

ANC 2B

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

(DUPONT CIRCLE)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday February 13th, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church Street, NW

Chair Vince Micone called the Public Meeting of ANC 2B (Dupont Circle) to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was delayed because of Ash Wednesday Services.

Before the introduction of Commissioners, the Chair took the opportunity to formally welcome the new commissioner from 2B05, Wayne Lerch who had been certified at last month's Commission meeting as the new commissioner for 2B05. The Commissioners then introduced themselves: Jeff Hopp (2B04), Irv Morgan (2B07), Marilyn Newton (2B06), Norma Zane Chaplain (2B01), and the Chair, Vince Micone (2B02) The Chair then introduced the Executive Director of ANC 2B Frank Montgomery.

Local Police and Crime Reports.

Lt. Marshall of PSA 209, which covers a small portion of ANC 2B, stated that there is an ongoing problem with thefts from autos and doubleparking in front of the Sprint store on Connecticut Avenue, NW.

Lt. Groomes from PSA 309 reported that since the first of the year to today's date her district was suffering from a lot street robberies and burglaries

Lt. Hill from PSA 308 stated that he came upon a theft from an auto on the way to the ANC meeting. He stressed that the public should be wary of casual laborers, ask for name, where they live (address) and for some ID. A lot of these laborers are actually casing the neighborhood for potential places to burgle and rob.

Several audience members voiced their concerns about drug dealing in the Dupont Circle area especially an alley behind Hopkins Street. More people complained about parking violations. There was discussion on the need for towing and the lack of tow trucks in the city. Lt Groomes agreed that parking enforcement – towing- was a problem, especially at night.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Micone gave an overview of the year 2001 for ANC 2B. 13 Meetings were held and 121 votes were taken. Several problems involving the neighborhoods, the ANC and various entities were settled by voluntary agreements, noteworthy among these were the Agreements reached with the Phillip's Collection and the Mansion on "O" Street. The Dupont Circle Parking Task Force Report and the Public Safety Committee meetings were mentioned as signs of progress. There are still problems with public agencies such as the Public Space Committee and the ABC Board and the expansion of ABC licenses in the Dupont Moratorium area.

The Chair then introduced David Morehead, head of public relations for PEPCO. PEPCO has been tearing up sidewalks and streets but has now finished its project and is repairing sidewalks and streets. Several audience members brought up various problems with PEPCO'S handling of repairs. Mr. Morehead gave his telephone number, 202-827-2337 and his email

Flexicar. Josh Gibson, an ANC Commissioner from ANC 1C made a presentation about a new service that is coming to the East Coast. Renting cars by the hour and picking them up at various locations in the City. Some locations are near Metro stations.

An announcement was made of a Forum to be held at 17th and M Streets on the 26th of February. Forum of Federal Citizens Associations.

ISSUES

1. Transportation and Parking. Terri Adams of the Curbside Management Division of the DDOT gave a presentation and had with her several co-workers. Charles Whalen being one. Curbside management used to be Parking management. A question was raised about the parking spaces identified by the Dupont Circle Parking Task Force. She replied that 60 spaces are in effect and 20 are coming on line. Several other areas such as putting "L" markings on the streets to delineate new parking spaces and sign replacement were discussed with constituents giving several corners where signs were down or needed repair. Parking Enforcement was again raised. Parking Services has 137 new residential parking enforcers being hired. Parking Analysts will have to go through the neighborhoods to see if parking spaces are available as people have been advising at this meeting.
2. Dupont Circle Farmers Market. The Dupont Circle Farmers Market had a successful year in 2001, serving 170,000 patrons for 39 weekends. Over 30,000 bushels of food were donated to the DC Central Kitchen. The 2002 seasons will begin on Easter Sunday, March 31st and run through December 22nd. The sellers must vacate Riggs Bank Parking lot by 3:00pm. Chair Micone moved that ANC 2B endorse the 2002 Farmers Market, after a

second by Commissioner Hopp, the motion was approved without objection.

3. Public Space Permit Application for an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at Jury's Hotel (2B07) Jury's Hotel was represented by Peter Hillary, Vice President of Jury's Doyle Hotels. Also present were members of Jury's Architectural Firm of Adamstein and Dimitri. Those representing Jury's presented their case by stating that they were environmentally correct and that they complied with the DC Regulations that require the enclosure be taken down in 24 hours. The enclosed space would be to compliment the hotel's current dining room space and would cost \$925,000.00. This costly enclosure would be of seamless glass with space for 24 seats. The proposed enclosure would be 72 feet long well within what would be allowed. Commissioner Morgan stated that Jury's current ABC Permit refers to a summer garden. In his opinion Jury's was using Public Space to extend their building, especially since they were opening up a space in the side of the present building. Putting chairs and tables with umbrellas on a public space and using it when weather permits is one thing; building an enclosure such as the one described is putting a building on Public Space. Jury's, he stated, had put down the cobblestones and taken up the grass and cut down several trees thus making it more unsightly. If the Commissioner approved this use of Public Space it would be setting a precedent – what would we say to the next applicant who wanted to put an enclosure on Public Space. Mike Fasano stated that this was a local public policy issue. The land that they want to build on is parkland; it is our land. Once it becomes enclosed it becomes private; it is no longer Public Space, it become your (Jury's) property. Jim Ford of Brunswick House stated that the fee the City charges for an enclosed Public Space is \$10.00 per square foot which seems very little for such a space. Several more audience members spoke against the ANC's supporting the Public Space Permit. Adamstein, Jury's architect stated that this is not really park land but hard urban space.

Commissioner's comments This space was green grass and trees and has been transformed under Jury's ownership – first they removed the trees and grass and put down paving blocks. Commissioner Lerch stated that it is not an outdoor café if enclosed. It is in effect part of the building.

Commissioner Hopp supported enclosure of Public Space if Jury's would return portion not used to green space – grass and trees

Commissioner Newton opposed it on principal. Chair Micone referred to ANC Minutes of November 12th 1997 when ANC 2B adopted a policy that opposed the enclosure of Public Space. Commissioner Morgan Moved and Commissioner Newton seconded that ANC 2B oppose Jury's Hotel application for a Public Space Permit for an enclosed sidewalk café. A vote being taken, there were 4 AYES and 1 NAY; therefore the motion to oppose carried.

4. ABC Renewal: Metro Super market – 2130 P Street (2B06)
Since there had been no negative feedback. The Commission had no comment, which means that the ABC License will be renewed.

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

Minutes of the December 12th Meeting were approved without objection.

ANC Chair's Testimony

Prior to tonight's meeting, Chair Micone had distributed his proposed testimony before

The Public Services Committee on February 19th at 8:10 pm. Commissioner Newton moved and Commissioner Morgan seconded that ANC 2B approve his proffered testimony. Approved without objection.

Bylaws Revision will be presented at the March Meeting. There will be discussion at that time.

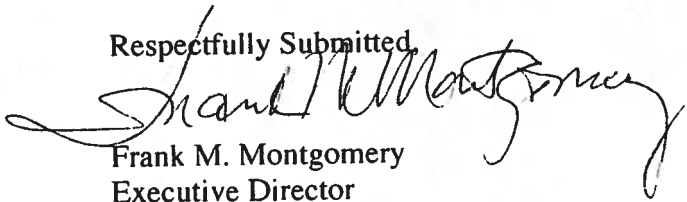
COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Update on "Pepper's" Restaurant/Bar. Mike Fasano of the DCCA stated that Maurice Evans, lead investigator for the ABC Enforcement Unit found that Peppers was in violation of DC law by trying to expand into the 2nd floor space. Status had been granted ANC 2B at the Fact Finding Hearing to be held concerning Pepper's alleged violation. There are three possible outcomes:

- a) The ABC Board could direct Peppers not to use the 2nd floor space
- b) Direct them to apply for Substantial Change Permit
- c) Roll the Fact Finding Hearing over in to a Show Cause Hearing as to why Pepper's ABC Permit should not be revoked.

There being no further Commissioner's Reports and no Old or New Business, the Commission adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Frank M. Montgomery
Executive Director