

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Wednesday, December 8, 2004
DC Jewish Community Center**

The December 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 (2B-01), Karyn-Siobhan Robinson, (2B-02), Bob Meehan (2B-03), Darren Bowie (2B-04), Mark Bjorge (SB-05), Mike Silverstein (2B-06), Gerald Schwinn (2B-07), Major Giese (2B-08) and Ramon Estrada (2B-09). The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bowie introduced Carlson Klapthor, the new Ward 2 Neighborhood Services Coordinator. You can reach him at the Reeves Center at 202-671-4095 or email him at carlson.klapthor@dc.gov. Mr. Klapthor stated that he would look at persistent problem issues, city service issues, and multiagency problems that affect the neighborhood.

Commissioner Meehan informed Mr. Moorehead of Pepco that electric meters have been misplaced in the area. Mr. Meehan stated that we should encourage developers of historic projects to choose alternate sites for electric meters to be placed.

Commissioner Meehan stated that the Department of Transportation did a good job on the 1700 block of Q St. and Corcoran St.

Commissioner Bowie noted that constituents can get in touch with Commissioners through the website (www.dupontcircleanc.net), email them at email@dupontcircleanc.net, call them at 202-296-7333 or talk to them after the monthly meeting. He further stated that we will list the website address, ANC 2B map, and commissioner contact info with the agenda at each meeting.

Commissioner Bowie recognized retiring Commissioner Schwinn (2B07) and retiring Commissioner Giese(2B08) for their service to ANC 2B.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

A stabbing occurred on November 28th around 11:30 PM at 17th St. and R St. Two people also were stabbed at Tom Tom's. The ABC Board is looking into this incident. Crime is down in almost every category this month.

Commissioner Robinson notified the owners of the vacant building at P St. Beach about concerns regarding people illegally entering and leaving the property.

GENERAL AGENDA

Barry Goodinson, Executive Director of Green Spaces for DC, and Drew Becker of the Department of Parks and Recreation presented proposed recommendations for the use and design of S and T Street Parks. They listed the top priorities for the parks and stated how areas would be parceled out from the available space. They stated that they have a consensus for these plans

Green Spaces took part in three meetings to establish priority uses for green spaces, look at ways of parceling out the land, and forming a consensus among residents to pick a design for S and T Street parks. They noted that residents are particularly concerned about an off-leash dog park, passive recreation space, and open green space. Green Space enlisted the help of design firm Oculus to recommend a plan for Stead and S and T Street Parks.

Green space proposed three possible plans:

1. Maintain status quo with some upgrade; make S Street a grassy area with some passive recreation; make T Street park an area with some passive recreation and seating
2. Make S Street park a garden area; make T Street park a passive recreation area
3. Create an off-leash park in part of S Street park; create a passive recreation area in T Street park

Greenspaces stated that they brought together members of the community to evaluate the proposed plans to further address points of contention. Drew Becker stated that the first plan was rejected outright because it does not accommodate dogs. The second plan was also rejected because it did not have an off-leash area for dogs. They stated that the third plan was the most responsive solution to the needs of the community.

Residents' points of concern include noise at night resulting from an off-leash dog park, other parks users' interaction with dogs, size of dog park, loss of green space, and enforcement of off-leash dog area.

Drew Becher stated that Green Spaces for DC recommends the third plan for space mixed use at S Street Park with an off-leash dog area, and upgrading T Street park to include a passive recreation area. Green Spaces aims to create an ad hoc group to work with ANC 2B and a landscape architect to:

1. Establish design priorities.
2. Create a Memorandum of Understanding between parties so everyone understands the timeline and how the process will work.

Green Spaces would like to finish the initial process of establishing a design in February. They can present designs in March to the ANC with a target date of Summer 2005 to begin construction.

ANC 2B Commissioner concerns

Commissioner Bowie summarized the procedures set out for ANC 2B to consider. These are:

1. Create a list of key design elements.
2. Create a Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Parks and Recreation and residents regarding use of the park.

Commissioner Bowie asked if any current legislation regarding off-leash dog zones is being considered by the D.C. Council, and this legislation would affect Green Spaces for DC's proposal. Drew Becher stated that the Council would not pass regulations for off-leash dog areas but that the Department of Parks and Recreation would issue such regulations.

Commissioner Bowie asked Green Spaces if they intended the ANC to determine enforcement regulations regarding the dog area, since they deferred recommendation on the management of enforcement of regulations.

Commissioner Bjorge asked Green Spaces to identify the groups to participate in Memorandums of Understanding. Green Spaces stated that they intend to work with Friends of S & T Street Parks and other local groups to promote meetings and dialogue on a regular basis.

Commissioner Meehan voiced his opposition to the proposals. He noted that the three proposals are in different states of readiness. He stated that more work should be done on these proposals and Green Spaces should return so the ANC can verify that the community has endorsed these plans.

Commissioner Giese asked what would stop people from going to T Street park with their dogs when S Street park is closed. Then neighbors there will complain. Green Spaces stated that they cannot micromanage these situations.

Commissioner Estrada noted that he did not see any consensus among residents. He stated that he prefers to wait until the ANC can see the enforcement regulations before moving forward.

Public Concerns

Constituents stated that the community is divided over this issue because of the dog parks, and that there is no sentiment of consensus.

A constituent stated that she had lived in the area and had not received any notice from ANC Commissioners regarding this issue. Commissioner Robinson noted that constituents can go to the Board of Elections and Ethics website (www.dcboee.org) to find your ANC. Constituents should also read the Dupont Current and the Thursday edition of the Washington Post to learn about local issues in your ANC.

A representative of Friends of S & T Street parks stated that Green Spaces for D.C. did not address the community's concerns and that Green Space's silence on the concerns of residents was disturbing.

A representative of Circle Dogs stated that his organization is satisfied with the recommendations.

Commissioner Bowie recommended moving the process into the next phase. He requested that Green Spaces for DC put its proposals on their website for residents to review (www.greenspacesfordc.org). Commissioner Bowie set a target date of the ANC's February 9th meeting for recommendations of general design and Memorandums of Understanding.

Commissioner Bowie appointed Commissioner Meehan to be point person to work with all affected parties to study the proposals and consider other options if necessary, in order to decide critical design elements at the ANC's January 12th meeting.

REGULATORY AGENDA

Commissioner Bowie summarized the discussion on the 17th Street ABC moratorium from the November meeting. The 17th Street Moratorium expires in January. The P Street Moratorium expires in August. The Dupont Circle Citizens Association and Dupont Merchants Association filed a joint petition to the ABC board for a six-month extension. Bill Glew, president of Dupont Circle Citizens Association stated that they need the six-month extension to reach their objectives and form a consensus on the issues. He asked that the ANC support the joint application.

Commissioner Bowie stated that the ABC Board would want to hear ANC 2B's view on the joint proposal before they grant the six-month extension. Commissioner Bowie moved to support the six-month extension of the 17th Street ABC Moratorium. Commissioner Giese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Representatives from Café Toka applied for a Substantial Change application to allow the use of a DJ. Commissioner Silverstein noted that Café Toka's ABC license was revoked for sales to minors and noise violation to a neighboring business.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to protest the following ABC alcohol license renewals, pending negotiation of a voluntary agreement to address noise issues. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

ABC Application by Café Toka, Inc., T/A Café Toka, License No. 60305, 1140 19th Street NW, for a Substantial Change (2B06)

Commissioner Bowie moved to protest the following ABC alcohol license renewals, pending negotiation of a voluntary agreement to address concerns regarding peace, order

and quiet, and to ensure that the applicant continue to serve food to patrons sitting down at the applicant's sidewalk café. Commissioner Schwinn seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0-1 (Commissioner Silverstein abstained).

ABC Application by Hunan Inn, Inc., T/A Cobalt / Food Bar, License No. 71833, 1639 R Street NW, License Change from Class C Restaurant to Class C Tavern (2B04)

The Commission took no action on the following ABC license application and renewals.

Dupont Imp, LLC, T/A Gazuza, 1629 Connecticut Ave. NW, CN 01 (2B02)

Harco, Inc., T/A Archibald's/Fast Eddies Billiard Cafe, 1520 K Street NW, CN 03 (2B05)

Pegasus, Inc., T/A Pegasus, 1337 Connecticut Ave. NW, CN 01 (2B07)

The Commission took no action on the following Public Space license application and renewals.

Public Space Request for Permit for Existing Payphone by Farhat Elmohtaseb, 1129 18th Street NW (2B06)

Public Space Request for Permit for Existing Payphone by Eric Mattson/Candey Hardware, 1210 18th Street NW (2B06)

Public Space Request for Permit for Existing Payphone by Bertucci's, 1218 Connecticut Avenue NW (2B06)

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Schwinn stated that a large quantity of hazardous material is transported by train by the Capitol to Union Station. Commissioner Schwarz is not moving forward with legislation to ban the transport of such hazardous material. Commissioner Schwinn moved that the Commission pass a resolution supporting such legislation. Commissioner Bowie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Commissioner Giese made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the November minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (9-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the D.C. Jewish Community Center, 16th & Q Streets, N.W.

At 11:00 PM, Commissioner Bowie moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Blicher, Jr.
Executive Director
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission

ADOPTED: January 12, 2005