

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING St. Thomas Parish Wednesday April 9, 2003

The April Public Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Vince Micone at 7:10 PM. The Chair began the meeting by asking the Commissioners to identify themselves. Present were: Rob Halligan (2B01), Vince Micone (2B02), Bob Meehan (2B03), Darren Bowie (2B04), Carol Mitten (2B05), Stuart Dwyer (2B06), Irv Morgan (2B07), Major Giese (2B08), and Ramon Estrada (2B09). The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

Public Safety Issues and 911 Concerns

- (1) Lt. Claus of the U.S. Park Police stated that crime was down from last year, but that the Code Orange from the Office of Homeland Security was putting stress on his staffing levels. Commissioner Halligan voiced concern that the excellent work done to stop drug dealing in Dupont Circle be continued to prevent dealing in areas around the Circle.
- (2) Commissioner Bowie asked that the Commission send a letter to the MPD and the U.S. Park Police, requesting where the closed circuit television cameras were located in ANC2B. The motion passed unanimously.
- (3) Update on the Fire at 1617 21st Street, NW, Safety-Related Enforcement of Fire Regulations, and Concerns Regarding the 911 Response Time: Captain Thomas Thornhill from Truck Company 2, gave his impression of what happened the night of the fire. He explained that some 911 operators had been fired. Chair Micone praised the Captain for the courage of the 1st responders. ANC2B moved without objection to write a letter to Deputy Mayor Kellum and Police Chief Ramsey to request an update on the number of 911 operators currently working. (2B02)

General Agenda

- (1) Proposed Expansion of the Hours of Operation of Metro: The Commission considered a proposal for expanded hours of operation for the Metrorail system. After significant discussion and public comment, the ANC 2B determined it would solicit additional background information on related

budgetary impacts from the office Councilmember Jim Graham, who also serves as Chair of the Washington Metropolitan Area Mass Transit Authority Board of Directors.

- (2) **Police Service Area Boundaries in Dupont Circle:** The Commission voted unanimously to request a copy of the proposed Metropolitan Police Department Police Service Area (PSA) boundaries, as it has been brought to the public's attention that the Chief is considering redrawing the PSA boundaries. Those present briefly discussed the present boundaries and, as an alternative, the pros and cons of boundaries which are coterminous to the ANC boundaries.
- (3) **Update on the Recommendations of Dupont Circle Parking Task Force:** Brett Roullier, of the Department of Transportation (DOT), acknowledged that the Departments of Transportation and Public Works had neglected to fully respond to the recommendations of the Dupont Circle Parking Task Force. Mr., Roullier noted that the Ward 2 DOT Coordinator will be present at the May meeting of ANC 2B to more fully discuss follow-up to the report. Commissioner Bowie inquired about new parking meters on the north side of Q Street, between 16th and 17th Streets, NW. Mr. Roullier noted that DOT was installing the meters, as this area fronts commercial property. The Commission moved to oppose new parking meters on the north side of Q Street, between 16th and 17th Streets, and replace them with residential parking spaces; the motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 2 opposed (Morgan and Dwyer).
- (4) **Neighborhood Dog Parks:** The Commission considered extensive discussion about the value of neighborhood dog parks. Much testimony focused on the "unofficial" dog parks which have developed at the S and T Street Parks. Neighbors voiced concerns about noise, limited space, and competing demands for usage. After debate, ANC 2B voted to adopt a resolution in favor of dog parks. Commissioner Meehan was appointed to serve as the Commission's point-of-contact on this matter. The Chair noted that any proposal to place a dog park within in the boundaries of ANC 2B would come before the community at a future meeting.

General Agenda

- (1) **Proposal to Symbolically Rename 21st Street Between Massachusetts Avenue and Q Street, NW, in Honor of Kivie Kaplan:** This matter was preliminarily discussed during the January meeting. The Commission considered proposed DC Council legislation to provide the honorary designation of Kivie Kaplan Way to this portion of 21st Street, NW. This proposal will not change the formal designation of the street. Rabbi Kaplan was the founder of the Religious Action Center, which is located at this intersection, and was a significant civil rights leader. After a motion by the Chair and a second by Commissioner Bowie, the Commission voted unanimously to support the legislation. (2B02)
- (2) **Snow Removal in ANC 2B:** The Commission considered testimony by residents regarding the District's efforts to clean city streets of snow and ice during the

recent series of winter storms. Several residents who live in smaller streets complained about the length of time it took to remove the snow on these smaller roads. In some cases, it was noted that snow was never removed. Residents requested that this concern be addressed. Other residents commended the city for its improved efforts since the last major blizzard. After a motion by the Chair and a second by Commissioner Morgan, the Commission voted unanimously to acknowledge snow removal efforts, to inquire about efforts to clear smaller streets after future storms, and to request that regulations be written to define procedures to enforce laws related to snow removal from sidewalks.

- (3) Update on 2001 Flood Response Issues: The Commission considered testimony from residents regarding follow-up to the floods of August 2001. After a motion by the Chair and a second by Commissioner Mitten, ANC 2B voted to send a letter to the DC Insurance Commissioner to inquire about additional information regarding limits on personal liability related to floods. The Commission sent a letter in 2001 on this matter and received no response.

Regulatory Agenda

- (1) Update on Public Space Application 02-036 by Starbucks for a Sidewalk Café at 1600 U Street, NW: Commissioner Giese noted that he was in negotiations with the applicant to resolve the ANC 2B's concerns related to the trash receptacles on the public space at this location. (2B08)
- (2) Public Space Application by Carr America for Benches, Lighting, & Bollards at 1850 K Street, NW: Commissioner Mitten announced that the applicant requested that this matter be delayed until the Commission's May meeting. (2B05)
- (3) ABC Substantial Change Application #11679 by Hotel Madera for a 42-Seat Patio (Summer Garden) and Sidewalk Café at 1310 New Hampshire Avenue, NW: Commissioner Dwyer noted that negotiations were underway between the applicant, neighbors, and ANC 2B to address issues of concern. To maintain the Commission's status on the matter, Commissioner Estrada moved, and Commissioner Dwyer Seconded, to oppose the application until a voluntary agreement could be reached (2B06)
- (4) New ABC Application #41084 by Ben n' Mo for a CR License at 1225 Connecticut Ave., NW: Newton Howard, an owner of Ben n' Mo, presented an overview of the establishment's request for ABC service. Mr. Howard noted the owners would like to serve alcohol Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 2 am, Saturdays from 7 am to 3 am, and Sundays from 10 am to 2 am. The applicant is also requesting live music and unspecified ABC service at a sidewalk café. After lengthy discussion and questions regarding the proposed operations, ANC 2B voted unanimously to oppose the application and authorize negotiations to address the Commission's concerns. (2B05)
- (5) New ABC Application #50226 by Sette for a CR License at 1666 Connecticut Ave., NW: The owner of Café Milano in Georgetown described his plans for a new restaurant in Dupont Circle. The proposed hours of operation for the

establishment are Saturday through Thursday from 11 am to 2 am, and Friday through Saturday from 11 am to 3 am. The operator described his twelve years of experience as a restaurateur in Georgetown. The building owner for the location noted that parking would be provided in its garage for restaurant patrons. (2B02)

Commission Administrative Matters

Commission took action on the following administrative matters:

- (1) Commissioner Giese provided an update on the protest of the ABC license renewal for Lauriol Plaza. He noted that he did not know if there would be room for negotiations, but was entering mediation. Commissioner Giese requested that this be placed on the May agenda.
- (2) ANC 2B voted to request that the brick sidewalk on the north side of the 1700 block of Riggs Place be replaced in-kind.
- (3) The Commission approved a resolution in support of the Dupont Circle Farmer's Market.

Financial Issues

There were no Financial Issues taken up at the April Meeting.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 at 7PM at St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church St., NW.

There being no more old business, nor any new business, the April 9 Public Meeting of ANC2B was ADJOURNED at 10:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian T. Piech
Staff Coordinator
ANC 2B