

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B
DUPONT CIRCLE**

**#9 Dupont Circle, NW Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-296 7333**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, August 8th, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church Street NW**

Chair Vince Micone called the August 8th Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B to order at 7:30 P.M. After welcoming all in attendance on a very hot August evening, he asked the commissioners present to identify themselves and give their single member district number. Present were Marilyn Newton (2B06), Irv Morgan (2B07), Jeff Hopp (2B04), Doug Damron (2B05) and Chair Vince Micone (2B02). Absent were David Jolliffe (2B03) and Norma Chaplain (2B01). Since 5 of the 7 Commissioners were present, the Chair declared a quorum so that the Commission could conduct business.

No Police being present, the Chair proceeded to OPEN FORUM AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that Chris Sheheen sent a letter to the Commission concerning public meetings to be held on Tuesday August 14th and August 21st to discuss quality of life issues and other issues in the District. Call him at 202 442-7631 if you need further clarification.

Micone recognized Clark Ray, Ward 2 Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and he reported on the 1st neighborhood Vector Control Meeting addressing violations of the Health Code of DC and advising business owners and citizens on interagency ways to address the problems.

Rachel Malone of DC Vote gave a presentation on the activities of that group. DC Vote supports legislation that would give the residents of the District the right to vote. Volunteers go down to the Mall each Saturday to collect names on petitions supporting the right of the resident of the District to vote and passing out flyers to that effect. Some nine thousand names have been collected since the beginning of the summer. DC Vote also holds informational forums throughout the city and is currently supporting legislation in the House of Representatives that repeals Federal Taxes in the District until the District gets the vote. House Bill 1193 No Taxation without Representation Act of 2001 has 109 co-sponsors.
www.dcvote.org

ISSUES

1. Jessica Montoya, Community and Governmental Relations
Director of Washington Gas made a presentation on the reasons for Washington Gas' proposed rate increase. After making handouts and pamphlets available to the audience she remarked that Washington Gas had had no rate increase in 7 years, the last one being in 1994. The cost of doing business has gone up due to changes in the rules of the DC Public Works Department that requires the Gas company to repave the whole street even though they have made only two small cuts in the block. The company is also

upgrading its computer system. In response to questions she stated that Washington Gas is asking the Public Service Commission to let them increase their return on equity from 11.5% to 12.5% in order to make them more competitive in the investment market. Rates in DC are higher than in northern Virginia and adjoining Maryland counties because the cost of doing business in the District of Columbia is higher because of more stringent regulation and its being a concentrated urban area.

Chair Micone stated for informational purposes that the Public Service Commission has Public Hearings on this matter that are publicized and will take oral and written comment on the rate proposal.

Before proceeding to the next ISSUE, Sgt Brett Parson of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit of the MPD was recognized to give part of the **LOCAL POLICE and CRIME REPORTS**.

In response to 6 muggings or robberies from the person in the last month an undercover tack unit has been patrolling 14th Street. Three of the robberies have been attributed to a black male in his late teens or early twenties. A gun has been used but no shooting although one person was hit with the gun. If accosted, do not resist give them the money or what they ask for and proceed quickly as possible to call 911. Don't walk alone, stay in well lit areas and avoid 14th and Rhode Island where the lighting is not good.

Lieutenant Diane Groomes of PSA 309 is also Lieutenant of the Power Squad. The Power Squad is made up of 24 officers and 3 Sergeants divided into three zones. The Squad works from 8:30 p.m. until 5:30 a.m. the next morning-Tuesday evening through Sunday morning at 5:00 a.m. All clubs are being policed by the Power Squad units. In policing the clubs the units are looking to see if there is no underage drinking, if all other ABC rules and regulations are being followed and that the clubs close on time. On 17th Street, the clubs are in compliance, but P Street is not as good as there is some fighting outside of the clubs.

After Lt. Groomes had finished her presentation, Micone stated that, "Few are better than Lt Groomes as a role model for policing in the Metropolitan Police Department." At this point a resounding round of applause went up for the Lieutenant.

2. BZA Application # 16754 by LLL Limited Partners (The Governor's House Hotel) at 1615 Rhode Island Ave., NW for Certain Variances and Special Exceptions (2B05)

Before the Discussions began, Vince Micone revealed that he was good friends with the General Manager of the Governor's House, but that he had no financial or personal interest in the business. J. Hatick, the General Manager and Eric Morris, architect for proposed expansion, made the presentation on behalf of the principals who were present at the meeting. The Manager, Mr. Hatick, stated that the reasons for expansion were that the Convention Center is nearby bringing in more people; that the government has negotiated a new per diem rate that more closely follows the private per diem; that the Hotel, being built in the 1960's, is obsolete; and that the number of visitors coming to the District is increasing. The addition will allow for 49 new rooms and 2000 square feet more of meeting space. The restaurant will be pushed out a little but there will still be some outside seating. The Hotel has 80 parking spaces, 115 with valet parking. Eric Morris, the architect, spoke to the

variances and exceptions. Since the hotel was built in the 1960's, the rules have changed and they want to match the existing space that will require a variance from the new rules. The building originally had no loading dock which was a variance then and the applicant wants to continue that variance by not having a loading dock. The applicants are also seeking a parking variance in that they need 54 legal spaces but only have 44 legal spaces even though they have 80 actual spaces, and 115 with valet parking. The Public Space request is to use what they are currently using. Mike Fasano of DCCA pondered what the impact on the neighborhood would be of adding 23,000 square feet to a 68,000 square foot building. Construction will not begin before next August so no one need fear closing of sidewalks on both sides of the street. (DC law does not allow this in any event) A question was raised from the floor as to whether or not the Hotel had a Public Space Permit and the questioner was assured that they did and that it was renewed annually and would be shown to the questioner upon request. As to the unsightly dumpsters behind the hotel, the applicants agreed to use landscaping or green polyester screen fencing. Commissioner Damron moved that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B support the variances and exceptions sought by the applicants' in BZA Application #16754. After a second by Commissioner Hopp, a vote was taken in which the AYES were UNANIMOUS, there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS.

3. BZA Application #16743 by CESC 1140 Connecticut Avenue Limited Partners at 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, for a variance to Extend Storefront Windows (2B07)

Trey Burke, attorney, and Rusty Edwards, architect, made the presentation for the applicants. Mr. Burke stated that the applicants were making extensive renovations to the property and wanted to extend the storefront up to the property line so that it would now be in line with the adjacent buildings. This renovation would only enhance the looks of the building and that only 1,000 square feet would be added. Mr. Edward, the architect, with the help of architectural renderings said that they would be keeping the trees and would extend the lobby entrance to the street (sidewalk). A compatible granite facing would be used with glass storefronts and bronze paneling. There will be a canopy over the sidewalk at the lobby entrance. A welcome pad of granite will be in front of the main entrance. Signage will be of uniform color and size and there will no neon or glowing signs, although the metal signs could be lit indirectly. Sidewalk will not be closed during renovations.

Commissioner Morgan congratulated the applicants on their well planned and presented renovations and moved that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B support the variance or variances sought in application #16743 for 1140 Connecticut Avenue. After second by Commissioner Newton, a vote was taken in which the AYES were UNANIMOUS, there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS.

4. Proposed Public Space Request for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café at 1828 L Street, NW (2B07)

A representative of an agency called Mr. Permit presented the case for the new Corner Bakery at the corner of 19th Street and L Street NW. Commissioner Damron opined that this establishment was a pleasant place to have lunch and serves no alcohol. The public space request is for 1276 square feet with 23 tables of 4 and 23 tables of 2 for a total of 138 seats.

Drawings and photos were handed out. The public space request is for 7 months from April 1st through October 31st. Even though this is a self- service restaurant, one or two employees will be employed to keep the sidewalk café clean. Currently the hours of the Corner Bakery are until 4:00 PM but there is a possibility that they may stay open until 7:00PM.

Irv Morgan, who worked out an agreement with the Corner Bakery to keep a full 10 feet between the planters boxes and the perimeters of the sidewalk café on L Street, moved that ANC 2B support the request for an unenclosed sidewalk café subject to the agreement worked out by Commissioner Morgan and the Corner Bakery. After a second by Commissioner Damron, the motion passed UNANIMOUSLY there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS and the AYES being UNANIMOUS.

5. Proposed Public Space Request for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café at 2013 I Street, NW (located in ANC 2A; adjacent to ANC 2B)

The request was for 24 seats and a team of 3 persons to serve and clean up. This is an extension of a very upscale restaurant. David Shawn was present to represent the restaurant. Since this was for comment only and no action. ANC 2B had no comment.

6. Fences at Dupont Circle

The Post and Chains in the Dupont Circle Park were place there without action of ANC 2B or approval of the DC Historic Review Board, the Fine Arts Commission or the National Capitol Planning Commission. The Post and Chains have been painted black and are there ostensibly to cut down on people cutting across the grass (“cow pathing”). Since Chair Vince Micone is an employee of the Federal Government he stated he could not participate in the discussion of this matter. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Hopp seconded, that ANC 2B write a letter to the National Park Service and request that they seek approval from the appropriate agencies. The motion Passed UNANIMOUSLY, there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS and the AYES being UNANIMOUS. Chair Micone did not vote. Commissioners Morgan and Newton are to take action on this matter.

Commission Administrative Matters

- Minutes of the July 11th, 2001, Meeting Consideration postponed until the September Meeting.

- **Third Quarter Financial Report**

Commissioner Hopp (2B04), Treasurer of ANC 2B (Dupont Circle) had copies of the 3rd quarter financial report to hand out to Commissioners and to the audience. After going over the report, Hopp moved and Commissioner Morgan seconded that the report be adopted as presented. The vote was UNANIMOUS there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS and the AYES being UNANIMOUS. The report is appended and made a part of these minutes.

Chair Micone thanked Commissioner Hopp for an excellent Financial Report and for being an excellent treasurer

- **ANC Redistricting**

After the 2000 Census, the District of Columbia must readjust its wards to conform to the figures of the latest census. Some areas of Ward 1 are now in Ward 2. Chair Micone presented a plan that he had drawn up and went

over some factors that he considered in the redrafting of the boundaries; keeping the population of each single member district in accord with allowable variances in the population of each; keeping neighborhoods together, as much as possible; and keeping in mind the work load of each commissioner. Commissioner Micone walked the entire area of ANC 2B determining the number of businesses versus residences and the number of establishments who had ABC licenses. He went over each single member district in his plan. There was discussion among the commissioners and questions from the audience. Chair Micone moved and Commissioner Morgan seconded that ANC 2B present the plan as presented by the Chair as ANC 2B's plan for redistricting. Commissioner Newton moved to add 73 into 2B04, the Chair and the seconder considered this a friendly amendment and the motion passed as amended UNANIMOUSLY there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS and the AYES being UNANIMOUS. Commissioner Morgan thanked Chair Micone for his hard work and thorough efforts in coming up with this plan.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the Commissioners except from the Chair who stated that he had been appointed by Council member Jack Evans to the DCRA Advisory Board as the ANC Representative to provide advice and guidance to the DCRA.

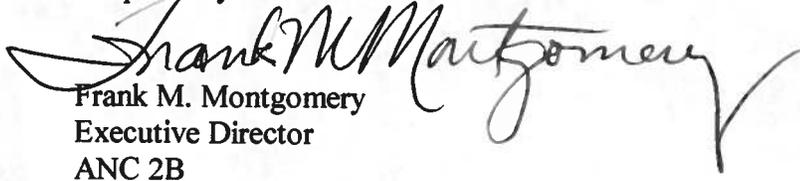
There being no OLD BUSINESS, the commission proceeded to NEW BUSINESS.

It was reported by a member of the audience that there was an unenclosed sidewalk café on P Street near 20th Street. No one apparently came before the ANC 2B to get approval. Mike Fasano of the DCCA will look into this.

Some residents of 1413 17th Street came to complain about a small carry out restaurant next door to their residence that was generating a lot of trash, stench and rats. The complainant stated that she and neighbors had worked with Clark Ray to get them fined and with Lt. Diane Grooms to get the restaurant declared a public nuisance. Nothing has seemed to work. Chair Micone will work with Commissioner Damron on this with help from the DCCA. There is also a boarding house above the restaurant that needs to be looked into. It is in need of repairs.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Public Meeting of ANC 2B was adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted.


Frank M. Montgomery
Executive Director
ANC 2B