the primary issues is being worked on in terms of outreach is finding out what services are needed. He asked for volunteers to canvas the homeless to find out what services need to be provided. He said that neighbors could call him. Mr. Jackson said if there is a homeless shelter established it would be very small. He said that Foundry Church could house four people within the zoning guidelines. He said the shelter committee for the project only has one or two volunteers but, the other programs - job and training have lots of volunteers. Mr. Jackson said the BZA met and made a decision that the Church Street parking lot of St. Luke's Church can no longer be used and the P Street lot was approved as a church accessory lot only for a period of two years and during that time the lot must be landscaped and maintained per the law. He said some members of the (BZA) committee were very unhappy about how St. Luke's had violated the law and indicated that this is the last chance St. Luke's will have to comply if they want to continue to be issued permits for use.

Dr. Cary reported there has been a lot of aggressive panhandling at the corner of 17th and Q Streets. She said she is working with the Sergeant from the 2nd District on the problem. She said there had been a break in at Georgetown Valet. She said she is working with DCCA on the issue of Safeway.

Ms. Dehart report that construction is under way at 1500 O Street.

Mr. Pitsor reported the road resurfacing has begun on Q Street and it will go from 23rd to 18th. He said this is a Federal Aid project and requires that the District match funds. He said the Chancery of the Embassy of Botswana has had its request granted.

OPEN FORUM/NEW/OLD BUSINESS

H.H. Leonard told the commission and audience that according to a petition that she had circulated 1198 neighbors were in favor of her having a CX liquor license and only 28 were opposed. Ms. Leonard said there were 57 business in her block of O Street. Mr. Pitsor told Ms. Leonard the ANC had received a letter from Ms. Leonard's attorney asking requesting a meeting to negotiate. Mr. Pitsor said a meeting was being arranged.

A resident asked about the condition of the sidewalk at 17th and Q Streets. Dr. Cary said she has a call into DPW. Mr. Jackson said it isn't clear if the city or the owner of the property is responsible for the condition of the brick sidewalks and that he would check into it. He said the city has stated they do not have the money to fix brick sidewalks and have told owners they would need to repair it themselves. Mr. Pitsor said that have requests have been made to make temporary repairs using asphalt patches in the brickwork and to date the corrections have not been made.

A resident asked about the status of Commissioner Angle. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC is waiting for a response from Mr. Angle and cannot remove Mr. Angle. Dr. Cary said she would check the bylaws of the ANC to see if there was a way to speed up the process. Mr. Pitsor and Dr. Cary said that Mr. Angle was aware of the Commissions concern that he has been absent from meetings. Mr. Pitsor said the power to remove Mr. Angle rested with the Board of Elections. Mr. Jackson said it is his understanding that the ANC could send a letter to Mr. Angle informing him that the ANC would send a letter to the Board of Elections requesting that they declare his seat vacant.

MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded a letter be sent to Mr. Angle informing him that the ANC will discuss a resolution at the next meeting of the ANC requesting the Board of Elections declare his seat vacant. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson, Secretary
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle