

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Wednesday, March 10, 2004
DC Jewish Community Center**

The March Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Vice Chair Ramon Estrada at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Rob Halligan (2B01), Vince Micone (2B02, at 8:00pm), Bob Meehan (2B03), Darren Bowie (2B04), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Irv Morgan (2B07, at 7:20pm), Major Giese (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). The Vice Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Silverstein announced that representatives of the former Congressional Quarterly building at 1422 – 22nd Street, NW, will present the details of their BZA request for a variance at the April ANC meeting.

It was announced that the Ross School has finalized plans for playground changes. A future special SMD-wide meeting is planned.

It was announced that the Center for Community Change plans to purchase the former Multi-Cultural Center at the intersection of 16th & U Streets, NW and will seek to provide testimony before the Commission at a future meeting.

The following public safety meetings were announced: PSA 309, Thursday, March 18, 2004; Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee, Tuesday, March 16th; and the 3rd District Citizens Advisory Council, Thursday, February 25th.

Commissioner Meehan requested of the Pepco representative that the utility, in the course of its work, pay special attention to the old elm tree located on Corcoran Street which neighbors have worked so assiduously to preserve.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

MPD Captains Dianne Groomes and Frank Hill were presented with citations honoring their work in the Dupont Circle neighborhood and commending them on their recent promotion to the rank of captain.

Representatives of the Youth Services Administration (YSA) provided testimony on the operations of three group homes in the ANC. Commissioners, Capt. Groomes, and the public discussed the nature and severity of problems associated with the homes and residents. Capt. Groomes observed that the number of public complaints about the facilities and residents spiked about 1 year ago and that those complaints have since been reduced substantially. She indicated that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) requests of the YSA better on-site supervision of the homes. YSA representatives observed that homes are located throughout the city and that the residents require help, not condemnation. Mr. Kenny Barnes, Sr., an advocate for the youths served by the homes, called the juvenile justice system in DC “a disgrace,” and a disservice to the youths housed therein. YSA management encouraged residents to contact the homes' managers or the agency management in future to resolve problems as they arise.

GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS

Representatives of the Capital Pride Festival & Parade, scheduled to provide testimony about this year's event, will present testimony at the April ANC meeting.

A representative of the DC Department of Transportation, scheduled to provide an update on area transportation projects, was not in attendance and is expected to provide an update at the April meeting.

John Trypus, representing the DC Water & Sewer Authority, provided testimony on the inverted siphon inspection process, in connection with DC WASA's ongoing efforts to address recent flooding in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. He reported that tests have shown that some sewer pipes are up to 80% filled with debris and that contracts are now being executed for pipe repair. DC WASA anticipates that this process will be completed within three months.

ANC 2B took no action on the proposed regulations to implement the Urban Forestry Preservation Act of 2002.

REGULATORY ISSUES

BZA Case 17152: Representatives of the International Campaign for Tibet presented the organization's plans for modifications to its building located at 1825 Jefferson Place, NW. It was observed that other buildings located in the area had been granted relief by the Board of Zoning Adjustment for set-back concerns identical to those related to this project. Commissioner Micone proposed, and Commissioner Giese seconded, a motion to support the application and the motion passed unanimously.

Following a brief presentation of plans for a security card reader by a representative of Lenken LLP, located at 1818 N Street, NW, Commissioner Micone proposed, and Commissioner Halligan seconded, a motion to support the public space application. The motion carried unanimously.

ANC 2B offered no objection to a public space application by the University of California for planter boxes at 1608 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

A representative of the Ascot Restaurant requested that the Commission renegotiate its voluntary agreement with the establishment on account of an administrative mistake on the part of the applicant at the time the agreement was made. The applicant's ABC license prohibits ABC service on Sundays, though the establishment holds private parties on the premises on occasion. Commissioner Micone reminded commissioners that the establishment's license is up for renewal in June 2004 and that the Commission may reconsider any action at that time. Commissioner Micone proposed, and Commissioner Bowie seconded, a motion to authorize Sunday hours of operation and ABC service until midnight except during holiday weekends when ABC service will be permitted until 2 am. The motion carried unanimously.

HPA Case #04-157: The Commission heard public testimony, and testimony from the architects and property owner of 1630-C Nineteenth Street, NW, on a Historic Preservation application for modifications to the structure. Commissioner Micone reminded the commissioners that the ANC usually defers to the Dupont Circle Conservancy for its judgment on applications such as this. Michael Beidler, chair of the Conservancy, testified that the Conservancy reviewed the project's concept and returned it to the architects with requests for changes in materials used. The Conservancy also requested that the applicants come before the body again after making the requested changes and that the entire Historic Preservation Review Board grant its approval for the project. Commissioner Estrada proposed, and Commissioner Bowie seconded, a motion supporting the recommendation of the Dupont Circle Conservancy (which coincides with the Historic Preservation staff review) and further requested that the Historic Preservation Review Board render a final decision on the project. The motion carried 7-1-0.

ABC App #305: ANC 2B heard testimony from representatives of Universal Liquor, located at 2018 Florida Avenue, NW, on its request to transfer a liquor store license from Safekeeping to this location. Responding to questions from the Commission, the applicant acknowledged the changing nature of the neighborhood and announced his intention to market to changing demographics. The establishment will, in future, apply for a sampling license. Commissioner Halligan proposed, and Commissioner Giese seconded, a motion to support the application. The motion carried unanimously.

ABC App. #28823: ANC 2B considered an application for a stipulated license by Tan, Inc., T/A Straits of Malaya at 1836 – 18th Street, NW. Commissioner Micone proposed, and Commissioner Morgan seconded, a motion to support the application. The motion carried 7-0-1.

The Commission heard testimony from representatives of Heritage India Restaurant, located at 1337 Connecticut Avenue, NW in support of its application for a new, stipulated, ABC license. The Commission cautioned the representatives to be aware of neighbors' concerns with regard to noise issues. Commissioner Morgan proposed, and Commissioner Meehan seconded, a motion to support the application. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MATTERS

Commissioner Micone read the text of a Resolution regarding Immigrant voting rights in local elections that are not for federal office. Commissioner Micone proposed, and Commissioner Estrada seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried 7-1-0.

Commissioner Bowie presented plaques to Commissioners Micone and Morgan honoring them for their service to the Commission and the Dupont Circle neighborhood. He directed that Commissioner Mitten's plaque be sent to her at a later date.

Commissioner Giese proposed, and Commissioner Estrada seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes from the Commission's February 2004 meeting. The motion carried without objection.

Commissioner Silverstein proposed, and Commissioner Halligan seconded, a motion authorizing Chair-elect Bowie to assume his duties as chair immediately. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meehan proposed, and Commissioner Estrada seconded, a motion to reimburse Commissioners Micone and Bowie for payments they have made using credit cards in order to maintain the Commission's internet site.

Commissioner Bowie proposed, and Commissioner Estrada seconded, a motion to reimburse the Executive Director for payments he made using a credit card towards the purchase of plaques presented at tonight's meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at 7 pm at the DC Jewish Community Center, 16th & Q Streets, NW.

The March 10, 2004, Meeting of ANC 2B was **ADJOURNED at 10:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Richardson
Executive Director
