

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Thursday, December 14, 2005 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 (2B-05), Mike Silverstein (2B-06), Babak Movahedi (2B-07), and Ramon Estrada (2B-09). Peter Klempay (2B-08) was not present.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Movahedi recognized and thanked David Moore of Pepco for his recent work for the neighborhood.

Commissioner Estrada notified the Commission that the Cada Vez (1438 U Street NW) matter had moved into deliberation before the ABC Board.

Commissioner Bjorge noted that the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) would consider Morton Bender's application regarding 1743-1755 N Street NW on January 24th, 2006.

Commissioner Silverstein notified the Commission about a murder, which took place at Ascot Lounge (1708 L Street, NW). He noted that this is the third murder in the past year within the proximity of ANC 2B. The Metro Police Department (MPD) requested that the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) issue a summary judgment to close Ascot Lounge and revoke its license, pending a hearing. The hearing will take place on Friday, December 16, 2005.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Halligan announced that the Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 at the Metro Police Department station at 1620 V St., NW.

Commissioner Halligan announced that the Third District was declared a crime emergency for 30 days while the MPD redistributes police officers throughout this area. He noted that robberies and burglaries in the Dupont Circle area were down, and that 25 robbery arrests were made last month alone.

Concerned constituents should contact Carlson Klaphor, Ward 2 Neighborhood Services Coordinator, regarding graffiti. He can be reached via email at carlson.klaphor@dc.gov.

Commissioner Robinson inquired about the lack of a Police presence at Ross Francis Middle School.

A representative of DJ Hut (2010 P Street, NW) notified the Commission of disturbances in the past involving students harassing businesses in the area. He requested the MPD to increase monitoring of the area.

GENERAL AGENDA

Commissioner Bowie recognized Kathy Patterson, Ward 3 Councilmember and Chairperson, DC Council Committee on Education, Libraries, and Recreation.

Barry Goodinson of GreenSpaces for DC was not present to update the Commission on the status of renovations to S and T Street Parks. Commissioner Bjorge read Mr. Goodinson's letter aloud to update the Commission on the status of renovations. He announced that the District had not earmarked the necessary funds to pay for the renovation work that was originally planned to begin in Spring 2005. Commissioner Bjorge noted that the architect firm of Lee & Associates already invested significant time and money in this project, under the assumption that the District budgeted funds for the renovations.

Commissioner Bowie noted that the Commission and many constituents feel misled by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) because funds were not earmarked as promised.

Councilmember Patterson stated that she does not know all of the details of this matter, but that she is committed to finding any available funds in the budget to help support S and T Street park renovations. She also noted various problems with DPR in the past.

Commissioners raised concerns about DPR planning regarding the Ross Elementary School and Stead Park, the state of the District's library system, and the Office of Planning's use of incorrect census data. Constituents raised concerns over Councilmember Patterson and her colleagues' support for various projects in the District.

REGULATORY AGENDA

Commissioner Halligan updated the Commission on the status of Stetson's Famous Bar and Restaurant (1610 U Street, NW) application for permission to add a rooftop summer garden with seating capacity for 57 persons. Commissioner Halligan handled this matter during Commissioner Klempay's absence.

Commissioner Halligan notified the Commission of Stetson's decision to submit a dramatically different plan to enclose the roof deck in lieu of adding a rooftop summer garden. Any voluntary agreement would require the closing of ground floor outdoor seating in the back garden at an earlier time to address neighborhood concerns regarding noise.

A representative of Stetson's stated that he decided to propose an enclosed structure to address neighbors' concerns regarding noise. He also noted that Stetson's would move air conditioning units to address concerns over noise.

Commissioner Bowie inquired whether windows in the glass rooftop enclosure would be open. Stetson's has not considered whether they plan to open windows.

Allen Smith, an opponent of the original application, stated that he now supports the revised application because it resolves issues regarding noise.

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to authorize Commissioner Halligan to negotiate a voluntary agreement regarding the proposed rooftop summer garden, which would include the proposed enclosed structure. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

GENERAL

Sam Balston, DC Public Service Commission, was not present to give a presentation on Winter 2005-2006 heating costs.

Denise Wiktor, Office of Public Space Management, District Department of Transportation (DDOT) was not present to give a presentation regarding public space matters.

Deinma Jamabo and Ramona Burns, Project Engineers, District Department of Transportation (DDOT), updated the Commission on planned reconstruction and resurfacing of New Hampshire Avenue, NW. Construction will begin Fall 2006 and will last one year.

Commissioner Bowie noted that full reconstruction of R Street, NW caused problems for the community because of DDOT's lack of coordination with Pepco. Commissioner Bowie inquired how DDOT intended to handle the coordination with Pepco regarding full reconstruction of New Hampshire Avenue, NW. Commissioner Silverstein recommended DDOT begin reconstruction in August when roads are less congested due to the closing of schools, and less activity at the Kennedy Center and Congress.

Ramon Burns stated that DDOT is planning construction in phases to alleviate problems that residents experienced during the reconstruction of R Street, NW. She requested community input in an effort to foster better communication regarding this plan.

Commissioner Robinson recommended scheduling a community meeting regarding this matter. Commissioner Bowie requested that DDOT post signs notifying residents in advance of resurfacing and reconstruction. Michele Molotsky, Constituent Services Director of Councilmember Jack Evans' office, suggested organizing a community communications team to notify constituents of the status of this project.

The Commission considered proposed comments to the District Office of Planning (OP) regarding errors in the Comprehensive Plan maps. Commissioner Meehan presented a memorandum with suggested revisions. He noted that land use residential densities indicated by color on the map do not have the same definitions as residential zones. Since future revised zoning will be based on a revised land use map, Commissioner Meehan suggested the Commission consider the following criteria for comments to OP:

1. Remove mixed-use designations that overlay residential land use colors.
2. Add mixed-use designations in commercial areas where appropriate.
3. Adjust land use designations to the scale that exists.
4. Identify the residential areas that are in fact predominantly moderate density (land use) but show R5D zoning.
5. Identify R5E zones where the R5E boundary includes substantial moderate residential use, both on the map and on the ground.
6. Identify simple map registration errors.
7. Let stand inconsistencies where there is no better solution to support our objective of protecting the historic nature of Dupont Circle, existing residential use, and the scale of neighborhood development.

Commissioner Bowie recommended waiting until the January meeting to consider this issue when Barry Miller, Office of Planning, will be present. Commissioner Movahedi stated that the Commission should notify constituents in the 27 affected areas of its consideration of changes to the Comprehensive Plan maps.

Commissioner Bowie suggested the Commission notify the community through the ANC email list and that Commissioners contact their individual constituents.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to allocate funds to cover postage for notices of the proposed Comprehensive Map changes. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. Commissioner Bowie stated that the motion was not appropriate because the Commission does not have a specific amount to consider. Commissioner Silverstein withdrew his original motion. Commissioner Bowie noted that Commissioners could be reimbursed at a later date for any notices sent out to constituents.

REGULATORY

The Commission considered 1 Stop Wine & Liquor's (2012 P Street, NW) ABC application for a Class A (Liquor Store) license.

Representatives of the applicant stated that they plan to open a three-story upscale wine and liquor store. Commissioners and constituents expressed concern over possible negative effects on the neighborhood of the addition of another liquor store.

Commissioner Bowie explained that the applicant was seeking permission to operate under a license that the Alcohol Beverage Control Board had already granted to a prior

liquor store that no longer was in business. Commissioner Bowie further explained that the issue before the Commission is whether this store is appropriate for this particular location.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to protest the application based on consensus about adverse effects on peace, order and quiet. Commissioner Halligan seconded the motion. Commissioner Silverstein made a friendly amendment to protest the application pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Halligan accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered an ABC application by Trio Restaurant/Fox & Hounds Lounge for a substantial change regarding alcohol service at a sidewalk café for 48 persons on Q Street, NW. A representative of the applicant was not present.

Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to protest the application based on consensus about adverse effects on peace, order and quiet pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson not participating.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the November regular meeting minutes as amended. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the November meeting minutes. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, 7:00 PM at the Jewish Community Center at 16th & Q Streets, NW.

At 10:00 PM, Commissioner Bowie moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed by acclimation.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADOPTED: January 11, 2006