

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 1999 PUBLIC MEETING OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by Vice Chair Fran Cary. Commissioners King, Rosenthal, Jackson, DeHart and Newton were present. Chairman Pitsor was out of town.

The minutes of the January 13, 1999 meeting were approved as previously distributed.

OPEN FORUM

1. **Ryan Bliss**, 1700 15th Street reported his condominium had recently learned of a proposal by 15th St. Presbyterian Church to begin angled parking on Sunday mornings to accommodate the parking by church members who do not live in the neighborhood. He indicated the condominium was adamantly opposed to the change and would use all means to fight the proposal. Commissioner Jackson reported that he had been contacted by Commissioner Stephens (ANC 2F) in whose SMD the change would occur. At the February meeting of ANC 2F that commission voted to oppose the proposal and was exploring alternative solutions to the parking situation. Mr Jackson gave Mr. Bliss the contact information for Mr. Stephens.
2. **Martha Shannon**, 1615 Q Street asked if the construction fencing around the association building at New Hampshire and Q could be removed since she was under the impression the project was complete. Mr. Jackson reported that there was still landscaping and possible parking reconfiguration to be completed in the project. It was recommended that Ms. Shannon contact Mr. Pitsor upon his return for the project details and status.
3. **John Ralls of Council Member Evans' Office** introduced himself as the new representative to ANC 2B's meetings. He reported that Mr. Evans' office had most recently worked on stepped up enforcement of the early morning trash pickup laws in the neighborhood and supported the renewal of the 17th St. Liquor Moratorium.
4. **Commissioner Cary** reported there was a movement to retake the Wilson Building as City Hall and to try and persuade GSA to terminate the agreement with developer Conrad Monts. The following motion was moved by commissioner Cary and seconded by Commissioner Newton:

ANC 2B send a letter to Congress member Norton, with copies to Mayor Williams and Council Chair Cropp recommending they move as quickly as possible to reclaim the building for residents given there is symbolic value in the building as well as economic.

The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE REPORTS

Lt. Taliaferro represented PSA 308 and Master Patrol Officer Lee represented PSA 309. The lieutenant reported the program was now in place for lieutenants to lead the PSAs and that there would be 70 new sargents in the next few weeks. For the month of January the only area with an increase in crime was theft from autos all others were down. A new program CHIPs has recently been initiated. It stands for Community High Intensity Patrol. Also, the special officers assigned to cite early morning trash pickups have issued several \$300 fines.

ISSUES:

1. **Anne Yonkers and Marlene Westin of American Farmland Trust** reported on the Fresh Farm Market project at Dupont Circle. This past year they met the goals of numbers of farmers included and in business donations. The local chef demos were popular and the number of volunteers is growing. The market donated over 3,700 pounds of unpurchased food to the DC Central Kitchen and to Food & Friends. The 1999 Market will operate from May 2 through December 19 from 9 am to 1 pm. Ms. Yonkers requested that the ANC write letters of support to DCRA and the Office of Emergency Preparedness supporting the market and the street closing from 7 am to 3 pm. Commissioner Rosenthal moved and Commissioner King seconded the following motion:

ANC 2B supports the plans by American Farmland Trust and that appropriate letters of support be sent as requested by the Trust.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. **ABC License renewals.** Commissioner Cary read the list of establishments that were requesting renewal of their ABC licenses. No comments were received from the audience and no action was taken on any of the licenses.

3. **New ABC license for KAZ, 1915 I St.** Commissioner Cary opened the discussion on this new license. Mr. Jackson reminded everyone that we had provided provisional support for this at last month's meeting since there had previously been a license at this site in the business district. There were no comments on the license from commissioners or the audience and no action was taken.

4. **Cafe Nora, request for change in ABC license.** Commissioner Rosenthal reported that Nora's had requested an increase in ABC seating from 75 to 99 when they open their new addition. Nora's has also signed a voluntary agreement to resolve parking concerns expressed by neighbors when the zoning variance was presented. Commissioner Rosenthal moved and Commissioner Newton seconded the following:

ANC 2B support the renewal of the ABC license for Cafe Nora and the request for additional seating to a total of 99.

The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Rosenthal:

- 1) A voluntary agreement is in progress to resolve the peace order and quiet issues at Mr. P's.
- 2) A voluntary agreement was signed with The Fireplace addressing the neighborhood concerns and the protest was withdrawn.
- 3) Fuzio Pasta. There has been some improvement with the garlic problem, but it is still not resolved. Commissioner Rosenthal moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that:

a letter be sent to DCRA with a copy to the landlord indicating ANC2B's support of the residents request for improved ventilation for cooking and revisions to the HVAC system.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 4) A voluntary agreement is still in progress for Cafe Japone. A review of the site determined that additional action would be necessary. They have built a nightclub across the basement level of several buildings without permits, ABC license expansions or changes in occupancy. Commissioner Rosenthal moved and Commissioner Newton seconded that:

ANC 2B send a letter to DCRA and to A & M Investments (owners of the building) requesting that DCRA investigate whether the expansion was properly permitted and that a second letter be sent to the Board of Zoning Adjustment requesting an investigation into zoning violations at the site.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newton reported that the Marriott Hotel on P Street is behind on the construction and they had requested to work on Monday, February 15, the Presidents' Day holiday but were turned down by the city. Given the past cooperation by Donahoe Construction to date, Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner King seconded that:

ANC 2B send a letter to DCRA supporting the work by Donahoe Construction at the Marriott Hotel on P Street, provided that they begin at 9 am (the Saturday hours).

The motion passed.

Commissioner Jackson reported on continued discussion with St. Luke's Church and the BZA concerning the reopening of their parking lots. BZA has indicated they would not reopen the recent case. The church will have to wait for the current 2 year exception on the P Street lot to

near expiration before reapplying. Diana White, Sr. Warden of St. Luke's reported that neighbors had driven their car through the cables closing the lots and thus had bent several poles. Mr. Jackson encouraged the church to work with the MPD to ticket illegal cars on the lot to prevent fines from BZA for non-compliance with the order.

One neighbor interested in reopening the lots is the Institute of World Politics at 1529 16th St. In the discussions it was determined that they were operating a post secondary school without the necessary zoning exception. Mr. Jackson recommended that they takes steps to come into compliance with the zoning regulations.

Commissioner DeHart reported that Council Member Catania had scheduled oversight hearings on ANC operations, that ours was scheduled for February 16 and that she would be attending. In the event that Chairman Pitsor is unable to attend after he returns from his trip, Mr. Jackson indicated he could attend.

Commissioner King reported on a document received from ANC 2F concerning proposed changes to ABC regulations. Initially it was recommended that we acknowledge receipt of the document and its consistence with our 1998 Annual Report, but detailed action would not be taken until a later date. After much discussion about the impact the document would have on relations with the business community and pending moratorium renewals the comments about further action were dropped. Commissioner King then moved and Commissioner Rosenthal seconded that:

a letter be sent to ANC 2F acknowledging receipt of their document outlining suggested reforms to ABC regulations. Many of ANC 2F's suggestions are consistent with comments in ANC 2B's FY98 Annual Report specifically those items concerning compliance with regulations by problem establishments and quality of life issues resulting from of ABC licensed establishments.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cary

1) A voluntary agreement has been signed with Club Chaos resolving the trash and rat problems.
2) Notice was received from the Public Service Commission that Frontera Cantina has requested installation of a pay phone in front of their restaurant. Commissioner Jackson suggested that we follow precedent set with the request by Java House and approve Frontera's request conditional upon it being attached to the building since the sidewalk there is quite narrow. Commissioner Cary moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded the following:

ANC 2B supports the installation of an outside pay phone at Frontera Cantina provided that it is attached to their building and is for outgoing calls only. We do not support any freestanding pay phones on that segment of sidewalk.

The motion passed unanimously.

3) Finally, Commissioner Cary reported that she has accepted a job in Florida and would be resigning her commission effective March 1, 1999. She commended the ANC commissioners for the example they set for the city. Commissioner King thanked Dr. Cary for being such a thoughtful citizen legislators and the other commissioners echoed his sentiment.

There was no **OLD BUSINESS** discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Jackson reported that PSA 309 is in need of funds to contribute towards utility expenses for their monthly meeting now being held at the Church of the Holy City. Commissioner DeHart requested and others concurred that we should wait until renewed funding is certain before making any grants.

Commissioner Cary adjourned the meeting at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donald Jackson