

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Wednesday, April 14, 2004
DC Jewish Community Center**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that the Friends of Ross School will meet at the Jewish Community Center (JCC), 16th & Q Streets, NW, at 7 pm on May 5, 2004, to discuss a proposal for redesigning the school's playground.

It was announced that DC WASA has put contracts out to bid for repair to neighborhood sewers. The agency projects that the needed repairs will be completed within a month.

It was announced that the Dupont Circle Conservancy reviewed and approved revised plans for renovations at 1630-C 19th Street, NW. These plans take into consideration changes in construction materials reviewed by the Conservancy and the staff of the Historic Preservation Administration. The Historic Preservation Review Board will review the revised plans.

It was announced that La Frontera Cantina now operates an outdoor café under the auspices of a voluntary agreement.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The following public safety meetings were announced: PSA 309 at the JCC, Thursday, April 15th, at 7:30 pm; Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) 3rd District station, Tuesday, April 20th, at 7:00 pm; 3rd District Citizens Advisory Council, location to be announced, Thursday, April 22nd, at 7:30 pm.

Lt. Michael Smith of PSA 307 was introduced. He distributed an updated court report from the office of the US Attorney. He remarked that he does not yet know how many officers will be assigned to the new PSAs. Commissioner Halligan observed that most all of ANC 2B falls within PSA 306 at this time. Lt. Smith's email address is masmith@mpdc.org, phone 202-365-6454.

GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS

ANC 2B anticipates that it will hold Commissioner elections at its June meeting for the three vacant Single Member Districts: 2B02, 2B05, and 2B07. (If only one candidate for a seat is certified by the DC Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE), no election for that seat will be held, and the candidate will be named Commissioner.) Candidates certified by the BOEE will be invited to prepare remarks for the May ANC meeting. The chair announced that three petitions have been taken out for 2B05, two for 2B07, and that no petitions have been taken out for 2B02.

Representatives of the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) announced that they expect the vacant Ward 2 Transportation Planner position to be filled by May. The new Ward 2 Project Manager, replacing Tchako Ngandjui, is Robert Irwin (robert.irwin@dc.gov, phone 202-671-2800). Work on the P Street bridge is 65% complete. Progress is being slowed by a recent action by the DC Commission on Fine Arts. Commissioner Bowie proposed, and Commissioner Halligan seconded, a motion to oppose that Commission's request for a change of materials, from pressed concrete resembling brick to regular poured concrete, out of concern for cost and public safety. The **motion** carried unanimously. DDOT also estimates that the R Street construction from 15th Street to New Hampshire Avenue NW will be completed by the end of May 2004, and that construction on R Street between New Hampshire Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue NW will be completed by mid-September 2004.

Ed Grimm, Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets (HDCMS), the neighborhood business improvement district (BID), was introduced. He stressed that the groups is composed of volunteers, and in that way is different than other BIDs in the area. He encouraged the public to become involved in the project. His phone number is 202-441-1474.

Robert York, Director of the annual Capital Pride parade, was introduced. Commissioner Silverstein proposed, and Commissioner Bowie seconded, a **motion** to support the parade route as shown. The Commission voted unanimously to support the parade.

Nancy Groth Blasdel presented the results of her informal survey of 17th Street businesses on accessibility for mobility-impaired individuals. She noted that some businesses were making an effort to make the necessary modifications, and that others were not. The Commission thanked her for an illuminating presentation and wished her continued success if persuading area businesses to make accommodations for the mobility-impaired.

Representatives of the DC Health Care Coalition presented a draft ANC resolution supporting a petition drive in support of a public hospital in DC. The Commission will consider the resolution at a future meeting.

REGULATORY ISSUES

Residents spoke of the early-morning and evening spike in traffic, and the danger to pedestrians, near the intersection of 18th & Swann Street, NW. Commissioner Halligan proposed, and Commissioner Giese seconded, a motion to support a study of traffic and pedestrian safety at the intersection. The **motion** carried unanimously. It was noted that area residents should forward to DDOT a petition signed by neighborhood residents clearly stating the nature of the traffic problem in the area. ANC 2B considered a resident request for additional signage alerting motorists and pedestrians to traffic patterns at the intersection of 19th and Q Streets, NW. Commissioner Silverstein proposed, and Commissioner Estrada seconded, a motion to table consideration of this request for a future meeting. The **motion** was approved unanimously by the Commission.

ABC Application #9597: ANC 2B heard testimony from representatives of Louyans, Inc., T/A City Lights of China, in support of an ABC license for neighboring premises at 1727 Connecticut Avenue NW. Commissioner Halligan proposed a motion to protest the license pending the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement to address neighborhood concerns about trash and other issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowie. The **motion** was approved unanimously. If an agreement is reached before the ABC hearing, the protest will be withdrawn and ANC 2B will support an immediate stipulated license.

ANC 2B took no action on a public space permit application for a payphone located at 1735 – 17th Street, NW.

BZA Application #17167: Representatives of CRP/MR provided detailed testimony on the progress of re-construction efforts on the former Congressional Quarterly building located at 1414 – 22nd Street, NW. Residents expressed concerns about the dearth of resident parking in the area and the potential impact of construction vehicles for the duration of the renovation. Commissioner Silverstein proposed, and Commissioner Halligan seconded, a motion to support the applicant's request for a variance from residential recreation space requirements before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Without objection, the **motion** was approved.

Representatives of Starbucks, located at 16th Street & New Hampshire Avenue, NW, requested that the ANC withdraw its protest of Starbucks' Public Space permit application for an outdoor café in view of the establishment's compliance with two conditions related to trash collection and storage. Commissioner Estrada proposed, and Commissioner Giese seconded, a **motion** to support stipulated approval of the public space permit for the café. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Commissioner Meehan proposed, and Commissioner Silverstein seconded, a motion to approve the First Quarter Financial Report. The **motion** carried without objection. Commissioner Meehan testified for the record that the checks being issued to the Executive Director in the amounts of \$221.04 and \$29.70 are reimbursement for office supplies and printing.

Commissioner Bowie proposed, and Commissioner Halligan seconded, a motion authorizing the ANC to reimburse up to 6 individuals for assistance during the election to fill vacancies at the June meeting. Each individual may be paid \$25. The **motion** carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bowie proposed, and Commissioner Estrada seconded, a motion to authorize the payment of \$300 to a website design consultant for assistance with the development and refinement of the ANC's website. The **motion** carried without objection.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at 7 pm at the DC Jewish Community Center, 16th & Q Streets, NW.

At 10:14 pm, Commissioner Estrada moved, seconded by Commissioner Silverstein, to adjourn. Without objection, the **motion** was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Richardson
Executive Director
