

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Wednesday, June 8, 2005
DC Jewish Community Center**

The June Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Commissioner Estrada at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Rob Halligan (2B-01), Karyn-Siobhan Robinson, (2B-02), Mark Bjorge (SB-05), Mike Silverstein (2B-06), Babak Movahedi (2B-07), Peter Klempay (2B-08) and Ramon Estrada (2B-09). Bob Meehan (2B-03) was not present. Commissioner Estrada chaired the meeting until Darren Bowie (2B-04) arrived shortly thereafter.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Robinson announced construction on N Street and (on the alley running parallel to 22nd St. between N St. crossing Newport Place and ending at O St.)
Commissioner Silverstein announced that people affected by the construction may park in school parking lots in the area on nights and weekends.

Bill Glew, President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), invited constituents to join in the Capital Pride Parade to walk behind DCCA's banner. The Capital pride parade will take place on June 11.

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 Police station at 1620 V Street NW. He noted an increase in hotel robberies and muggings.

Commissioner Estrada announced the Zeta Phi Beta building dedication on July 23 from 10:00-4:00 PM and reminded constituents about the closure of the 1700 block of New Hampshire Ave., NW (R Street to S Street).

GENERAL AGENDA

A representative of the Customer Education Advisory Board made a presentation on the "DC is Electric" campaign regarding electricity deregulation in the District. Constituents can find more information at www.dciselectric.com.

Commissioner Bowie announced that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) requested that ANC 2B comment on Proposed Ward 2 Local Roadway and Alley Projects for Fiscal Years 2006-2010. The Commission proposed the following alleys to be added to the proposed plan:

1. The alley between Riggs Place and S Street and 17th and 18th Streets NW

2. The alley behind N Street between 19th and 20th Streets NW
3. The alley behind T Street between 16th and 14th Streets NW
4. The alley between Corcoran and R Streets and 16th and 17th Streets NW
5. The alleys between Corcoran and R Streets and 18th and 19th Streets NW
6. The alley behind the First Baptist Church at 1328 16th Street NW
7. The alley behind the Mansion on O Street at 2020 O Street NW
8. The alleys surrounding Stead Park at 1625 P St. NW

Commissioner Robinson noted her previous request that DDOT investigate various traffic calming measures to alleviate traffic problems to deter commuters from using the alleys between N and O Streets and Newport Place NW, as an alternative to 22nd Street. She noted that she is having difficulty receiving a response from DDOT and requests that ANC 2B renew its original request.

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to request DDOT to make all of the proposed changes discussed at this meeting. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Commissioner Bowie presented Commissioner Meehan's comments on the proposed Comprehensive Plan. The District's Office of Planning requested initial comments from ANC 2B. Commissioner Bowie opened the floor to discussion by Commissioners. Commissioner Bowie stated that the Commission should not go into too much detail at this early stage. He suggested that Commissioners contact Commissioner Meehan with any additional comments.

Bill Glew, President of Dupont Circle Citizens Association, noted the importance of informing the Office of Planning of ANC 2B comments.

Commissioners Estrada and Silverstein stated that the Commission should give due diligence to Commissioner Meehan's recommendations and consider this matter at the July meeting. Commissioner Bjorge stated that he would like to hear from constituents block by block, as well as collect signatures. Commissioner Movahedi stated that he has not had a chance to discuss these comments with his constituents.

After discussion, Commissioner Bowie made the following revisions to the draft Commission comments regarding the District's Comprehensive Plan:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B ON
REVISING THE D.C. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

ROLE OF THE REVISED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN GUIDING THE DIRECTION OF FUTURE DC GROWTH

**The Comprehensive Plan (“Comp Plan”) should be binding on all D.C. Government agencies, not just on the Zoning Commission.

**The D.C. Council should establish an independent Planning Commission to enforce the Comp Plan and to provide the leadership and support for modifying the Comp Plan as appropriate.

GENERAL FEATURES OF THE REVISED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

** The Comp Plan should protect to the maximum extent practicable the basic features of the L’Enfant plan for old town Washington.

** The Comp Plan should reinforce the character and scale of our historic districts.

** The Comp Plan should reinforce and protect the identity and positive characteristics of established neighborhoods by incorporating neighborhood areas within the mapping of the Comp Plan and by incorporating special criteria that apply to future growth and development within these neighborhood areas.

** The Comp Plan should be used to protect existing green spaces within the District, such as parks, recreational areas, school playing fields, and streetscapes, as well as to expand the areas devoted to green spaces, including green roofs on appropriate buildings.

VISION FOR THE DUPONT CIRCLE AREA FOR THE NEXT 10-20 YEARS

** Dupont Circle should remain a major downtown mixed residential area. The areas of Dupont Circle within historic districts should focus on retaining the townhouses and mansions that contribute to the essential historic nature of these areas.

** The commercial strips within the residential areas should continue to serve neighborhood needs.

** ANC 2B will provide further, more specific comments, within forty-five days.

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to submit the Commission’s statement as revised to the Office of Planning. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0). Commissioner Silverstein made a friendly amendment to recommend the Commission submit additional recommendations to the Office of Planning within 45 days. Commissioner Bowie accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Commissioner Bowie presented a summary of information from previous meetings regarding the proposed Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning Overlay. Commissioner Bowie proposed that ANC 2B urge the Zoning Commission's expeditious review and approval of the mandatory inclusionary zoning as embodied in the principles outlined in Case No. 04-33, an amendment submitted by the DC Campaign for Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning on November 17, 2004. ANC 2B further believes that mandatory inclusionary zoning should include appropriate protections for historic districts. The Commission believes such a policy can produce thousands of units of affordable housing in the years ahead for moderate and low-income households whose members wish both to work and to live in the District of Columbia, and that mandatory inclusionary zoning will contribute significantly to the creation of vibrant, diverse neighborhoods throughout the District. A constituent voiced concern over the effects of such a zoning overlay on the historic character of the neighborhood. Commissioner Bowie moved his original motion to a vote with the additional language "as long as properties within historic districts are protected." Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

REGULATORY AGENDA

Representatives of the World Bank (1816 I Street NW) presented its public space application for perimeter site security. They stated that perimeter security, in addition to providing physical security, should also contribute positively to the surrounding area by improving the streetscape, trees, and street paving. Commissioner Halligan requested the developers to partition benches so as not to encourage the gathering of the homeless in this area. A constituent requested the representatives to confirm that the plan will not interfere with wheelchair access. Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered the renewal, termination and modification of the P Street Moratorium (Dupont West). The Moratorium will expire in August 2005. Commissioner Bowie stated that the Commission must make a recommendation on the Moratorium. Commissioners Silverstein and Robinson are the Commission's liaisons for this matter.

Commissioners Robinson and Silverstein noted that they held a community meeting regarding the Moratorium on May 23. Commissioner Bowie stated that he planned to recommend that the ANC request the ABC Board to extend the P Street Moratorium for five years with the same modifications that the Commission recommended the ABC Board adopt on the 17th Street Moratorium. Therefore, the Commission would recommend allowing two DR licensees to apply to become CR establishments. The change in license class would allow a licensee to sell spirits in addition to beer and liquor. The Commission would also request the ABC Board to clarify that the holder of a retail license C or D in the Moratorium zone may apply for outdoor seating in public space. The Commission would also request the ABC Board to allow the addition of one new DR license. Commissioner Bowie stated that the moratorium would stay in effect regarding all other aspects, including language in the moratorium prohibiting expansion.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that he and Commissioner Robinson worked out this language with the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. He suggested that ANC 2B cosponsor the petition with Dupont Circle Citizens Association.

A representative from Apex stated that he supports a five year P Street Moratorium to keep a mix of restaurants and local businesses in the neighborhood. Other representatives of local businesses expressed their support for the P Street Moratorium.

A representative of the Dupont Circle Merchants and Professionals Association (DCMAP) stated that it did not support the P Street Moratorium. Commissioner Movahedi noted that the majority of constituents in the affected areas support the Moratorium. Ed Grandis, President of DCMAP, noted the organization's concern regarding boundaries affected by the Moratorium.

Commissioner Bowie moved to support the renewal of the P Street Moratorium for five years with the aforementioned revised language regarding the conversion of DR licenses to CR licenses. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. Commissioner Silverstein proposed a friendly amendment to cosponsor the petition with the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. Commissioners Bowie and Robinson accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Representatives of Sorg & Associates presented design plans for Rapture Lofts (14th and T Streets) to be submitted to the Historic Preservation Review Board. They requested approval from the Commission for two designs. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to support both design options with a preference for the T Street option. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson abstaining.

A representative from the District Department of Transportation presented a proposal to place bicycle racks in front of Trios Restaurant (1537 17th Street NW). Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to support the proposal. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the D.C. Jewish Community Center, 16th & Q Streets, N.W.

At 9:55 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: July 13, 2005