

# **ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION**

**Public Meeting St. Thomas Parish  
Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

The April Public Meeting of ANC 2B was called to order by Chair Vince Micone at 7:30 p.m. The Chair began the meeting by asking the Commissioners to identify themselves beginning with Wayne Lerch of ANC 2B05 and continuing in order; David Jolliffe (2B03), Jeff Hop (2B04), Irv Morgan (2B07), Marilyn Newton (2B06), Norma Zane Chaplain (2B01), and Chair Vince Micone (2B02).

## **Local Police and Crime Reports**

Lt. Clauson of the U.S. Park Police had little to report but that some of his officers would be on bikes in the Dupont Circle area.

Lt. Hill of the DC Metropolitan Police PSA 308 introduced most of his squad who were present, Officers Gully, Glove, Morrow and Trainer. Hill reported that there had been Year to date as of April 8<sup>th</sup> a 55% decrease in crime in PSA 308. He reiterated as in previous appearances before ANC 2B that if one sees fit to engage a stranger in casual labor in or around one's home or apartment ask for some identification, find out what their name is and where they live. If in fact said persons are conducting reconnaissance, the police will have a starting point. Lt. Hill stated that if you see people looking into cars, or going door to door testing doorknobs, this is suspicious behavior and should be reported immediately to the police. Get a good look at the suspect so as to be able to describe the suspect better. Commissioner Lerch asked the officer about private haulers picking up trash before 7:00 am and was concerned about the lack of response when he called to report it.

Jim Oystrenic asked about the drug trafficking situation of the west side of Dupont Circle and Hill responded that a date had been set for closing that operation and that it was in progress.

The Chair announced at Public Safety Meeting on Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Dupont Circle Resource Center at 7:30 p.m. Someone from DCMAP congratulated the police for clearing out some public drunks in or near his business establishment.

## **Open Forum**

The Chair reported that as the result of an investigation of Peppers Lounge/Restaurant instigated by ANC 2B, DCCA and other interested groups, the establishment was found to have violated certain ABC and Code provisions concerning its expansion and ruled that their attempted expansion was a substantial change in their ABC license and ordered them to placard the neighborhood of that substantial change at a recent fact finding hearing of the ABC Board.

The Chair also reported that the Main Street Grant for Dupont Circle had proceeded to the next level and again stated that the additional money could be used by businesses to refurbish their buildings and surroundings. He asked for everyone's support.

Commissioner Hopp announced that there would be a Citizens Resource Survey soon. Mike Fasano announced that at 4:00p.m. On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002, there will be a rededication of the refurbished Dupont Circle Park sponsored by the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and the U.S. Park Service. The Washington Symphony Orchestra will perform.

A representative of The Phillips Collection reported being glad that so many people in the neighborhood responded to the neighborhood open house day recently held at the Phillips. She asked that if anyone present did not get an invitation, to call her and get their name on the list.

## ISSUES

1. **Re-striping of New Hampshire Avenue, NW between U Street and Dupont Circle for a bike lane.** James Sebastian, Bicycle Program Manager, District Division of Transportation gave the presentation. Bike lanes are a different way of striping the street. There would be one lane in each direction. The bike lanes do not change the number of lanes in which one can drive and park. The bike lane will have arrows in them pointing in the appropriate direction of travel. The Chair reported that this ANC had generally endorsed Bike lanes in the past, but nothing specifically. Sebastian noted that only 4 miles of bike lanes have been marked and two more miles of lanes are being put down such as the lanes being presented here. He also stated that the Bike Plan was being redone. In response to a question by Commissioner Morgan concerning signage, Sebastian stated that they would be using the International Sign for Bikes with arrows in the appropriate direction. After the Chair stated that he would entertain a motion to support the bike lanes in New Hampshire Avenue, NE between U Street and Dupont Circle, such a motion was posed by Commissioner Morgan and seconded by Commissioner Lerch and was passed without objection.
2. **Capitol Pride Parade** Presentation by Robert York Director of the Capital Pride Festival and the Capital Pride Parade which is sponsored by Whitman Walker Clinic and One in Ten. Mr. York stated that the Capital Pride Parade would be changed somewhat from previous years. The Parade will be on Saturday afternoon before the Street Festival on Sunday. Some of the reasons for doing this would be to cut costs and to reduce the impact on parade volunteers, participants and members of the local community. The parade route would be cut significantly to reduce the impact on the same people mentioned above. The Parade Officials are working closely with the Mayor's Emergency Management Task Force and the Metropolitan Police force on such issues as street closings, parking and trash abatement. Mr. York stated that he wanted to work with other public agencies and ANC2B on these issues. The Parade this year will be begin at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and M Street and last for approximately 90 minutes. He stated that he would work with ANC2B to clean up trash after the parade. The DPW will be there at 6:30 p.m. to begin trash removal. In response to a question by Commissioner Morgan concerning extra trash containers, York stated that additional trash containers would be provided and placed along the parade route and that DPW would pick these up as well. After stating that he approved the new plan, the Chair noted that he would entertain a motion that ANC2B support the

- Pride Parade this year. After Commissioner Hopp so moved and Commissioner Morgan seconded, the motion was passed without objection. Hopp was appointed as ANC2B's contact person with the Pride Parade.
3. Wayfinding Signage Proposal for the Connecticut Avenue NW Corridor between Farragut Park and Florida Avenue. Louise Ware, signage manager of Downtown DC BID gave the presentation. She state that she particularly wanted to thank Mr. George Borneo who lives in Marilyn Newton's SMD of 2B06, for pointing out the best places that the signs should be. A Draft of the implemented plan of gateway signs, pedestrian signs, and vehicle signs is available. After calling for comment from the audience and the Commission, there was none. In answer to Commissioners Morgan's question, it was stated that the signs are contracted out for manufacture. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Hopp seconded that ANC2B support the Wayfinding signage proposal; without objection the motion was unanimously approved.
  4. Presentation of the Mayor's Budget and Transportation Issues Dan Tangerlini, Acting Director, District Division of Transportation Mr. Tangerlini spoke first to the Mayor's Budget. The proposed budget is for 5.3 Billion dollars. The economic results of the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy and high Medicaid costs have left a 200 million dollars shortfall in the budget. The year 2002 will be without deficit. Reducing the number of city employees by 12,000 in the last few years and other economies have resulted in 5 years of balanced budgets. The Mayor hopes to invest in neighborhoods, invest in city services, control Government spending and postpone the tax cuts to achieve a balanced and equitable budget. Mr. Tangerline then handed out Citizens Budget Work Sheets for the audience members to fill out if they chose to have input on the budget process. The Mayor wants more police officers on neighborhood streets, staffing equipment for the police and increased enforcement of laws, regulations and codes. He also wants to improve traffic flow on certain streets and make certain improvements on the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor. The Mayor also supports green space, increasing Metro service and spending 30 million for schools. This past year Special Education and Medicaid were the big spending agencies. 23 million dollars from the Tobacco Settlement will be used to cover the costs of Medicaid and Special Education. Tangerlini stated that the Federal Government does not let us tax. 60% of the income produced in the District leaves untaxed. DC has a better argument to ask for more money from the Federal Government, but under the Bush administrations new budget proposals the State Governments, including DC, Federal funding is reduced 30%. The District got no money from the Federal Highway Trust in 1998 and now we receive 37 million dollars for streets and highways in the District. There will be a separate Department of Transportation by mid June. The Division/Department of Transportation has doubled the number of people in street maintenance. There is now a three- day turnaround in pothole maintenance and 1500 blocks have been repaved. In response to Chairman Micone's question as to what happened to the "P" Street bridge project, Tangerlini responded that the Division is redesigning the "P" Street Project as part of an overall effort to become more customer oriented. The plan is to have two- way traffic on the bridge during construction. We need to address community needs by adding

additional road services on both sides of the bridge. Tangerlini stated that he wanted to work with the customers / public and the ANC. Micone stated that the ANC and the neighborhood should have been informed that the project was on hold. Mr. Tangerlini then addressed the management of the Public Space process that has come under much criticism from several ANC's including ANC 2B. The Committee is now beginning to date stamp applications. Tangerlini opined, "What role does the Public Space Committee need to perform?" He made a commitment to work with the ANC's "...the most representative of the people in city government."

The next question raised was the "Q" Street corridor rumor. Tangerlini stated that to his knowledge there were no plans for "Q" or "R" Streets that would affect the parking restrictions and no plans to change truck routes. He did state that motor carriers over 10,000 pounds were a problem. There will be a study funded by a 750,000 dollar Federal grant to look at a Motor Carrier Plan for the city. The purpose of the study is to find out where the trucks (includes tour buses) are coming from and where they are going. It is important to maintain the commercial viability of Downtown DC. We need to have an overall plan for commercial trucks to serve the city. In response to a question, Tangerlini stated that it was the DPW that put street cleaning signs. WASA has charge over some catch basins. Call 727-1000 to get information about clogged catch basins to WASA. There are three maintenance persons in each ward.

Tree boxes. The Division/Department of Transportation has been working with the K.C. Tree Foundation, the Garden Society of America and Urban Forester Mark Lusow. The U. S. Forest Service has helped with a survey of trees in DC. The city has received a grant from Eddie Bauer to plant 3,000 trees.

The Division/Department of Transportation has plans to replace all traffic lights and walks signs in the city with new LED technology that is a lot easier to read and less expensive to operate. There are also plans to implement an Integrated Traffic Management System. This is the very latest in traffic technology; there will be such things as speed activated traffic signals, if you are going over the speed limit the light will turn red. There are 6 traffic cameras now and a hundred are planned. What is the future, more surface mass transit such as light rail, the Anacostia Waterfront, and the New York Avenue Corridor.

5. ABC Substantial Change: Application #7198, CH License; 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, NW ; Request for an Expansion in ABC Services at a Sidewalk Café with a Seating Capacity of 124 (2B07) Presenting was Tom Casey Director of Operations of the Property, he stated that Jury's purchased the Dupont Plaza and the liquor license that went with it. It was assumed that there was an out door café license but there was not. Jury's is seeking permission to serve alcohol in an out door café. Commissioner Morgan in whose single member district this was located had no comment and moved that ANC 2B support the request for expansion of ABC services in a sidewalk café with a seating capacity of 124. After a second by Commissioner Chaplain, the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY, there being NO ABSTENTIONS and NO NAYS.
6. BZA Application: R. Bradley Runyan; Application #16867; Special Exception to Construct a Roof Deck not Meeting the Lot Occupancy and a Special Exception

Allowing Relief from Penthouse Set-Back Requirements in an R-5-B Zone at 1317 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW (2B06) Jim Smith of Mr. Permit made the presentation on behalf of Mr. Runyan. The house occupies 68% of the lot with garden. This is a conforming use, there is no height problem and building exceeds that which is allowed by 8%. The owner has support from both neighbors who have signed off permission. Historic Preservation has given its approval. The proposed roof deck cannot be seen from the street. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Jolliffe seconded the motion to support BZA Application #16867 for a special exception to construct a roof deck not meeting the lot occupancy requirement and a special exception allowing relief from penthouse set-back requirements in an R-5-B Zone at 1317 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW. After a vote the motion passed UNANIMOUSLY, there being NO NAYS and NO ABSTENTIONS.

7. BZA Application: Jeff Tomasevich; Application #16862; Special Exception to Allow Increase in Lot Occupancy in an R-5-B Zone. This is not in ANC 2B but in adjoining ANC2F.(2B04) This is in Commissioner Hopp's SMD and he stated that no one had contacted him about this. No action was taken.

8. ABC Renewals:

2B01: No objections to Best Hunan & Ruth Chris Steakhouse. Commissioner Chaplain has been contacted by some people in ANC1C to protest Lauriol Plaza's ABC renewal because the operation of the restaurant impinged the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood – people lining up to get into the restaurant, parking congestion of cars trying to get into the parking lot and noise on the roof. She also noted that ANC1C has protested the renewal and that ANC1C had entered into a Voluntary Agreement with Lauriol Plaza at a previous time. Commissioner Chaplain moved and Commissioner Newton seconded the motion to protest the renewal of the Lauriol Plaza's ABC renewal on the grounds that the current operation of the restaurant impinged on the peace, quiet, and order of the neighborhood. During discussion, a resident said that he/she had no objection to the noise and it was a nice place to go. There was discussion on not having seen the Voluntary Agreement and upon a voice vote Commissioners Lerch, Newton, and Chaplain voted "yes" and Commissioners Jolliffe, Hopp, and Morgan voted "no". The tie vote was broken by the Chair Vince Micone casting a "no" vote; therefore the motion failed. Commissioner Hopp moved and Commissioner Lerch seconded a motion that would authorize Commissioner Chaplain to represent ANC2B in working with ANC 1C to reach a voluntary agreement with Lauriol Plaza and the neighbors. The motion passed UNANIMOUSLY there being NO NAYS and NO ABSTENTIONS.

2B02 ABC Renewals The Chair moved and Commissioner Morgan seconded a motion authorizing him to write a letter in support of Café Japone's continuing to operate under the current Voluntary Agreement. The DCCA had no objection if the Voluntary Agreement is continuing. Without objection the motion was approved. DC Café Micone moved that ANC2B protest DC Café's renewal application on grounds of trash and cleanliness issues. After a second by Commissioner Newton and discussion on not cleaning up the area in front of the restaurant and no rodent proof trash receptacles, the motion was approved without objection. The rest of the renewals in ANC 2B02 were without objection.

2B03 ABC Renewals. No objections were raised.

There were no renewals up in 2B04

2B05 Commissioners Lerch's motion to protest Skewers/Café Luna on grounds of noise generated by illegal early morning trash removal died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Lerch moved and Jolliffe seconded that ANC2B protest the substantial change request that Peppers was making to move to the second floor as being in violation of the West Dupont Moratorium. Upon a vote the AYES were UNANIMOUS, there being NO NAYS and NO ABSTENTIONS.

Peppers will be invited to the next meeting.

9. Public Space Application: High Noon, Unenclosed Sidewalk Café, 19<sup>th</sup> and M (2B07) Mark Orden representing High Noon stated that the café was open from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There are 30 chairs and x number of tables and the space is roped off. Chairs and tables are taken up at 3:00 p. m. and put out the next morning. Café has no liquor license. PEPCO has approved where the tables are placed as related to the grates. Commissioner Morgan moved and Commissioner Lerch seconded the motion that ANC 2B support High Noon's application for use of a public space at 19<sup>th</sup> and M Streets as an unenclosed sidewalk café. Without objection the motion was passed.

#### COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Minutes from the March 12<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting were approved without objection. The Chair commended the Executive Director who was stepping down. He gave his notice after the February Meeting and will work until April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair then thanked Commissioner Newton for examining many resumes, some of which are still coming in, for the position of Staff Coordinator. The Chair then introduced Brian Piech who has lived in the neighborhood for one year, loves the neighborhood, and works for the Federal Government in the Agency for International Development. Chair Micone moved and Newton seconded the motion that ANC2B extend the contract for Staff Coordinator position to Brian Piech. The vote was UNANIMOUS, there being NO NAYS and NO ABSTENTIONS.

The Chair stated that he would entertain a motion for approval of expenditures for advertising for the Staff Coordinator Position in the amount of \$34.00. Commissioner Lerch so moved and Commissioner Chaplain seconded. The vote was UNANIMOUS, there being NO NAYS and NO ABSTENTIONS.

Commissioner Hopp moved that ANC 2B spend out of its unfunded reserves of \$27,935.00 the amount of \$3,000 dollars for the purpose of printing a document that outlines what an ANC does (especially in reference to ANC2B), how ANC 2B can be contacted, and what ANC2B has done lately. The mailing house is to handle the printing. After a second by Commissioner Chaplain, the AYES were UNANIMOUS, there being NO NAYS and NO ABSTENTIONS.

#### Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Newton stated that there would be a meeting tomorrow (April 11<sup>th</sup>) to discuss UNI SUSHI's request for a sidewalk café. She stated that the request was not in compliance with the law and that the ABC Hearing would be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Commissioner Morgan reported on a March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at Mr. "Ps" of neighbors, police and bar owners. The tone was positive and the interaction among the various groups seemed to indicate that they could work together.