

## **Minutes of the August 11, 1999 Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B (Dupont Circle)**

Chairman Pitsor called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Commissioners King, Micone, Shannon, Jackson, DeHart and Newton were present.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS** The approval of minutes of the July, 1999 meeting were postponed because a number of revisions requested to the draft that was circulated. Treasurer DeHart distributed the Third Quarter, 1999 Financial Report. It was approved as distributed.

### **POLICE AND CRIME REPORTS**

Sgt. Kutniewski spoke for the Third District. Theft from auto was the only statistic to increase during the reporting period and that was only slightly. All others were down. In response to a question on the Q St. robberies he reported that one person is still in jail, but that several cases are still open. Sgt. Kutniewski reminded the audience that their reports of suspicious activity in the neighborhood can be the most helpful in solving crimes. He reported that 12 bicycles were licensed during the National Night out event. Larry Sprouls of questioned why it was taking so long to stop the blatant cocaine dealing at 1630 Corcoran St. The sargent offered to have Sgt. McDowell of that PSA contact Mr. Sprouls.

### **OPEN FORUM**

There were no items presented at this meeting.

### **ISSUES**

- 1. Stead Playground** June Hirsch, Director of Constituent Services for Jack Evans' office, gave a history of the attempts to improve the playground over the past 4 years which included joint efforts by the University Club and the Dept. of Recreation. The next major activity is resodding of the field and installing an irrigation system. The money is in hand for the work, but the rat problems from the neighboring restaurants have caused delays. It is expected that the resodding will occur October 8-10. Flyers will be distributed around the neighborhood informing of the work and the temporary parking restrictions.
- 2. Planned Parenthood Federation's new office.** Cynthia Giordano, attorney introduced the plan by Planned Parenthood to purchase and convert the former Yader Clinic Building at 18th & Massachusetts Ave. to their headquarters. They plan minimal changes, but will change the use to special purpose office. There will be a staff of 54 people with no parking. The latter is not foreseen as a problem as the same staff has no parking at their current Connecticut Ave. location. Martha McGee, Director of Administration gave a history of the organization and its operation.

She indicated that they desire to impact policy by working with national leadership. The organization hopes to preserve and restore the historic building and clean-up the corner of the lot.

Mark Boffman, architect, reviewed the proposed design. They plan to restore the outside masonry and windows and re-landscape the property. They will include a wrought iron fence on the perimeter and gates for the parking circle so that it will be primarily pedestrian access, the exception being visiting officials. The windows will have security bars added in a similar ornamental style to the neighboring Uzbekistan Embassy. The interior will be primarily office space, with a minimum of conference areas. The Allen Guttmacher Institute is an affiliate organization currently sharing office space with Planned Parenthood and they will move as well.

Chairman Pitsor noted that this site is in the Central Business district and we have previously endorsed office use on in this district. A member of the audience asked about the potential for protest at the office. Ms. McGee responded that protests are usually at the clinics, not the regional offices. She indicated that the building would have minimal signage, probably a 12 inch square plaque by the door. Commissioner DeHart asked for confirmation that the gates of the driveway would be closed to limit regular parking in the circle. Ms. McGee confirmed.

Chairman Pitsor then moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that:

ANC 2B send a letter to the BZA on case #16487 that we are have no opposition to the proposed office use by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. at 1780 Massachusetts Ave. with the understanding that the use will be office only and that the driveway will not be used for parking.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **John Hopkins University request for zoning exception** Stephen David, Dean indicated that the university desired to consolidate its graduate programs from four buildings to one. They are in the exploratory stages seeking community input and that a formal zoning exception has not been requested. If they purchase the building at 1717 Massachusetts, JHU would use only 20,000 sq. feet initially, but would expand if student demand increased and space became available from expiring leases. They see the only internal changes to the building. There are currently 87 parking spaces, but anticipate that 80% of the students would use public transportation as they do currently. The total office space currently in the building is about 107,000 sq. feet. Mr. David responded that they could possibly build about 20 apartments in the building if student demand called for it. Mr. King inquired about potential community benefits given that the building would be removed from the tax rolls. Mr. David responded that at this time the only benefit to the community is intellectual. Since no case is pending, no action was taken at this meeting.
4. **Insight Therapeutic Services, Inc.** Ricardo Henry described ITS as an organization that works with substance abuse cases, not mental retardation problems. The organization primarily goes into the community, but does maintain a central office--733 15th St. NW. They are seeking

community input and support for a certificate of need so they will be eligible for Medicaid payments. They desire to target the under served communities.

Commissioner Shannon questioned their credentials and funding. The organization is about 3 years old and currently all patients pay through insurance programs such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield. ITS is a for-profit provider. Commissioner Micone complimented their goals and inquired if there were any free services. Mr. Henry indicated it was approximately 5%. Commissioner Jackson inquired about licenses and other certifications. None were provided, but they offered to provide a copy of the proposal being sent to the Dept. of Human Services.

5. **Dupont Circle Parking Task Force Report** Commissioner Pitsor gave a brief history of the task force process targeting high density neighborhoods. He noted that at the July meeting Commissioner Micone was elected chair and Commissioner Jackson recording secretary. Mr. Micone reported on the recent street and signage survey that was conducted throughout the neighborhood and that a committee was working on a community-wide questionnaire.
6. **Cafe Japone ABC license protest** Commissioner Micone reported that a continuance was requested on the protest. The next hearing will be September 15 at 9:30 am. The neighborhood had retained council and a voluntary agreement had been distributed for review.

Chairman Pitsor attempted to move to the next agenda item but was interrupted by Mr. Osnos, attorney for Cafe Japone. He felt that the customers that came to the meeting should be allowed to speak as part of the status of the case. Mr. Micone indicated that few of the neighborhood protestants were present and had they known that there would be public discussion they too would have attended. After much discussion, Mr. Micone agreed to call a special meeting before the ABC hearing to give all parties an opportunity to present their concerns.

7. **Julia's Empanadas, public space application #99-027** Mr. Bill Holman is requesting to use public space for a 12 seat sidewalk cafe at 1221 Connecticut Ave, NW. No construction will be necessary. All tables and chairs will be portable and will be taken in at night. The hours will be noon to 5 pm. His proposed set-back is greater than the Lucky Bar next door. Chairman Pitsor moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that:

ANC 2B send a letter to the Public Space Committee indicating we have no objections to the application given the 12 foot clearance between the cafe and curb.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Council Bill 13-362** Chairman Pitsor introduced this bill to the meeting indicating that its purpose is to expand the ABC moratorium authority to include limits on substantial changes in a zone where the current law only allows for limits on the number of licenses. This proposal is consistent with ANC 2B's request for the renewal of the Dupont East Moratorium.

Chairman Pitsor moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that:

ANC 2B send a letter of support for bill 13-362 to the Council committee on DCRA.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Shannon** reported that the building at 1612 16th St had been sold. The new owner, Mr. Furioso (of Church Place Condos), plans to demolish the current building and build a 4-5 unit residential building in its place. HPRB review is scheduled for September 1999.

**Commissioner Newton** reported that she had received several questions about Marriott possibly exceeding the height and square foot limitations for the new hotel on P Street. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that

ANC 2B send a letter to DCRA asking that they investigate compliance with building height and square footage limits for the site.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioner King** reported that the Public Space Commission met recently on Lauriol Plaza's request for an exception to the 10 ft sidewalk clearance and a request for an outside waiting area with a bar. The neighborhood prevailed on both issues as the commission denied the requests.

**Commissioner Pitsor** reported he had received complaints about concrete trucks on Q Street given there was no major construction on that street. He indicated we are still waiting on the signage to be changed from advisory to legal prohibitions of trucks and busses. He also reported that at the September meeting we would be hearing a proposal to extend the 16th Historic District south to Lafayette Park. Also, Council member Catania has proposed changes to the ANC laws that may require action at our September meeting.

**Commissioner King** noted that unlike the council, ANC 2B was working during August.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed at this meeting other than Cafe Japone topic in the Issues Section.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mr. Chab Dunn** recommended that ANC 2B support better use of park service facilities like the Dupont Circle Resource Center as similar facilities exist in Montrose Park, Georgetown and others. Commissioner King added that the Dept. of Parks & Recreation is in the process of inventorying their assets and their uses.

Chairman Pitsor announced the next public meeting on September 8 and adjourned this meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald G. Jack". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.