

Minutes of the July 17, 1999 Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B (Dupont Circle)

Chairman Pitsor called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Commissioners Newton, DeHart, King, Jackson, and Shannon were present.

Administrative Matters The minutes of the June 9, 1999 meeting were approved as distributed. Chairman Pitsor announce that Vince Micone was the only candidate certified by the Board of Elections to fill the vacancy in SMD 2B02. He read the attached resolution approving Mr. Micone's appointment and moved that we support the resolution. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Micone introduced himself to the community.

POLICE AND CRIME REPORTS

Lt. Taliferro spoke for the Third District. For the nine categories of crimes that are recorded, there was a 23% drop compared to the same monthly period as last year and theft from autos were even down 29%. They have closed several robbery and burglary cases. He informed the assembly that there would be a National Night Out program on August 3. The Third District would be registering bicycles at the Resource Center and flyers will be circulated informing the larger community.

An attendee questioned the reassignment of officers from the Dupont Circle PSA's to Fifth and O Sts. to perform a drivers license check. Lt. Taliferro responded that it was one of several temporary CHIPS assignments and that Dupont Circle had borrowed officers from other PSAs to fight drug activity on Hopkins Place and in the circle itself. Allen Battson of Hillyer Place complained about lack of call back by the Third District and felt that response to crime on his block were minimal because the calls related to plant thefts. Mr. Battson felt this was a quality of life issue and that the police were focusing on these and the response should be better. Lt. Taliferro agreed to meet with Mr. Battson.

OPEN FORUM

Judy Werdell asked the ANC to put the agenda on the office tape and possibly post it at the Resource Center. She also expressed concern that many small buildings on Connecticut Avenue north of the circle were recently purchased by one firm and that the smaller businesses might be evicted for larger combined store like a GAP.

Margaret Gentry from the law office of John Ray spoke on pending cable TV legislation and asked for ANC 2B support of a prepared resolution. Since the commission had not read the proposal and it is a complex city wide issue, Chairman Pitsor tabled the discussion for a later meeting

Loyal Greer thanked Commissioner Pitsor for assistance in repairs to the stop light a 18th & P Sts.

Commissioner King recommended a book to Mr. Battson that discussed the problem of theft of rare, tropical plants in Florida.

Chairman Pitsor responded to a recent column in the *Intowner* that he resign because of statements made during an interview concerning the Logan Circle ANC initiative to revise ABC regulations. Mr. Pitsor indicated that he was out of town for the ANC meeting in question and statements made to Mr. Romanello were accurate at the time and that the ANC only voted to support the intent of the Logan Circle initiative. Commissioner King confirmed that he was the person who made the motion to support the initiative, not Mr. Pitsor.

ISSUES

1. **Presentation by Vince Spaulding on the Clean City Initiative** Mr. Spaulding is a mayoral appointee and is charged with coordinating the city wide program. He provided the ANC with a document outlining the strategy for educating the community, the focal points, and the 12 agencies that were identified as having a role in maintaining cleanliness of the city. It will be implemented incrementally across the city with Mt. Pleasant, Georgia Avenue, Sousa Bridge area, Florida Avenue, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue areas first.

He asked for everyone's input on improving the quality of life in the city. All tasks have due dates and the mayor expects action on each. There will be a Clean City Symposium on July 20 that will include government employees from across the country. The city has budgeted \$1.5 million for new cleaning equipment to be purchased by year end.

An attendee asked if the city could help with collecting the trash bags from the two downtown area BIDs that pile up at certain corners. Mr. Spaulding responded that they were already reviewing the pickup schedules to assist with the problem. In response to other questions, he agreed to look into cleaning the open bases of street light posts and to work with Gwen Mitchell of Parking Services to enforce parking restrictions on days when automated street cleaning is scheduled.

2. **Residential Development, 1500 block of O Street** Chairman Pitsor gave a brief overview of the history of the discussions on this site and introduced Eric Colbert, architect for the project. In response to concerns about the original scale the proposed building several alternatives were discussed with neighbors and HPRB staff. Option #2 received the support of the O Street neighbors. It included rounded corners at the party wall next to the existing O St. residences and at 15th St. and the corners were also lowered so the front of the building steps down in height from the front center to each corner. Commissioner DeHart indicated that she had a letter in hand from the O St neighbors approving the revised design. She then moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that:

ANC 2B heartily support the residential development in the 1500 block of O Street marked "Option Two" and that a letter of endorsement be sent to HPRB.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **ABC ISSUES**

Quattro, 1823 Jefferson Place The restaurant was previously known as Trattori. Chairman Pitsor introduced the new owner, Attila Vitali, who plans to reopen it as Quattro and is only

asking for a CR license. Mr. Vitali is requesting a stipulated license since there has previously been an ABC license on the premise. The new restaurant will have 54 seats and will be open from 5 pm until 11 on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Chairman Pitsor then moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that:

ANC 2B support the issuance of a stipulated CR license at 1823 Jefferson Pl.

The motion passed unanimously.

Viareggio, 1727 Connecticut Ave. Chairman Pitsor announced that we had received notice of the intent to transfer their Class B license from their Brookland store to here. ANC 2B had already endorsed that action and no action was taken.

- 4. West Dupont Circle ABC Moratorium** Chairman Pitsor began the discussion with a review of the history of the existing moratorium. He reviewed the number of licenses in each category which include two CR licenses which are not active, but whose renewals are current. During the moratorium, the Mansion on O St. received a CX license via a council exemption. Finally, the ABC Board extended the zone north to R Street & Hillyer Pl. although the petition requested Q Street as the northern boundary.

Chairman Pitsor raised the issue of moving the boundary to Q Street so that none of Connecticut Ave would be included in the zone. This is also preferred by DCMAP. Commissioner Jackson responded that given the problems with parking at Nora's and the potential for licenses at the art galleries on R Street the boundary should remain the same otherwise we would be exacerbating already problematic neighborhood relations. He understood that it was difficult having a portion of Connecticut Ave in the zone, but the issues on R Street overrode the Connecticut Ave concerns. Commissioners King, Shannon and Newton agreed with Commissioner Jackson. Mr. Micone voiced his concurrence as well although he could not vote.

Chairman Pitsor moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that:

ANC 2B petition the ABC Board to renew the West Dupont ABC Moratorium for a period of five years, that transfers of licenses within the zone would be permitted, but no new licenses and that the boundary would be approximately 600 ft from 21st and P Sts. using the current street designations. The basis for this petition is over concentration of licenses, negative impact on residential parking and peace, order and quiet issues per the original petition.

The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Pitsor then moved and Commissioner King seconded that:

ANC 2B also requests expeditious action by the ABC Board since it is our understanding that the current moratorium expires in October and we ask that the Board enact emergency rulemaking to avoid a lapse in the moratorium and its renewal if granted.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Report of the Dupont Circle Parking Task Force** Chairman Pitsor reviewed the activities of the task force to date. The first meeting was on June 23 and a broad cross section of the community was represented and included residential, business, and institutional persons. The task force will be coordinating its efforts with adjoining task forces in Adams Morgan and Logan Circle. A walking survey and inventory of all curb parking and related signage was conducted July 12-14 and potential changes were noted.

The next meeting of the task force will be on July 27 at St. Thomas Parish, 6:30 pm. The next major activity is a community wide survey of parking issues and needs. The method has not been decided. The task force goal is that by November action requests can be sent to DPW, police department and Metro as appropriate.

In response to questions on evaluating off-street parking, rules for valet services and the residential parking permits and the balance of residential vs. business needs, Chairman Pitsor responded that all of these issues are on the table for discussion over the next few months and that the community should participate in the process.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Shannon reported that she received questions about parking at the Baptist Building, next to the construction site at 16th and R Streets. She determined that permits had been issued and that parking is legal for the construction workers for the duration of the construction project. No other cars are being parked in this space.

OLD BUSINESS

Olives, 918 16th St. Resident Des Foynes questioned if the public space permit had to issued before applying for an ABC license that included the outdoor space. Chairman Pitsor indicated that it is not a typical to apply for an ABC license before receiving a certificate of occupancy and sidewalk cafes. If they want to use public space, they will have to file an application that will be reviewed by the ANC.

Planned Parenthood Chairman Pitsor announced that Planned Parenthood would be at our next meeting discussing their BZA case concerning relocation their headquarters to 18th St. and Massachusetts Ave., formerly The Yater Clinic.

There being no further business, Chairman Pitsor announced the next meeting for August 11 and adjourned this meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,