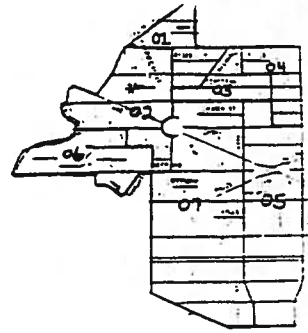




**DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B
P.O. Box 33224
Washington, D.C. 20033-0224
Telephone: 202-822-6222**



Letters

To: City Council Members, Mayor, Convention Center Authority
 Re: Proposed location of new Convention Center
 To: Public Space Commission
 Re: Sign of the Whale, Xando
 To: BZA
 Re: Embassy Kazakhstan

Minutes of the Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B (ANC 2B), March 11, 1998.

Mr. Pitsor called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m. Commissioners Jackson, Dehart, Rosenthal, Newton and King were present.

Introduction of the Commissioners. The minutes of the February 11 Meeting were approved.

POLICE CRIME AND SAFETY REPORTS

Commander Joseph Adamany of the Third District told the audience he had recently been reassigned to the Third District. He gave the crime statistics. He said except for stolen cars and theft from auto crime has been down. Mr. Pitsor asked about the Third District's staffing levels and vehicle and communications equipment. Commander Adamany said the department could always use more officers. He said they plan to hire civilians and use older officers to work in the offices. Mr. Frank Hornstein asked why more officers were not assigned to the streets. Mr. King said he has noted drug activity in buildings in his SMD. He asked the Commander to report back about what is being done about this problem. Commander Adamany announced a special meeting with residents and police on March 25. He said the PSA concept will be clarified at that meeting and there will be a bike registration sponsored by the Third District on April 18 between 10a.m. and 2p.m. at 17th Street Safeway and at 20th and P Streets Hardware Store on April 25, from 10 to 2 also.

Lt. David Schlosser of the Park Police gave the crime statistics. He said the beat patrols are giving more attention to Dupont Circle. He said there will be an officer assigned to the Circle and P Street beach starting the week of March 16 between the hours of 5p.m. and 1 a.m. He said the department expected an upgrade of equipment over the next two years. Ms. Dehart said there have been people living in Scott Circle for months. Lt. Schlosser said he

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS:

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|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 2B01 | 2B02 | 2B03 | 2B04 | 2B05 | 2B06 | 2B07 |
| David King | Karen Rosenthal | Fran Cary | Don Jackson | Meredith DeHart | Marilyn Newton | Kyle Pitsor |
| | | Vice Chair | Secretary | Treasurer | | Chair |

would look into this problem.

REPORT JACK EVAN'S OFFICE

Ms. June Hirsh of Jack Evans office asked the audience to call Jack Evan's office with any of their concerns.

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Pam Taylor, a resident, said Mr. Evan's absence at the March 9 meeting on the proposed new location of the Convention Center was noted by the community. Ms. Hirsh said that Mr. Evans was not specifically invited. Ms. Hanrahan said Councilwoman Ambrose said there still was a case to made for having a convention center in the District at all. A resident said impact studies were not yet sufficient for the Council to vote on this issue.

Mr. Jonathan Heller asked about additional floor at 1638 R Street since not part of original application nor included in ANC support during his term as Commissioner.

ISSUES

1. Mr. Andrew Kline, the representative for Xando Cafe - 1350 Connecticut Avenue, requested the ANC's support for a public space application for an outdoor cafe. He showed the plans to the commission and the audience and said the seating would be for 30 persons.

MOTION

Ms. Rosenthal moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded a motion in support of the application for use of public space by Xando with the understanding the seating would be limited to 20 persons, with the proposed 232 sq.ft. space on diagram - there would be a designated staffperson assigned to service the outdoor area, the outdoor use would be limited to the season from April 1 until October 31, and the tables and chairs would be stored off site during the off-season period. The Motion passed 5-1. Mr. King opposed.

2. Mr Finney, representing the Sign of the Whale, 1825 M Street asked the ANC for its approval for an application for the use of public space for an outdoor cafe. He said the outdoor area would operate between the hours of 11:30a.m. and 11:00p.m. from April 1 until October 31, and would provide seating for 14 persons.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. King seconded a motion opposed to the issuance of a public space use permit for an outdoor cafe for Sign of the Whale because there is not sufficient sidewalk passage for the heavy pedestrian traffic and it would impose problems of further congestion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Mr. Chris Collins, of Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick, and Lane and Mr. Demot Yurmitkov, Third Secretary for the Embassy of Kazakhstan, representatives of the Embassy of Kazakhstan - 1401 - 1407 16th Street requested the ANC's support for BZA Application #16327 to locate a chancery and parking lot in an SP-1 and R5B District. Mr. Collins said the zoning requirements for the property allowed for the proposed parking area on the property and a security fence. He said the Embassy would also be erecting a flagpole and installing a small plaque to identify the Chancery. Mr. Collins said the lot on the property has 32 spaces. Mr. Collins said the embassy would most likely not be asking for space in front of the embassy for parking. Ms. Dehart said she had hoped there would be plans for the commission to review. She said that there are public safety issues, one of which is the access to the alleys by emergency vehicles. She said in discussion with the representatives it is her feeling they are willing to accommodate the residents on this issue. Ms. Dehart said some other concerns are about the design of the lot, the fencing, landscaping and screening. Mr. Collins said the plans will comply with the zoning criteria for an accessory parking lot. Mr. Collins said the HPRB will be reviewing the plans on March 24.

MOTION

Ms. Dehart moved and Ms. Newton seconded support for the concept of chancery and accessory parking lot use of 1401-07 16th Street by the Embassy of Kazakhstan (BZA Application #16327). In as much as the applicant did not submit detailed design plans for security fencing, screening, and landscaping complying with two historic districts regulations the ANC reserves judgement on these issues until such plans are presented to the ANC at a regularly scheduled public meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. King abstained.

Ms. Dehart said she is expecting the Embassy of Kazakhstan to give a presentation including the specific design plans for the security sensing, screening, and landscaping for the chancery at an ANC meeting as soon as those plans are completed and available for review per the statement of this intent by the representatives for the Embassy of Kazakhstan.

4. Mr. Pitsor introduced the issue of the proposed location of the new Convention Center in the Shaw neighborhood. He said the ANC held a special public forum meeting March 9 to discuss this issue. Interested parties from the City Council, Convention Center Authority, citizens groups and neighbors were invited to attend. Some of the issues that were discussed were the budget for the project, parking, traffic and lack of studies on these projections.

Commissioner King read a motion which summarized discussion at the meeting on March 9. (see attached). Motion seconded by Commissioner Jackson and passed unanimously. The motion was sent to the members of the City Council, the Mayor, the Control Board, Convention Center Authority and civic organizations who attended.

5. Mr. Pitsor said the liquor license moratorium along the 17th Street corridor was created in 1990. He said this will be coming up for review in the spring of 1999 and there are three criteria to establish whether or not the moratorium should be extended. In 1990 the ABC Board approved the initial moratorium. He said in 1992 the ANC and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association sought a continuation of the moratorium which went into effect in 1994 and will expire in March of 1999. He said the first time the process took two and a half years and the second time eighteen months. Mr. Pitsor said the ANC needed to act on the pending expiration of the moratorium now in if the community wished to avoid a lapse in 1999. Mr. Pitsor gave an overview of the existing liquor licenses in the moratorium zone. Mr. Pitsor read the criteria for maintaining the moratorium. Jeff Brooks, a resident, said the moratorium created a monopoly. Mr. Heller, a resident, said that the regulations do not cite the specific number of licenses allowed it just states that there are to be no new liquor licenses granted. Mr. Lex Rieffel, a resident, said that the moratorium assures that there will be greater diversity in the types of business along 17th Street. Mr. Pitsor said that growth is important for businesses. Mr. Rieffel said residents do not have to accommodate all the interests of the business community. John Guggenmos of Sol and DCMAP asked the ANC to establish a task force to discuss the future of the moratorium. He read a letter from Sue Laudini, president of DCMAP, strongly urging the ANC to establish a task force composed of residents and business owners and to report the findings to the ANC. She said that it is important that this issue not splinter the community. A resident said the moratorium has been adverse for the neighborhood. A resident said that the moratorium has preserved the neighborhood and that Adams Morgan was a good example of what could happen without a moratorium. Mr. Fasano, a resident, said commercial zones are to serve the interests of residential areas. He said the over concentration of liquor licenses along 17th Street has driven other types of businesses away. A resident said that some of the members of DCMAP do not support the moratorium and expressed this view to the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. A resident said that all the business and residents needed to be involved in any decision concerning the moratorium. Mr. Pitsor said he would take all the views expressed under advisement and the ANC will be in consultation with the DCCA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson, Secretary
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle