

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING St. Thomas Parish Wednesday February 12, 2003

The February Public Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Vince Micone at 7:00 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

Lt. Frank Hill, PSA 308, provided his pager number, (202) 996-5337, and asked to be called personally for any complaints or crimes to report in the Dupont Circle neighborhood.

Open Forum

The following general announcements were made at the February meeting:

1. The Corcoran Mews Condominium Association requested that the Commission support its appeal of a Zoning Commission decision related to an application by the University of Notre Dame to establish a branch campus at Corcoran Street and New Hampshire Avenue, NW. The issue was referred to Commissioner Meehan.
2. A constituent recommended that a street cleaning strategy similar to that of Georgetown, where small mechanical units conduct cleanings regularly and parking spaces are not disrupted, be adopted for the Dupont Circle neighborhood.
3. A constituent inquired about the law regarding snow and ice on sidewalks. The Chair stated that there is a fine if there is snow or ice on a sidewalk eight hours after a storm has ended. One should call (202) 727-1000 to report un-cleared snow or ice.
4. Commissioner Rob Halligan announced that a Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee Meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2003, 7 p.m., at the MPD Third District Headquarters (17th and V Streets, NW). All are invited to

- attend. The Committee is co-sponsored by ANC 2B and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. This meeting was subsequently cancelled due to inclement weather.
5. **Fire at 1617 21st Street, NW, and Neighborhood Concerns Regarding the 911 Response Time:** The Chair noted that on January 15, 2003, a devastating fire gutted the residence at 1617 21st Street, NW. A resident in the property died as a result of injuries sustained during the fire. The residence was completely destroyed and three additional residences were damaged by the fire, two requiring extensive repairs. The Commission considered testimony related to the incident. Numerous residents expressed concern about the response time, with an almost unanimous complaint being the amount of time on hold with 911. Assistant Chief James Martin, of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, and Inspector Ira Grossman, of the Metropolitan Police Department, responded to the concerns, noting that they understood the community's frustration and that they were conducting full investigations into the matter. Inspector Grossman stated that it is best to call 911 from a telephone line rather than from a mobile phone, as mobile calls have lower priority than calls from telephone lines. He further indicated that it is best to wait for an operator when calling 911. Every time a call is canceled and remade it places the caller at the end of the queue. Councilman Phil Mendelson, who was present at the meeting, expressed his concerns and asked to be contacted by residents who called 911. He noted that he and Councilpersons Evans and Patterson were conducting independent investigations into the matter. The Commission took the following actions: 1) ANC 2B voted unanimously to send a letter to the internal affairs offices of the Metropolitan Police Department and Fire and Emergency Services Department requesting that oversight for the investigations be transferred to their offices; and 2) ANC 2B voted to request that the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs investigate the circumstances related to use of the property which burned and to assess whether the proper licenses and certificates were obtained by the property owner for the property to be used as a boarding house.

General Agenda

1. **Update on the Status of the Gas Station at 1800 18th Street, NW, and Plans by BP Amoco for Renovation and Use:** Representatives of BP presented plans for reopening the gas station at 18th and S Streets, NW, which was closed in 2001. It is anticipated the station will reopen in the coming months, after renovations are complete. It was reported that the Historic Preservation Review Board had considered and approved the proposed renovations, with minor modifications. Several neighbors present noted their concerns about noise and fumes. Neighbors were advised that since the station is franchised, operational issues should be addressed with the local manager for most prompt action. The Commission took no action. (2B01)
2. **Request for Signage for Twinning Court:** Perry Moorehouse, manager of Omega, requested that signage be placed to identify Twinning Court, NW, which is located between O, P, 21st, and 22nd Streets. This street, which may appear to be

- an alley, does not have proper signage, which may cause a delay in response for city services or in an emergency. It was noted by the Chair that businesses and residences are located on Twinning Court. The Commission voted to request that appropriate signage for Twinning Court be placed on O and P Streets. (2B02)
3. Drainage Problems in ANC 2B: The Commission voted to send a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting their assistance in coordinating the repair of drainage and sewer back-ups in the jurisdiction of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission. A list of these locations was compiled during the meeting.

Regulatory Agenda

1. Public Space Application 02-036 by Starbucks for a Sidewalk Café at 1600 U Street, NW: The Commission considered a request for a sidewalk café at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and U Street, NW. Joe Spinelli, representing Starbucks, presented a plan for a concrete area outside of the store. He noted that there would be no access from the store itself. Commissioner Giese announced that ANC 1C had protested this application while it was in their jurisdiction. After questions and comment, it was determined that the matter would be deferred to the March meeting for action, so that the applicant could make adjustments to their proposal based on the testimony presented at the meeting. (2B08)
2. ABC Application #50217 by 1720 Eye Street DC Hospitality, LLC T/A Café Asia, CR, 1720 I St., NW; for a New Restaurant with Occasional Live and Recorded Music Offered (DJ, Small Band, Etc.) and Sidewalk Café, Monday-Sunday, 11 - 2 am: A presentation was made by the owner, describing this new restaurant in the commercial business district. The owner requested that the ANC support a stipulation for immediate ABC service. The Chair noted that the applicant will need to complete the appropriate applications for the sidewalk café, returning to ANC 2B for consideration on that portion of their request in the future. After discussion, the Commission voted seven in favor and two abstentions (Commissioners Morgan and Giese) to support the request for a stipulation for immediate ABC service. (2B06)
3. BZA Application #16994 by Richard Van Berkel for a Special Exception to Construct a One-Story Rear Addition to a One-Family Dwelling in an R-5-B District at 1530 Swann Street, NW: The property owner, Richard Van Berkel, described the proposed addition to his home. The Historic Preservation Review Board has approved the proposed addition. ANC2B voted unanimously to support the application. (2B09)
4. Community Feedback on the Draft ABC Regulations: The Commission heard testimony on the draft ABC regulations. It was noted by several present that the proposed regulations could severely reduce the ability of the Commission and community organizations to protest and comment upon ABC license applications. ANC 2B voted seven in favor and two opposed (Commissioners Micone and

Morgan) to support a letter drafted by the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and several other community groups opposed to the draft regulations.

Commission Administrative Matters

Commission took action on the following administrative matters:

1. Without objection, ANC 2B approved the minutes to the January 8, 2002, meeting.
2. The Commission authorized the Chair to present testimony at the Public Services Committee ANC Oversight Hearing.
3. ANC 2B voted to send a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting the repair of the sidewalk at 1621 T Street, NW.

Financial Issues

1. The Commission unanimously approved the budget for fiscal year 2003.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at 7PM at St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church St., NW.

There being no more old business, nor any new business, the February 12 Public Meeting of ANC2B was ADJOURNED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian T. Piech
Staff Coordinator
ANC 2B