

## **Minutes of the April 12, 2000 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 minutes of the March 8, 2000 meeting were approved as distributed. Commissioner DeHart presented the Second Quarter Treasurer's Report for the current fiscal year. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Micone seconded that the report be approved as presented.

### **POLICE AND CRIME REPORTS**

**Lt. Taliaferro spoke for the Third District.** There was a slight increase in robberies, but other types of thefts were down almost 60%. The MPD is gearing up for the upcoming IMF meeting. Lt. Taliaferro promised to add the Q St truck and bus ticket statistics to the monthly crime report. He also reported the lieutenants have email boxes, his is PSA309LT@HOTMAIL.COM. The email alert system will resume operations once the complete email system is revised.

### **OPEN FORUM**

The owner of a new restaurant, *Bistro Du Coin*, gave an overview of his plans for the former *Food for Thought* location. The menu and decor will be French bistro. It will open by month-end. The hours will be 11:30 am to 11:30 pm 7 days a week. There will be no live music and the prices will not be high-end. He and his brother are the sole business partners and both live in Dupont Circle.

### **ISSUES**

- 1. Library Renovation at Ross Elementary School.** Debbie Hanrahan introduced the school principal, Gloria Smith and volunteer architect and neighbor, John Webenson. The library is on a lower floor. The basic plan is to improve the windows and thus the natural lighting, provide study carrels and computer stations and move the staff work tables to a separate room by shrinking a kitchenette. The majority of work will be interior and can be accomplished over the summer. The cost will be approximately \$20,000 of which \$10,000 has been raised through various efforts including the Christmas tree sales at 17th and R Sts. Lois Berlin of the DCCA Education Committee reported that DCCA has donated \$5,000 reducing the remaining funds needed to \$5,000.

Ms. Smith, who has helped the school win an achievement award, discussed her philosophy of the library being the center of the school. The Ross library was the schools greatest deficiency when she arrived two years ago. They have added Internet access but still need more books and a conducive study atmosphere. Mr. Jallo, the librarian, reviewed his efforts at the school to

improve the children's reading skills.

Commissioner Micone saluted the efforts of the school staff and described the library project as an investment in the community. Chairman Pitsor then moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that:

ANC 2B supports the library renovation project for Ross Elementary School and encourages the fundraising projects. ANC 2B also recognizes the work of Debbie Hanrahan and DCCA for their support of the project.

The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner King added that the School Board will be having community meetings in the late summer or early fall to discuss long term building and facility plans and encouraged concerned citizens to participate.

- 2. Mayor's Fiscal 2001 Budget.** Kathryn Allen of the Mayor's Office of Banking and Financial Institutions spoke on the planned budget. She began with educational follow-up comments by reporting that the her agency has encouraged all banks in the District to start savings accounts for all students.

The Mayor's budget is designed to invest in the citizen initiatives from the meetings held during the past year and that spending be responsible. There are four focus points and she reported the highlights of each. 1) Schools. He plans full funding of the school budget with pay raises, performance bonuses and career development funds. There will also be increased building improvements. 2) Safe Neighborhoods. The police budget would be increased and at least 175 officers would be added. The mayor would continue the gun buy-back program. There would be programs to close drug markets and perform other clean-ups. The budget also includes money for more fire trucks. 3) Neighborhood Development. Programs would be funded to deal with vacant and abandoned buildings, increase the number of inspectors and increase the DC agency presence in neighborhoods. 4) Government Services. The budget includes increased funding for DPW for equipment and new technology and performance bonuses.

Ms. Allen provided copies for the budget outline for the meeting. Chairman Pitsor reported that the budget was with the Council for review in April and May in order to get a consensus budget to Congress. He also reminded Ms. Allen that the resident discussions focused on problems with DMV, building permits and housing inspectors. Commissioner Micone requested that residents with specific problems email them to us for reporting to her agency for consideration in the review process.

Finally, Ms. Allen reviewed her agency. It charters banks, mortgage brokers and check cashers. They also work to provide equal access to capital and services in all wards. They secure funding for school educational programs. In response to a question from Commissioner King, Ms. Allen reported that passage of the budget requires approval by both Council and the Control Board.

3. **Millennium March on Washington** The March's organizing committee was represented by Jonathan Zucker. This will be the fourth national march for gay, lesbian and bisexual rights. The plans have been in progress for two years. There will be numerous events Friday through Sunday, April 28-30. There is a fund raiser on Friday, a street festival Saturday & Sunday on Pennsylvania between Third and Ninth Sts., and the March on Sunday followed by a rally on The Mall. They expect 200,000 participants. It is also expected that many will visit the gay-friendly businesses in the Dupont Circle area. There will also be a rally for gay youth (age 16-20) on Saturday sponsored by Youth United.
4. **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** Junior Warden, George Nicol reported they are in the process of applying for zoning exceptions for accessory parking on their empty lots at 15th & P Sts and in the 1500 block of Church St. They have corrected the problems noted in the previous zoning order such as adding screening, repairing the wall on Church Street, adding striping, and have regularly cleaned the lots. They expect to request accessory parking with limited community use. Chairman Pitsor thanked Mr. Nicol for his report and expressed appreciation for their initiative.

Margie Beringer-Shuron of The Stonesdale at 16th & Church Sts expressed her appreciation for the church's efforts at improving the appearance of the lots and indicated that she saw them as a community asset. Jeff Hopp, 1609 Church St, indicated that he was opposed to using the lots for parking because of their slow response to the past order and the history of past violations.

5. **ABC Matters** Chairman Pitsor opened the floor for comment on the list of ABC establishments in the agenda that are seeking renewal of their licenses. The following establishments were discussed:

Ozio Chairman Pitsor reported that in addition to their renewal they would be moving from 1835 K St. to the 1813 M St. There were no objections to the renewal or relocation.

Bua 1635 P St NW Phil Carney reported that Bua and other restaurants sharing the alley continue to have trash and other sanitation problems. This has caused rat problems in neighboring Stead Playground. Commissioner DeHart indicated that she has spoken with Bua but did not see an immediate solution. Therefore Commissioner DeHart moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that:

ANC 2B protest the renewal of the ABC license for Bua, 1635 P St. NW because of sanitation problems and that she would work with them towards a voluntary agreement.

The motion passed unanimously.

Nora, 2132 Florida Ave a question was raised on parking issues. Commissioner Micone responded that the parking requirements in their zoning variance are better than what could be attained with an ABC license and he would see that the zoning agreement remained in force.

Thai Chef, 1712 Conn. Ave Chairman Pitsor reported that questions had been raised about their signage not being in compliance with HPRB statutes, but that he was not certain that was grounds

for an ABC protest. Commissioner Micone and Commissioner King responded that it was a matter of fairness for other businesses who were not allowed to have such signs and that a proliferation of such signs would become a quality of life issue. Chairman Pitsor then moved and Commissioner King seconded that

ANC 2B protest the renewal of the ABC license for Thai Chef, 1712 Connecticut Ave NW pending resolution of the HPRB case.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Shannon** reported that the reactivated Vector Control Office visited PSA 309's monthly meeting to report on its activities in the neighborhood. She also has received notice from DPW that the traffic study requested for the intersection of 17th & Corcoran Sts is on their work list.

**Commissioner Micone** reported on a meeting with Jack Evans and Andy Altman, Dir. Office of Planning to discuss enhancements for the P Street corridor, west of the circle, as directed in the Comprehensive Plan. A time line was developed that includes community input. The project should begin in late summer. Commissioner King questioned whether the Mayor supported fully funding the Planning Office in his proposed 2001 Budget.

**Commissioner Newton** reported that she met with Parks & Recreation Dept. representatives regarding removal of playground equipment from Francis School. The past equipment was deemed unsafe and not replaced because there was no perceived need. Commissioner Micone responded that he felt some equipment should be replaced as an indicator of support for families in the neighborhood. Commissioner Newton also reported that she is investigating the process to have a traffic light installed at 22nd and O Sts because of recent constituent requests.

**Commissioner Jackson** reported that at the next meeting we would be discussing a requested zoning exception for the National Association of Hispanic Health Clinics at 1601 16th St (at P St). They wish to fully enclose their existing rooftop area which is already partially covered and has a partial wall.

**Commissioner DeHart** reported on problems in her area from road work for communications infrastructure and hoped it did not get worse when the Scott Circle renovations began.

**Commissioner Pitsor** reported he has been discussing with the Park Service their plans for renovating Dupont Circle Park and hopes they will be able to attend our June meeting. He also received word that on March 20 the DC Bankruptcy Court ruled in favor of the city to terminate the lease for the space. The city may now proceed to Landlord Tenant Court to finalize the process.

**Lyle Blanchard** of Jack Evans Office reported that Jack had written a letter to the Public Space Committee requesting enforcement of collection of public space fees. Jack also sent a letter to Cmdr. Mark Beach of the Third District requesting increased traffic enforcement in the area. In response to Commissioner King's question about funding for the Office of Planning, Mr. Blanchard pointed out the OP is under the Committee of the Whole and we should send comments to regarding that office to any and all council members.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Micone reported that he was almost finished with the report of the Parking Task Force.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Questions were raised about the Lucky Bar, 1200 block of Connecticut Ave., regarding the legality of their awning, the proximity of their tables to the curb and the practice of parking bicycles on the awning posts. Chairman Pitsor agreed to discuss the matter with them.

Chairman Pitsor discussed a letter he received from St. Thomas' Parish regarding plans to renovate their park and the need for additional funding for the project. The commission was in agreement that the park is a community asset. Commissioner King moved and Commissioner Micone seconded that:

ANC 2B donate \$200 to St. Thomas' Parish Park Renovation Project and that the amount be charged against our Grants line in the budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Jane Klipple, 1500 block of Church St, complained that for several weeks there has been a water leak at 16th & Church Sts. Another resident concurred and added that a large number of bricks from the curb and sidewalk replacement project were left in front of The Stonesdale Condominium although the project has progress quite far up 16th St. Commissioner Jackson agreed to contact the appropriate persons to investigate the problems.

Chairman Pitsor announced the next public meeting on April 12. this meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

