

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING,
Wednesday, August 9, 2006 Jewish Community Center**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lindsay Reishman, representative of the Washington, DC chapter of One Brick, announced a number of volunteer opportunities for Dupont Circle residents. Interested residents may visit www.onebrick.org for more information or contact Erin Baird at ErinB@onebrick.org or at 202-271-6441.

Commissioner Meehan stated that five residents complained of flooding. In response to one of these complaints, DC WASA was reported to have told the homeowner that there had been many Dupont Circle flooding complaints. Commissioner Estrada said the Commission would put this matter on the September agenda. In the meantime, Commissioner Meehan was charged with collecting data on the extent of flooding in Dupont Circle and to follow up with DC WASA.

In response to a question about the availability of flood insurance in DC, Commissioner Meehan stated that it is available. Commissioner Robinson suggested that residents review www.disb.dc.gov for more information on purchasing flood insurance. Commissioner Meehan added that sewer backups are generally handled by homeowners policies either as part of the standard provisions or through an endorsement. However, be advised that some homeowners had their policies cancelled after they filed a claim.

Mayoral candidate Marie Johns appeared before the Commission and public, to explain her platform and ask for residents' support on September 12th. Residents may visit her website at www.johnsformayor.com. She noted that Bev Losch would host an event to support her election campaign.

Rob Halligan, President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), announced the Dupont Circle House Tour on October 15th. Interested residents who would like to volunteer can contact him at president@dupont-circle.com for more information.

Commissioner Estrada recognized Michele Molotsky, Director of Constituent Services, Office of Councilmember Jack Evans, and David Moorehead of PEPCO.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Sergeant Brett Parsons and representatives of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) appeared before the Commission to address the recent murder on 15th and Swann Streets NW. He noted that the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Violent Crime Unit is investigating the murder. He noted that the house is still considered a crime scene. He assured residents that there is no evidence of a pattern in the neighborhood of people breaking into houses and stabbing residents. He noted that arrest and juvenile curfew statistics are up since last month. Commissioner Estrada inquired about the veracity of a recent Washington Post article regarding the murder. Mr. Parsons stated that he could not comment on the veracity of the article.

Commissioner Movahedi congratulated Mr. Parsons on the GLLU's recent award from Harvard University.

Commissioner Silverstein inquired about the recent string of burglaries of department stores at 5:30 AM on 19th Street NW. He noted that Couscous Café and Joseph A. Banks had both been robbed recently.

Commissioner Aarons noted that her constituents are concerned about a recent increase in loitering of the homeless near the area surrounding Safeway on 17th Street NW. An MPD representative noted that there is only so much the MPD can legally do to stop the loitering.

Rob 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

Representatives of the DC Youth Services Administration appeared before the Commission regarding the halfway house located at 1729 P Street NW. Commissioner Movahedi noted that he met with representatives of the property and requested them to also appear before the Commission to respond to concerns of the community. Commissioner Movahedi also requested two MPD officers to remain for the presentation.

Barry Holman, Director of Research and Quality Assurance, DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Government of the District of Columbia, gave a presentation on his agency's plan to alleviate community concerns over the P Street property. Commissioner Movahedi noted that he was satisfied with Mr. Holman's plan.

Commissioner Aarons noted that she lives next door to the P Street property and had never known about its residents or mission. She inquired whether there is a notification process in place to provide neighbors and the community with updates. A representative of the property noted that there is no notification process in place, but that he plans to

hold an open house for the community. Commissioner Movahedi noted that he will serve on the advisory board of the 1729 P Street property.

REGULATORY AGENDA

The Commission considered a Zoning Commission application regarding a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 1000 Connecticut Avenue NW. Mike Tyler, Project Manager, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, appeared before the Commission to present a summary of the amenities to be considered by the Commission, which would benefit the public.

Rob Halligan noted that DCCA had no objection to the PUD application. Commissioner Silverstein inquired whether emergency vehicles would be able to access the alley. Commissioner Silverstein requested that the Commission's minutes reflect that the Commission is deliberately waving one third of a mile from the PUD amenities requirement.

Rob Halligan inquired about the parking garage and driveway. Mr. Tyler stated that the garage would hold 229 cars.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to endorse the proposal. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Commissioner Silverstein withdrew the Public Space Application regarding 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

The Commission considered a Public Space Application regarding 1126 16th Street NW for permission to install a ramp, patio, wall, sign, and other items.

Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-1) with Commissioner Bjorge opposing the motion.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by El Paraiso Restaurant (1916-1918 14th Street NW) for an entertainment endorsement to allow occasional dancing, and for a change in hours of operation and hours of alcohol sales. The applicant's attorney, Andrew Kline, appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Estrada expressed concern over the applicant's combination of two separate requests in one application. He noted that it is highly unusual to request occasional dancing without also stipulating the type of music.

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to oppose the substantial change request in order to request the applicant stipulate the type of music, and to request a separate substantial change application for hours of operation and alcohol sales. Commissioner Movahedi urged Commissioner Estrada to reconsider. Commissioner Estrada recognized Phyllis Kline, who noted her and other neighbors' concerns over the establishment's current volume of music. She requested the Commission to oppose the application and create a

voluntary agreement.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that this would be a good opportunity for a friendly voluntary agreement. Commissioner Estrada moved to oppose the application pending a voluntary agreement. The motion carried (6-2) with Commissioners Robinson and Movahedi abstaining.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by BLT Steak (1625 Eye Street NW) for a new CR (Restaurant) License, including permission for a sidewalk café. Commissioner Bjorge noted that the applicant was not present. He stated that he met with the applicant. Commissioner Bjorge noted that he did not believe there was any reason to take action.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Club Five (1214 B 18th Street NW) for permission to add a rooftop summer garden with seating for 50 persons. The applicant requested two motions:

1. Allow Club Five to operate the rooftop garden on a trial basis over two consecutive weekends on September 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th.
2. Approve Club Five's application to allow the operation of a rooftop summer garden.

Commissioner Silverstein noted his support for the two-week trial period so that Commissioners can visit the establishment in person. He recommended the Commission file a friendly protest to preserve the Commission's standing if any further issues should arise. Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the request to allow a two-week weekend trial period regarding the operation of a summer rooftop garden. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion.

Rob Halligan requested the Commission notify nearby residents of Jefferson Place regarding the two-week trial period, to allow residents to observe the noise level. The applicant's attorney also requested the Commission inquire whether Jefferson Place is currently soundproofed. The motion passed (7-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson abstaining.

Commissioner Silverstein moved to protest the application for an ABC license pending a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson abstaining.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

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

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to approve the third quarterly financial report. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0). Commissioner Silverstein noted that the Commission opened a money market account in order to take advantage of a newly changed regulation allowing ANCs to earn interest on their District allocated funds.

Commissioner Bjorge met with representatives of the Beacon Hotel. He moved to withdraw the Commission's protest from its July 2006 meeting. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16th and Q Streets, NW.

At 9:30 PM, Commissioner Estrada moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Blicher, Jr.
Executive Director
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

ADOPTED: September 13, 2006