

# ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

## PUBLIC MEETING St. Thomas Parish Wednesday August 14, 2002

The August Public Meeting of ANC 2B was called to order by Chair Vince Micone at 7:30 PM. The Chair began the meeting by asking the Commissioners to identify themselves. Present were: Norma Chaplain, 2B01; Vince Micone, 2B02; David Jolliffe, 2B03; and Marilyn Newton, 2B06.

### Local Police and Crime Report

Public Safety Issues: Lt. Robert Claus (U.S. Park Police) reported that violent crime is down from last year in the neighborhood's National Parks (Dupont Circle and P Street "Beach"). He stated that the last major drug dealer identified in a yearlong operation was arrested with the help of the MPD. He noted that petty crime remained a problem, and that his officers were focusing their efforts to prevent and monitor the situation. As there wasn't a representative of the MPD present, the Chair gave the update that an arrest had been made on the break-in and stabbing on 16th Street and that victim was recovering.

### Open Forum

David Moorhead, Pepco's Dupont liaison, clarified the correct numbers to call in case of emergency - (877) 737-2662 for power outages and (202) 269-0855 for street light outages. The Chair voiced concerns over the condition of the public space at Pepco's regional station at 22nd and N Streets. Mr. Moorhead stated that he would follow-up, as well as determine the status of projects at 17th and Q Streets and New Hampshire and R Streets.

Maria Delaney, the new Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Administration, introduced herself to the audience. She said that she looks forward to working with the ANCs on ABC issues. The Chair welcomed Ms. Delaney to her new position and acknowledged the efforts of ABRA Chief Investigator Maurice Evans, who accompanied her.

Susan Chaffin, of the DC Family Council Coalition, described her organization's purpose to improve health care in nursing homes and the quality of life for the elderly. She can be contacted on (202) 667-4267 or at [DCFamilyCouncils@aol.com](mailto:DCFamilyCouncils@aol.com) for more information. Representatives of Mayor Anthony William's re-election campaign explained the process necessary to vote for the Mayor on the September 10th primary. The Chair noted that candidates for Mayor, At-Large Council, School Board Chair, and ANC Commissioner

would be afforded an opportunity to introduce themselves and make brief comments at ANC meetings prior to the November general election.

## ISSUES

- 1. Solar Building, Planned Unit development, 16th and K Streets:** Porter Dawson and George Dove made a brief presentation on the agreement which was reached to settle neighborhood concerns about the impact of the proposed renovation of the property referred to as the "Solar Building" in the 16th Street Historic District. The resulting agreement with the applicant requires that (1) a public garage entrance be placed on K Street in stead of 16th Street, (2) additional green space be added on 16th Street, and (3) the penthouse structure be moved further back from 16th Street. Other protesting parties support the negotiated agreement. After discussion, ANC 2B voted unanimously to support the agreement, which settles a five-year dispute on the development of this property. (2B05)
- 2. Zoning Commission Application, University of Notre Dame, 1615 New Hampshire Ave., NW, to Convert a Building for University Use:** ANC 2B considered an application to convert a currently mixed residential and office building to a dormitory and classroom facility to be used by the University of Notre Dame for its Washington program. The applicant, represented by Phil Feola, noted that the program has a long history in Washington without problems and that the students do not bring cars. Further, the applicant noted that apartment conversions will occur as leases lapse. After questions and comments by those present, ANC 2B voted to support the application. (2B03)
- 3. HPRB Application, The Jones Foundation, 1666 Connecticut Ave., NW, the former Janus Theater, for Certain Architectural Changes:** ANC 2B considered a historic preservation review application for changes to the property at 1666 Connecticut Ave., NW, formerly the Janus Theater. George Gordon, architect for the project, provided a summary of the plans for the site, which include retail usage and an upscale restaurant. The plans were considered and supported by the Dupont Circle Conservancy. Concerns were noted about the potential use of public space on the Connecticut Avenue side of this property; the Chair indicated that the sidewalk is narrow with high pedestrian use. After discussion and comment, ANC 2B voted unanimously to support the application, contingent upon the applicant's agreement not to use the Connecticut Avenue portion of the property for a sidewalk café. (2B02)
- 4. Governor's House Hotel, 17th St. at Rhode Island Ave., NW:** Jay Haddock Ortiz and the construction team at the Governor's House Hotel provided an update on the construction plan for the hotel. ANC 2B previously supported a zoning

application to allow the expanded use. No action was taken on this presentation; the applicant was interested in informing the ANC of its progress. During discussion, one item of concern noted was the proposed enclosure of a sidewalk café on one side of the property. (2B05)

**5. Application for the Closure of a Public Alley in Square 66 by The Phillips Collection:**

Lynn Rossotti, representing The Phillips Collection, provided an overview of an application submitted for the closure of the alley behind the museum. Ms. Rossotti explained that the “closure” is technical in nature; a majority of the alley is “closed” with a permanent access for public use. The museum wishes to utilize ground underneath the alley at 1618 21st Street, NW.

This requires the technical closure of that portion of the alley. Ms. Rossotti noted that the request essentially is to gain title to that portion of the alley, and the alley itself will be open to the public (except during brief intervals during construction).

The Chair noted that this application appears to be consistent with the Neighborhood Cooperation Agreement with The Phillips, and that ANC 2B would take action at its September meeting. (2B02)

- 6. Public Space Application for Bicycle Parking Racks:** ANC 2B considered an application by the Department of Transportation for the placement of bicycle parking racks (bollards) at several locations in the commercial business district. ANC 2B voted unanimously to support the application. (2B05/2B07)

**7. ABC Renewal Applications:**

**Sol/Cobalt, 1639 R St.** - No concerns were raised and no action was taken on this application. (2B04)

**Chaos, 1633 Q St.** - Several concerns raised by the commissioners and by the public over noise, signage, and the use of public space. The Chair noted that there were successive voluntary agreements that may be confusing and in conflict. ANC 2B voted unanimously to protest the renewal application and to authorize the Commission to consolidate the current voluntary agreements into one that also addresses current concerns. (2B05)

**8. ABC Substantial Change Applications:**

**Tequila Grill, CR, 1990 K St., for a Sidewalk Café with Seating for 25:** The Chair noted that the applicant has a valid Public Space Permit for this space and that this application is for the service of alcohol in the sidewalk café area. No action was taken on this application. (2B07)

**Wrapworks, CR, 1601 Connecticut Ave., for a Sidewalk Café with Seating with for 22:** ANC 2B considered an application by Wrapworks for the service

of alcohol at an existing sidewalk café. The Chair noted that the ANC raised a number of neighborhood concerns with this establishment that relate to public space abuses, including noise emanating from the air conditioning units and trash issues. Further, the Chair noted that has neglected to comply with prior agreements and has not resolved existing neighborhood concerns. After discussion, ANC 2B voted to protest this application and authorize negotiations to further address neighborhood concerns. (2B02)

**Bravo Bravo, 1001 Connecticut Ave., Change of License Class from CR to CN:** ANC 2B considered an application by Bravo Bravo to change its license classification from restaurant to nightclub. It was noted that the proposed change would have no effect on hours of operation. ANC2B voted unanimously to support the change.

**Ascot, 1050 17th Street NW, Request for Expanded Hours:** ANC 2B reconsidered an application to extend the hours of operation by one hour on Friday and Saturday nights. The Chair announced that emails and correspondence were received with concerns about the application, but none were present in opposition. After a presentation by the applicant and discussion, ANC 2B voted unanimously to support the application contingent upon the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement addressing limitations on promoter-sponsored leafleting and procedures to limit noise by departing patrons at closing time. (2B07)

### **Commission Administrative Matters, Old Business, and New Business**

ANC 2B voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2002, Meeting.

Commissioner Chaplain reported that the ABC Board determined that the introduction of live music at Grille 88 was considered a substantial change and will be placarded for comment. She also noted that the currently unused gas station on S and 18th Streets is in the process of being sold by BP Amoco.

Commissioner Newton announced that a voluntary agreement has been filed with the ABC Board related to the application by Uni A Sushi Place for the service of alcohol at the establishment's unenclosed café.

Commissioner Micone noted that the sidewalk on O Street between 22nd and 20th is the only sidewalk in that area which is not bricked. ANC 2B voted unanimously to submit a request to the Department of Transportation to place this stretch of O Street on the list for brick sidewalks following the Washington Gas repairs.

DCCA President Mike Fasano announced that during recent negotiations with Peppers that the restaurant noted its intent to use the second floor of the property for non-ABC restaurant use. He requested that ANC 2B reinstate its protest against the renewal of the ABC license, which had been withdrawn when the substantial change application was withdrawn. Further, Mr. Fasano requested the ANC's support in negotiations. ANC 2B considered several motions on the topic. ANC 2B approved a motion to request that the renewal applicant seal the access to the rooftop of Peppers, a key concern during the prior substantial change application.

A representative from the Intricate Details - Dupont Circle Architecture Photography Project invited those present to view photographs of the neighborhood's architecture during the August 23 to September 21 exhibit at Jolt N Bolt Café. Contact the organizers on (202) 232-0077, by e-mail at [intricatedetails2002@yahoo.com](mailto:intricatedetails2002@yahoo.com), or visit [www.globalmosaics.com](http://www.globalmosaics.com) <<http://www.globalmosaics.com/>> for more information.

### **Financial Issues**

ANC 2B voted unanimously to adopt the Third Quarterly Financial Statement.

ANC 2B voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a toner cartridge.

### **Next Meeting**

Chair Vince Micone stated that the next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 7:30 p.m., at St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church St., NW.

There being no old business nor any new business, the August 14<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting of ANC2B was ADJOURNED.

Respectfully Submitted



Brian T. Piech  
Staff Coordinator  
ANC 2B