

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 1998 PUBLIC MEETING OF  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B  
(DUPONT CIRCLE)**

Chairman Pitsor called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Commissioners King, Newton, Jackson, Rosenthal, Cary and Pitsor introduced themselves and Mr. Pitsor indicated that Commissioner DeHart would be arriving shortly.

Sargent Kutniewski of PSA 308 gave the crime report. Several categories had decreased 3-4%, but burglaries had increased the same amount. He indicated that several arrests had been made in that probably accounted for some of the decrease.

**OPEN FORUM:**

**Chairman Pitsor** announced a hearing concerning the reopening of E Street around the White House and noted a flyer from DPW announcing the schedule for pickup of Christmas trees and other bulk trash during the holidays.

**Debbie Hanrahan** announced that Christmas Trees would be sold on the patio outside the Sol Restaurant at 17th and R Sts to benefit Ward Two education programs.

**Nancy Fiedler** of 2130 P Street presented a petition with 65 signatures requesting that Donohoe Construction not begin work on the Marriott Hotel project in the 2100 block of P St until the legal starting times especially on weekends. June Hirsch of Jack Evans Office indicated that they had been in discussion with DCRA requesting better enforcement of starting times and that Jack would be happy to intervene if necessary. Gerry Gregg of Donohoe Construction indicated it was not their policy to begin early on weekdays and that DCRA had requested the Sunday installation of the crane at the site and that the site had also been broken into during off hours and that might explain some of the noises. Mr. Armando Lourenco of the Building Permit Office of DCRA indicated that the law allows for construction between 7 am and 7 pm Monday through Friday, but nothing on Sundays. Commissioner Newton then moved and Commissioner Rosenthal seconded the following motion:

A letter be sent to Donohoe Construction requesting adherence to the weekday construction times, that they not begin until 9 am on Saturday and do no construction on Sunday. A copy would also be sent to DCRA.

Jim McGrath (a resident) requested that the motion include fines and strict enforcement by DCRA. The amendment was accepted and the amended motion passed unanimously.

**Beth Solomon of the Shaw Coalition** announced a press conference at 11 am, December 10, 1998 at 1312 Massachusetts Ave by the Committee of 100 and other groups regarding the Council bill revising the Comprehensive Plan.

**ISSUES:**

1. **Mr. Lloyd Jordan, Director of DCRA** gave a presentation on the changes he plans to make in that agency. His plan centers on zero tolerance of incompetence and poor customer service and that some employees have been removed. Each office must now have a business plan. He gave a detailed Powerpoint presentation covering the changes that also included: neighborhood permit stations, Internet applications, town hall meetings on being good neighbors, purchasing more cars for inspectors (117 to date) and computers (224 to date) and increasing training. He has also initiated an open office policy on Fridays for employees to discuss improvement methods. One area of recent improvement is in nuisance abatements. They have closed 1200 cases in 1998 and plan to do 1300 in 1999.

Because of time limitations Chairman Pitsor urged residents to call Mr. Jordan since he had previously given his phone number, but did ask one (recurring) question concerning enforcement of trash pick-up times and fining those who start too early. Mr. Jordan indicated that there had been 7 citations of \$500 each in the past 2 months and a pending truck impoundment.

2. Chairman Pitsor announced that the University Club had adopted **Stead Playground** and that they wanted to resod and irrigate the playing field. They cannot because of the rat problem. Chairman Pitsor indicated that several fines of up to \$1000 had been issued to the restaurants on both 17th and P Streets and that DCRA would be increasing the enforcement of trash regulations on the 16th Street apartment buildings next.

3. **Solar Building project at 1000 16th St (at K Streets)**. Alison Prince of Wilkes, Artis presented the architect who reviewed plans for the renovations of this building. The main questions were where the C-4, 130 foot height will begin and concerns about the appropriateness of a curb cut for the parking garage entrance on 16th Street and whether it is an encroachment of the SP zone on 16th Street. A CAD demo was presented that showed a computer rendering of pedestrian views of the expanded building. The parking plans were clarified indicated that the garage would have approximately 95 spaces. Traffic studies indicate that only one third of those would be entering/exiting the garage during the busiest hours and that only 2 metered spaces would be lost in the block. Commissioner Jackson asked about the impact on the Metro Bus Stops but was told that the impact had not been evaluated even though asked for at the previous meeting. Mr. Steven Scher discussed the issue of precedent on future construction by saying that the other small buildings between K Street and Scott Circle were on too small lots to be expanded in any profitable way and that each one should be evaluated independently.

Mr. Desmond Foynes of the Presidential Co-op at 16th and L Streets reiterated his previous opposition to the site based on precedent, size of the addition, and traffic.

Commissioner DeHart moved the attached resolution opposing the PUD on seven grounds. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Commissioner King noted that the public benefits proposed in the PUD were better than most, but still could not support the overall project. Chairman Pitsor thanked the applicant and the attorneys for their excellent presentations. The motion opposing the project passed unanimously.

4. **Cafe Nora, Board of Zoning Adjustment Case**. Ellen McCarthy of Robbins, Kaplan, Attys.

presented the request for an exception to expand the restaurant into the building next door (2128 Florida Ave). They will be adding 24 seats to the existing 75, there will be no outside changes to the building and access will be via the existing main entrance. Mr. Steven Damato discussed parking plan for Nora's since that had been the focus of past ABC protests. He indicated that the valet uses primarily Florida Ave and daytime embassy spaces, they usually have access to the Universal North building on weekends and presented a map of the neighborhood highlighting the addresses that were in support of the variance. Also, Nora's had converted their sidewalk cafe into an herb garden.

Dr. Armand Dumas spoke at length about the parking problems in the neighborhood. He indicated that restaurant employees regularly drive to work at night and that the valet services regularly park cars illegally, sometimes creating pedestrian hazards and prohibiting emergency vehicle access. His wife, Dr. Fuentes also spoke about the abuses by valet staff of their personal off street parking spaces. Mr. Bob Edwards of 21st St. spoke in favor of the overall operation of Nora's but noted that the parking situation in general had deteriorated and that some residential parking had been converted to metered. He was concerned that an increased commercial operations would exacerbate the already bad situation.

Chairman Pitsor requested that a letter be sent the Third District requesting increase police enforcement of parking in the area around 21st and R Sts. Commissioner Rosenthal has spoken with residents who had had their personal cars parked by the valet service and their keys delivered to their homes. Commissioner Rosenthal then moved and Commissioner King seconded the following motion:

ANC 2B supports the requested zoning variance conditional on development of a parking plan that would resolve the neighborhood concerns. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Pitsor noted the BZA hearing will be on January 20 and appointed Commissioner Rosenthal to meet with the concerned parties prior to the hearing.

5. **GWU Baseball Facility at Francis Field.** Mr. Tom Walter, head Baseball Coach, presented a proposal by GWU to build a 250 seat stadium on the current soccer field adjacent to the Francis Pool on 25th St. Currently the school is practicing at Barcroft Field in Arlington and they feel the need to have a site in the District. There is no formal agreement yet, but the site was chosen after a review by Dept. of Parks and Recreation. GWU would have use of the new field for 30 Fall practices and 24 home games. They would pay for the building and its maintenance but Dept. of Parks would operate it and the new stadium would be available for any other use outside GWU practice and games.

Foggy Bottom ANC Commissioner Dorothy Miller indicated that GWU did not have a good track record on such projects. Debbie Hanrahan expressed concern that the city might inherit more maintenance expenses than they could afford. Mr. Walter indicated the university is also considering sponsoring summer camps for DC youth, a youth softball league and the school is also prepared to offer a scholarship for a DC student. Mr Pitsor concluded the presentation noting the location is in the Foggy Bottom ANC but also affects ANC 2B constituents. The presentation was informational and ANC 2B would be discussing this matter with Foggy Bottom

6. **ABC License Renewals.** Chairman Pitsor read the list of businesses that were posted for

renewals and asked for comments. Comments and actions were taken on the following:

**Mr. P's., 2147 P Street.** Nancy Fiedler complained about public drinking, some crack use, noise, trash, loitering and public urination. They also use an unlicensed trash removal service (Carter's Trash). John Mako, manager responded by saying that most loiterers are from the Fairfax Market next door and that he has signs posted urging patrons to be quiet on exit. He volunteered to change trash haulers if they did not comply with licensing requirements. Commissioner Rosenthal reported that she has had some regular complaints, similar to those of Ms. Fiedler. Commissioner Rosenthal then moved and Commissioner Cary seconded the following motion:

ANC 2B opposes the renewal of the license for Mr. P's due to peace, order and quiet issues. Chairman Pitsor suggested that it be conditional on a voluntary agreement. The amendment was approved and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Pitsor appointed Commissioner Rosenthal to work on the voluntary agreement.

**Circle Bar, 1619 Connecticut Ave.** Billy Manthey, manager, indicated that the CN license had been returned to the ABC Board for "safe keeping" since the bar had closed. Chairman Pitsor suggested that a letter be sent to the ABC Board noting Mr. Manthey's statement, lack of placards on the building and requesting that no action on the CN license take place without public notice and comment. Commissioner Cary also suggested that a letter be sent to the PSC asking that they investigate whether proper permits exist for pay phones on the sidewalk in front of the Circle Bar and to take action as necessary.

**Fireplace, 2161 P Street.** Frank Hornstein of DCCA Public Safety Committee reported that the MPD had reviewed the establishment in the Summer, 1997 and decided the pay phone should be removed to stop illegal activity. He recalled the owners had agreed to have it removed, yet it is still there. Nancy Fiedler, a resident, voiced complaints about noise and prostitution at the establishment. Commissioner Rosenthal moved and Commissioner King seconded the following motion:

ANC 2B opposes the renewal of the liquor license for the Fireplace conditional on the removal of the pay phone outside and a voluntary agreement resolving the peace, order, and quiet issues. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Pitsor announced the next meeting date as January 13, 1999.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B (Dupont Circle)  
Wednesday, December 9, 1998, 7:30 p.m.  
Saint Thomas Parish, 1772 Church Street, NW

AGENDA

Call to Order and Introduction of Commissioners  
Adoption of Minutes  
Local Police Crime Report  
Open Forum and Announcements

ISSUES:

1. Guest Speaker: Mr. Lloyd Jordan, Director, DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
2. Report on City's rat abatement Plan of Action for Stead Field, 1600 block of P Street
3. Zoning Case no. 98-14C: Proposed Planned Unit Development, 1000 16th St (The Solar Bldg.)
4. Board of Zoning Adjustment Case No. 16412, 2128 Florida Ave. Request for special exception for non-conforming use by Nora's Restaurant
5. Presentation on plans by George Washington Univ. to build a baseball facility on Francis Field, 25 and M Streets.
6. Public comment on the following businesses which are renewing their ABC licenses:

**PETITION DATE 12/22/98**

Class DR:

Pizzeria Paradiso, 2029 P St.  
Chef Paolino, 1825 I St.  
Il Pranzo, 1800 M St.

Class CH:

Tabard Inn, 1739 N St.

Class CT:

Mister Days Sports Rack,  
(rear) 1111 19th St.  
Mr. P's, 2147 P St.,  
Lone Star West/Escandolo,  
2122 P St.  
Steel (formerly Ozone),  
1214 18th St.  
China Joy, 1827 M St.

The Bottom Line, 1716 I St.

Madhatter, 1831 M St.

Class CR:

Blue Plate, 2002 P St.  
Raku, 1900 Q St.  
Kozy Korner Restaurant,  
1253 20th St.

The Exchange,  
1730 Pennsylvania Ave.

**PETITION DATE 1/5/99**

Class DR:

Vie de France, 1723 K St.

Class CT:

The Fireplace, 2161 P St.

Class CN:

The Circle Bar,  
1619 Connecticut Ave

Ozio, 1835 K St.

Class CR:

Georgia Brown's, 950 15th St.  
Georgetown Seafood Grill,  
1200 19th St.  
Ascot Restaurant, 1050 17th St.  
Art Gallery Grille, 1712 I St.  
Bravo! Bravo!,  
1001 Connecticut Ave.  
Recessions, 1700 K St.  
Giorgio's Pizza, 1247 20th St.

Commissioner Reports

Old Business

New Business

The next meeting of ANC 2B will be on January 13, 1999