

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING,
Wednesday, December 13, 2006 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: Commissioners Karyn-Siobhan Robinson (2B02), Bob Meehan (2B03), Darren Bowie (2B04), Mark Bjorge (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Babak Movahedi (2B07), Peter Klempay (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Morra Aarons (2B01) was not present.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Robinson noted that Capitol Paving was awarded the contract for work on the P Street Streetscape. Capitol Paving will begin posting construction-warning signs on December 18. Construction will begin in March.

Commissioner Silverstein thanked outgoing Commissioners for their service to the community. He presented plaques to Commissioners Klempay, Bowie, Robinson, and Movahedi. He also presented a gavel to Commissioner Bowie to commemorate his service as Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Bowie stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the Commission to serve the neighborhood. He thanked outgoing and remaining Commissioners and Freddie Blicher, Executive Director, for their work for the neighborhood. Commissioner Estrada thanked Commissioner Bowie for his leadership and guidance. Commissioner Robinson thanked the Commission and requested that Commissioners remember that a large number of residents are renters, not owners; that children are also neighbors; and that affordable housing in the neighborhood should be protected.

Commissioner Meehan expressed concern over Ross School losing its small-school subsidy. He noted that Ross School currently has the largest small-school subsidy in the District. He also noted that some residents are taking advantage of the Ross School playground. He requested concerned residents to attend the January ANC meeting to discuss these matters. He recommended the Commission make a strong statement to the DC School Board in support of Ross School.

Chris Brown, Director, Sports Initiatives & Business Development, Greater Washington Sports Alliance, appeared before the Commission to notify the neighborhood of its Second Annual National Marathon on March 24, 2007. The race will pass through Dupont Circle. The event will last from 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM. The Department of Public Works and Goodwill Industries will provide the street cleanup. Approximately 5,000 people will participate in the race. The race will begin at New Hampshire Avenue NW & M Street NW and exit at 18th Street NW & U Street NW. Concerned constituents can contact Mr. Browne at 202-857-5998 or at cbrowne@gwsportsalliance.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Rob Halligan, Dupont Circle Public Safety Chair, and President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), noted that Dr. Ximena Hartsock, Principal, Ross School, has consistently reached out to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Mr. 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.

Mr. Halligan noted that he met with Councilmember Phil Mendelson to request the passage of the “David Johnson Law”, named after a repeat offender in order to pressure the US Attorney to prosecute more criminals arrested for minor offenses in the neighborhood. Commissioner Silverstein noted that David Johnson had been arrested 26 times in the past five years, and is responsible for many car break-ins in the neighborhood. He requested concerned residents to contact Marilyn Morey, US Attorney’s Office, to fill out a victim impact statement, in order to request Judge Bailey to hand down a strong sentence to David Johnson.

Commissioner Estrada thanked Mr. Halligan for his assistance with MPD regarding recent muggings and car break-ins on 14th Street NW & U and T Streets NW.

GENERAL AGENDA

The Commission did not hear a presentation regarding the DC Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006. Commissioner Bowie noted that the Council recently passed this legislation.

REGULATORY AGENDA

The Commission heard an update regarding the proposed Sixteenth Street Historic District Expansion. Commissioner Bowie noted that the Commission would address the existing Historic District and the proposed change in the period of significance. Under the proposal, the period of significance would change from 1930 to 1958, allowing for additional buildings, not currently classified as contributing in the current Historic District, to be deemed as contributing to the Historic District.

Laura Trieschmann, Senior Architectural Historian, DC Preservation League, appeared before the Commission. She listed the following buildings, which the proposed expansion would affect:

1. The General Scott
1 Scott Circle NW
Constructed in 1941

2. 1600 16th Street NW
Constructed in 1940
3. Washington House
2120 16th Street NW
Constructed in 1940

She stated these buildings historically reflect the development of 16th Street, reflecting the movement of residents from hotels to apartment buildings.

Commissioner Silverstein recommended voting on each building separately. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to include the General Scott (1 Scott Circle NW) as a contributing building, and that the Commission consider 1600 16th Street NW and the Washington House (2120 16th Street NW) as non-contributing. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. Commissioner Klempay noted that the Washington House is not in ANC 2B. Commissioner Bowie noted that the General Scott is already designated as a contributing building under the DC Preservation League's proposal; and that a motion is not appropriate regarding Washington House because it is not in ANC 2B. Commissioner Bowie restated the motion so that the Commission recommended that the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) designate 1600 16th Street NW as a non-contributing building. The motion carried (7-1) with Commissioner Klempay voting in opposition.

The Commission heard an update regarding the proposed modification to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW. Commissioner Bjorge stated that the Commission and the applicant came to an agreement on the settlement regarding the PUD. Stephen Gell, attorney for the Commission, summarized the settlement. The applicant agreed to increase its initial offer for a neighborhood amenity to \$300,000. The majority of these funds will be paid once the applicant obtains building permits, and \$50,000 will be paid as soon as the Zoning Commission approves the applicant's proposed plan. Commissioner Bowie thanked Commissioner Bjorge, Stephen Gell and Rob Halligan for their hard work on this matter.

Commissioner Bjorge thanked the Dupont Circle Citizens Association for its support on this matter. Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to accept the agreement. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered BZA Application No. 17555 by Karthik Ramanathan and Innessa Manning for a special exception to allow a rear addition to an existing single-family row dwelling at 2128 O Street NW. The Commission deferred this matter until later in the meeting.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Mourayo, LLC, T/A Mourayo, 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW, CR (Restaurant) License, for an Entertainment Endorsement. The Commission deferred this matter until later in the meeting.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by 1600 U Inc., T/A Local 16, 1600 U Street NW, CR (Restaurant) License, for an Entertainment Endorsement. The applicant appeared before the Commission and stated that he understood that the current ABC license allowed for two DJs, but that now they only desire to employ one DJ on the second floor of their building. Commissioner Klempay noted that the applicant is seeking the maximum opening hours possible. Local 16 is open until 2:00 AM Sunday – Thursday and 3:00 AM Friday – Saturday.

Allan Smith, 2000 16th Street NW, expressed concern over Local 16 operating as a nightclub. He stated he would support the Entertainment Endorsement if the Commission would negotiate a voluntary agreement with the applicant.

Rob Halligan inquired whether an Entertainment Endorsement would allow a DJ and live music. Commissioner Bowie noted that the notice does not specify. Dimitri Mallios, Attorney for the applicant, stated that his client would only employ one DJ inside on the second floor.

Commissioner Estrada inquired whether the applicant has a dance floor. The applicant responded that they do not have a dance floor.

Commissioner Klempay made a motion to protest the application based on concerns of peace, order and quiet, pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. He stated that he would like to finalize the Voluntary Agreement before his term as ANC Commissioner ends. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson abstaining.

The Commission considered BZA Application No. 17555 by Karthik Ramanathan and Innessa Manning for a special exception to allow a rear addition to an existing single-family row dwelling at 2128 O Street NW. The applicant requested permission to enclose his patio and add a kitchen addition to the house. He noted that his neighbors approve of the project.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Mourayo, LLC, T/A Mourayo, 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW, CR (Restaurant) License, for an Entertainment Endorsement. Ed Grandis appeared on behalf of the applicant. He noted the restaurant seats 54 people. There is no area for dancing entertainment. The applicant hosts receptions with historic Greek music. The applicant is requesting an Entertainment Endorsement to play historic Greek music. Commissioner Meehan inquired about the hours of entertainment. Mr. Grandis responded that the hours match the hours of operation. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Paradise, Inc., T/A Pizzeria Paradiso, 2029 P Street NW for permission to expand license premises to include the basement, increase capacity from 36 to 67, and for permission to change license class from DR (Restaurant Serving Beer and Wine) to CR (Restaurant Serving Beer, Wine, and Spirits). The applicant would like to expand into the basement and construct a stairwell connecting both floors. Commissioner Bowie inquired about how the Dupont West Moratorium would affect this application. Commissioner Silverstein stated that the applicant is not yet permitted to move into the basement because of the Moratorium. Commissioner Silverstein recommended protesting the application pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement, in order to negotiate an agreement, wherein the applicant would state its intention to expand the restaurant into the basement when permitted by the Moratorium. The Commission would support the expansion within the Voluntary Agreement, in order to put the Commission's support for the expansion on the record before the end of the Moratorium.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to protest the application based on grounds of peace, order and quiet, pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement to specify future planned usage of the building and to permit the ANC to go on record in support of expansion to the building's ground floor, as soon as that is permitted by the language of the Dupont West Moratorium. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered an ABC Application by MHG Café Dupont LLC, T/A Circa at Dupont, 1601 Connecticut Avenue NW for a New CR (Restaurant) License including occasional entertainment and a sidewalk café. Commissioner Robinson recused herself from this matter. The applicant appeared before the Commission and explained his plans for the Circa café. He noted the café would be open from 5:30 AM – 2:00 AM. He stated the café would not morph into a lounge or nightclub. Commissioner Silverstein inquired about the architectural plans for the building and sidewalk café. The applicant did not have these plans available for review.

Glenn Wilson, 1825 Q Street NW, expressed concern over the entertainment negatively affecting him and his neighbors. Alan and Anexora Skvirsky, owners of The Dupont at the Circle Bed and Breakfast (1604 19th Street NW), expressed concern over the entertainment negatively affecting its guests. Commissioner Movahedi stated that residents and businesses must coexist together in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to protest the application based on concerns of peace, order and quiet, pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson not participating.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Jah, Inc., T/A Dragonfly, 1215 Connecticut Ave. NW, CR (Restaurant) License for permission to add a summer garden with 75 seats. The applicant appeared before the Commission. He requested permission

to build a deck on the second floor of property. The deck would extend from the second floor over the parking spaces in the back of the building. The applicant did not bring any drawings of the proposal. Commissioner Bjorge recommended creating a voluntary agreement because Dragonfly shares an alley with St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to protest the application based on concerns of peace, order and quiet, pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

The Commission considered a proposed amendment to ANC 2B Bylaws Article V, Section 4, to establish 7:00 PM as ANC 2B's regular meeting time. Commissioner Bowie made a motion to amend ANC 2B's bylaws accordingly. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered the approval of the ANC Annual Report for 2004-2006, which was circulated to the public and Commissioners. Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the ANC Annual Report for 2004-2006, and empowered the Executive Director to update the number of votes taken for 2006 to reflect the number of votes that have been taken at the December meeting. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$250 to pay for plaques and gavels. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

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 Klempay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 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 acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADOPTED: January 10, 2007