

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Monday, April 17, 2006 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 (2B-01), Bob Meehan (2B-03), Darren Bowie (2B-04), Mike Silverstein (2B-06), Peter Klempay (2B-08) and Ramon Estrada (2B-09). Commissioners Karyn-Siobhan Robinson (2B-02) and Babak Movahedi (2B-07) arrived later in the meeting and left before the end of the meeting. Commissioner Mark Bjorge (2B-05) was not present.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Halligan announced that he would step down in April from his position as Commissioner for SMD 2B-01, in order to take over the Presidency of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA). Commissioner Bowie commended Commissioner Halligan for his hard work on issues in the neighborhood. The Commission presented Commissioner Halligan with a plaque recognizing his outstanding service to the Dupont Circle neighborhood.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Eddie O'Connell, Third District Community Prosecutor, Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, was not present.

Commissioner Halligan noted an increase in auto theft and crime. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers appeared before the Commission to speak about recent crime activity. They noted that nine rapes occurred in PSA 306.

Commissioner Robinson arrived.

The Commission discussed recent problems caused by students of Francis Junior High School (2425 N St NW). Commissioner Silverstein requested this matter to be included on the agenda. Courtney Fletcher, Principal, Francis Junior High School, and DC school board representatives were not present. Residents expressed their concern over numerous experiences with Francis Junior High School students. Residents also stated that it was inexcusable for DC school board representatives to miss this meeting.

Commissioner Meehan stated that the community should help Francis Junior High School improve. Commissioner Robinson stated that Principal Courtney Fletcher is very concerned over recent events involving her students and that Principal Fletcher could not attend the ANC 2B meeting because April 17th was a DC holiday, and Principal Fletcher was traveling. Commissioner Robinson requested local businesses to contact her with ideas for solving this problem. Commissioner Halligan noted that another school on S and 20th Streets NW was also responsible for recent disturbances. He also noted that residents could view pictures of a recent fight involving neighborhood students at

<http://chrisdoucettecomedy.blogspot.com/2006/04/what-waste-of-april-fools-day-blog.html>. Commissioner Silverstein stated that vandalism and violence by students is unacceptable. He noted that Principal Courtney Fletcher is concerned, and that the community must act in a positive manner to resolve this matter.

Commissioner Movahedi arrived. Commissioner Robinson left the meeting.

Commissioner Movahedi asked MPD to update the Commission on the status of efforts to increase MPD patrols of 17th Street NW. MPD officers stated that 19 officers are patrolling 17th and 18th Streets NW by foot and scooter from 8:00 PM – 4:00 AM everyday.

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

GENERAL AGENDA

Aleizha Batson, Community Relations Coordinator, DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), gave a presentation on the status of the replacement of lead service lines. WASA estimates replacing 4,000 lead water service pipes in the District this year. Accordingly, WASA will notify residents in advance each time contractors plan to work in a neighborhood. WASA will simultaneously replace lead water service pipes in both public space and private property, if affected residents return a signed “Customer Agreement” and schedule an appointment before a contractor begins the work. Contractors work from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Monday-Saturday. Concerned residents may visit www.dcwasa.com for more information, or contact Aleizha Batson at 202-787-2202 or email her at aleizha.batson@dc.gov.

Commissioner Bowie deferred Councilmember Phil Mendelson’s presentation on the District’s real estate tax assessment process.

REGULATORY AGENDA

The Commission heard a presentation by Jury’s Hotel (1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW) regarding a proposed sidewalk café. Tom Casey, General Manager, Jury’s Hotel, proposed a sidewalk café seating 36 people. Commissioner Movahedi made a motion to approve the proposal as stated. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

The Commission considered an ABC substantial change application by 17th Street Café, for a CR (Restaurant) license, amended hours of operation, and an increase in capacity from 30 seats to 44 seats. Commissioner Bowie noted that the applicant had already filed for a DR license, pursuant to the modified 17th Street ABC Moratorium. No representatives of 17th Street Café were present. Commissioner Bowie made a motion to protest the amended application based on adverse affects on peace, order and quiet.

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Bjorge voting by proxy and Commissioner Halligan abstaining.

The Commission considered a possible application by Palm Restaurant (1225 19th Street NW) regarding a proposed sidewalk café. Commissioner Silverstein noted that the Palm Restaurant had not resubmitted its revised application. Commissioner Bowie stated that no action needed to be taken.

The Commission considered an ABC application by McCormick & Schmick (1700 K Street NW) for a new CR (Restaurant) license for a new restaurant - Jimmy's on K Street. Commissioner Bowie noted that the applicant applied for permission to serve alcoholic beverages until 2:00 AM during the week and 3:00 AM on weekends, for both inside and outside seating. He noted that the location is not a residential area. Commissioner Bowie recommended that the applicant appear before the Commission at its May meeting regarding the number of sidewalk cafe tables and seating. Commissioner Silverstein recommended the Commission take no action during the April meeting.

Councilmember Phil Mendelson gave a presentation on the District's real estate tax assessment process. He explained that District tax assessments have risen by 21%, but that tax bills should be lower, due to the lowering of the tax rate from 96 cents to 92 cents, and the increase in the homestead deduction from \$30,000 to \$60,000. He noted that a 10% cap was placed on the growth of the tax. This cap will not apply to most homeowners because 80% of people will pay lower taxes. He noted that an automatic rate reduction is in place to alleviate increased taxes, if overall citywide tax assessments grow faster than originally projected.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that Ben's Chili Bowl's tax assessment went up 500%. He expressed concern over how increased tax assessments are affecting small businesses in the neighborhood. A resident noted that his tax assessment had gone up over ten times, but his property taxes have not increased. Commissioner Bowie thanked Councilmember Mendelson for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Movahedi left the meeting.

The Commission considered BZA application No. 17319 by William McKeever for a modification of approved plans in connection with a requested special exception to allow a rear addition to an existing single-family row dwelling located at 1723 Riggs Place NW. The applicant requested permission to expand the rear addition from 24 feet to 32 feet.

A resident expressed concern over the expansion of the rear addition. Commissioner Halligan made a motion to take no position. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0) with Commissioners Robinson, Movahedi and Bjorge not present.

The Commission heard a presentation by representatives of Sunoco (15th and U Streets NW) regarding proposed construction plans. Sunoco requested approval to re-image the current Mobil station sign with a monument sign bearing the Sunoco logo. Commissioner Halligan expressed concern over vandalism and ensuring the sign is visible to drivers. Commissioner Estrada noted that many residents prefer the monument sign design to Sunoco's original sign proposal. Commissioner Estrada is currently working with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to assist Sunoco in adding green space to the property and blending in the station with the historic character of the neighborhood.

A resident expressed concern for driver safety. He witnessed a number of accidents near the gas station.

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to approve the plan as presented with a monument sign. Commissioner Klempay seconded the motion. Commissioner Meehan expressed concern over DDOT's approval of this matter. Commissioner Estrada noted that DDOT expressed its approval of the project. The motion carried (6-0).

The Commission discussed the construction on T Street between 14th and 15th Streets NW. Art Linde, Developer, The Linde Companies, explained their plans for a six-unit condo at 1406 T Street NW. The Linde Companies applied for building and public space permits to begin the construction of condominiums on an asphalt parking lot. He noted construction would not adversely affect public access to the alley or sidewalks around the affected areas. Commissioner Estrada noted that the Commission had already approved the applicant's request for condominium conversion. The Linde Companies requested permission to begin construction on May 15, 2006. The applicant requested the Commission to support its traffic control plan for the alley and its use of public space. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to approve the plan. Commissioner Klempay seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

The Commission considered a proposed alley closing at 1925 K Street NW. Commissioner Bowie noted that alley closings must receive approval by the DC Council and the Office of the Surveyor. Commissioner Bowie recommended sending a letter to the Office of the Surveyor regarding the Commission's concerns over possible effects of the alley closing on the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Commissioner Silverstein moved the motion. Commissioner Klempay seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve final legal fees of \$11,665.00 in connection with the 1616 Rhode Island Avenue PUD matter. Commissioner Silverstein made a friendly amendment to add language stating that legal fees would "not exceed \$11,665.00." Commissioner Bowie accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried (6-0).

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the second quarterly report of FY06. The quarter ended March 31, 2006. Commissioner Klempay seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the purchase of a copier, not to exceed \$500. Commissioner Klempay seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the February and March regular meeting minutes as amended by Commissioners Meehan and Bowie. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the February and March meeting minutes. Commissioner Klempay seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16th and 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 2B

ADOPTED: May 10, 2006