

Minutes of the July 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, and DeHart were present. Commissioner Newton was out of town.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS The minutes of the June, 2000 meeting were approved as distributed. Commissioner DeHart distributed the Third Quarter Treasurer's Report and reviewed key items. We ended the quarter with a balance of approximately \$16,500. Commissioner Micone moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that we approve the report. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE AND CRIME REPORTS

No representative of any police agencies covering the Dupont Circle area were present at this meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Jackson reported on his attendance at the Green Door's Annual Awards Ceremony. They are looking for additional businesses to hire their clients. Materials describing the agency and their need were available at the sign-in table.

Bill Rice of the DPW's Division of Transportation was present. He reported that the Q Street bridge would be opening soon. Also, the P Street bridge rebuilding would begin next year, but the bridge would remain open the whole time. He agreed to assist Chairman Pitsor determine the status of road repair projects in the Dupont Circle area and gave his phone and email contact information future questions.

Phil Carney reported his frustration with the Dept. of Parks when no one showed up at Stead Playground for their publicly announced review of neighborhood parks. He requested that the ANC investigate. Mr. Carney also requested that the ANC write a letter to the Board of Elections and Ethics requesting they review compliance with candidate sign posting laws in the Dupont Circle area. Chairman Pitsor agreed to contact BOEE.

ISSUES

- 1. WMATA Presentation of plans for canopies at Dupont Circle METRO station entrances.** Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority was represented by Ronald Williams, Project Manager for the Canopies Project, Ed Riley, Manager of Architectural Services and Murray Bond of Community Relations. Mr. Williams reported that in 1999 53 METRO stations were identified as needing canopies over the entrances to help reduce maintenance and safety problems.

Six of those were singled out as requiring special treatment and the Dupont Circle North entrance was one. The time line for the project calls for neighborhood reviews to be completed in September, RFPs to be issued during the remainder of 2000 and awarding of contracts during the second quarter 2001.

The WMATA Board chose the canopy at the Courthouse Square station as the basic design. It consists of painted steel frame with a glass roof. The entrance height is tall enough to allow access by escalator maintenance equipment. The Dupont North initial conceptual proposal was also based on this design but would just cover the escalator area, not the full circle at the entrance. Commissioner DeHart asked about cleaning the glass. Mr. Williams responded they roof had minimum muntions between glass panes so that dirt would not accumulate. He also responded to a question on overall size of the canopy by indicating it most likely would go to the curb in order to cover the escalator mechanical "well" at street level.

Several neighborhood residents and commissioners expressed their disappointment with the initial design for Dupont North calling it mundane and totally inappropriate for a site that offers majestic views as one ascends from the station. A suggestion that an architectural design contest be used for this site was well received by the assembly.

Questions about the Dupont South entrance concerned fitting the standard canopy on the site given the parapet's close proximity to the adjacent building. It was also suggested that the entire plaza areas at both entrances needed to be reviewed for improvements, not just the canopy impact. WMATA staff agreed to review the site. Commissioner Micone requested that we table a decision on this topic until our August meeting to prevent hastily approving a utilitarian solution. Mr. Williams reminded the assembly that doing nothing is an option, but that as of November 1999 a canopy is required by city code and rebuilding of the escalators could result in the invoking of the new code.

2. **Dupont Circle Parking Task Force.** Commissioner Micone reported the Task Force met recently to review the draft report. He regretted having to postpone the previously announced meeting for July because a number of support documents were not ready for presentation and there were problems with the mailing of a summary to all Dupont Circle residents. He hopes to have the meeting in August or September. A resident asked about the Task Force position on curb cuts for parking and Mr. Micone responded that the draft document opposes them.
3. **St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parking Lot BZA Applications** Commissioner Jackson introduced the subject by reviewing the key points of the last BZA decision governing use of the lots. Mr. George Nicol, Jr. Warden, represented the church. He reported that they have filed two separate applications, one the P Street lot and one for Church Street. They plan to ask for accessory parking use of the lots for the church. They have also received numerous requests from neighborhood groups and some residents that need parking, but they do not have an operating plan yet for these types of use. They plan to have a meeting in early August to discuss issues with interested and concerned neighbors.

A neighbor on the south side of P Street asked why they need to keep the attendant shed. Mr. Nicole said they would consider removing it. Commissioners Jackson and Micone stressed the importance of having the community meeting before the August ANC meeting so that the ANC could have the opportunity to make a statement. It was also stressed that at that time they needed to have a complete detailed plan that covered operations and maintenance so the commission could be sure past problems would not return.

4. **ABC licenses renewals** Chairman Pitsor asked if there were any comments on the establishments listed in the agenda that had applied for renewal of their ABC licenses.

Raku Commissioner Shannon reported that on Friday and Saturday the line of patrons waiting to be seated regularly blocks the sidewalk. Also, the sidewalk is in disrepair and the trash is not picked up regularly. Commissioner Micone offered to discuss these issues with the manager.

DC Jewish Community Center Commissioner Jackson reported that he had been talking with the JCC since March about an additional dumpster because of regular trash overflows but that it was still not installed. Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that

ANC 2B opposed the renewal of the ABC license for the DC JCC because problems with trash control and its impact on the order of the neighborhood. Additionally, Commissioner Jackson was authorized to develop a voluntary agreement regarding trash control and that if an agreement is made the protest could be withdrawn.

The motion passed unanimously.

DC Cafe Commissioner Micone reported complaints of trash problems at this establishment like the JCC. Commissioner Micone moved and Commissioner Shannon seconded that

ANC 2B opposed the renewal of the ABC license for the DC Cafe because problems with trash control and its impact on the order of the neighborhood. Additionally, Commissioner Micone was authorized to develop a voluntary agreement regarding trash control and that if an agreement is made the protest could be withdrawn.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner DeHart reported on her work with 17th Street restaurants backing up to Stead Playground. We previously protested Peppers and Bua because of trash problems. These owners and others have been cooperating with Commissioner DeHart to resolve the problem. She felt the trash problems were not related to their ABC license and resolution would require help of other city agencies. Commissioner Micone requested that Commissioner DeHart work with Peppers to comply with public space laws and not display dinners on the public sidewalk. Commissioner Shannon and resident Phil Carney questioned the commitment of the restaurant owners because of their long history trying to resolve the same problems with no success.

Commissioner DeHart was not familiar with past efforts and felt the progress to date showed commitment. Commissioner DeHart then moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that

ANC 2B withdraw the protests of the renewal of the ABC licenses for Bua and Peppers restaurants because of their cooperation in working towards a solution to trash problems on their common alley.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Micone expressed his appreciation to the corporation that owns Fuzio and Wrapworks as they have been responsive in trying to resolve problems that resulted in the ANC protesting their ABC renewals.

5. **ABC Reform Legislation** Chairman Pitsor reported that Councilmember Ambrose's committee is having a hearing July 13 on new ABC Reform Legislation. A key point is that it removes ABC from DCRA and provides it with its own budget and staff. Additionally, it requires valet parking services used by ABC establishments to be bonded and insured and to only use off-street parking. Comments have previously been submitted by Commissioner Pitsor at a public hearing.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Micone expressed his disappointment that there was no police presence at this meeting as he had an issue to discuss--a recently posted alley closing. Also, he was contacted recently about restarting the Rat Coalition west of the circle. Margie Young has been working with Vince Spaulding to resolve the on-going problem. He solicited additional participants

Commissioner Jackson reported that he had been contacted by a constituent about the loss of trash receptacles on 16th Street since the sidewalk were replaced. He requested the commission's support of a letter to DPW requesting the replacement of all receptacles on 16th Street from Scott Circle to U Street.

Commissioner Pitsor reported that he and DCCA representative had met with Chief Ramsey about the lack of presence of police in Dupont Circle and leadership problems in the Third District's PSAs.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Building Commissioner DeHart reported that ANC 2B continue to be a party to the protest of the BZA case based on our previous votes. The hearings will continue on July 21.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Pitsor reported the MPD has a new unit for Gay/Lesbian Relations. It operates out of headquarters under the direction of Deputy Chief Gainer, but would rotate among the various districts. The unit will be sponsoring discussions and seminars to help relations between MPD and the gay/lesbian community.

Chairman Pitsor announced the next public meeting on August 9. This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald Q. Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Donald Jackson,
Secretary