

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Wednesday, January 11, 2006 Jewish Community Center**

The January 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), Peter Klempay (2B-08) and Ramon Estrada (2B-09).

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Meehan expressed concern over people walking dogs on the children's playground at the Ross Elementary School.

Commissioner Bowie introduced Morgan Zehner, Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets.

Debby Hanrahan, volunteer for the Friends of the West End Library, spoke about the Mayor's plan to sell the West End Library (24th St & L Streets, NW). She requested interested constituents to support the Friends of the West End Library to stop the sale of the library.

Interested constituents can contact Ms. Hanrahan at 202-462-2054.

A constituent group stated their opposition to the granting of a Class A Liquor License to 1 Stop Wine & Liquor (2012 P Street, NW).

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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.

Commissioner Robinson requested the Metro Police Department (MPD) to monitor P Street, NW, for Francis School students throwing snowballs at pedestrians. She requested the MPD to be aware of college parties on O Street, NW. She also noted that drugs are still sold on O and N Streets, NW. US Park Police are conducting undercover work to deal with prostitution and drug rings in these areas.

GENERAL AGENDA

The Commission held its 2006 Election of ANC 2B Officers. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to elect the following Officers:

Chair - Commissioner Darren A. Bowie
Vice Chair - Commissioner Ramon Estrada

Treasurer - Commissioner Mike Silverstein
Secretary - Commissioner Peter Klempay
Public Safety Chair – Commissioner Halligan

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Commissioner Bowie thanked Commissioner Movahedi for his work during 2005 as ANC 2B Treasurer.

Denise Wiktor, Public Space Manager at the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave a presentation on public space matters. She advised the Commission on public space matters and regulations, including the approval of sidewalk cafes, parking spaces, security enclosures, and tree cutting permits.

She noted the Office of Public Space Management would be implementing Phase 1 of an online permit program to increase efficiency. She also announced that her office now offers a bimonthly electronic list of permit applications. Interested constituents may contact Keith Swann at keith.swann@dc.gov, to be added to the permit and general email lists. Commissioner Bowie requested the Executive Director to sign up all Commissioners for this email list.

Commissioner Estrada asked Ms. Wiktor why ANC 2B had not received notices of various projects in the southwestern corner of 14th and U Streets, NW. She stated that notices were not sent out for projects that only involved scaffolding in public space. Commissioner Estrada also notified her of a major project at 14th and T Streets, NW. He requested the Office of Public Space give ANC 2B notice of any construction affecting public space.

Commissioner Bowie inquired about public space regulations regarding large dumpsters on sidewalks. Ms. Wiktor advised the Commission that companies are permitted to leave dumpsters on public space for 30 days, after which they must offer justification for any longer period of time. She noted that her office is monitoring public space violations regarding dumpsters.

Commissioner Robinson noted that many constituents have complained about the unlawful use of public space for hanging banners and advertisements on light poles in the neighborhood. Ms. Wiktor was not certain, but believed that organizations may post banners for a maximum of 30 or 60 days. After this time, applicants are required to send their request for posting banners to ANC 2B. Commissioner Robinson noted that constituents think that 30 days is not a short period of time.

Commissioner Robinson noted her concerns about mobile storage pods blocking parking spaces for long periods of time. Ms. Wiktor noted that her office fines storage pod companies. Concerned constituents may contact the Office of Infrastructure Oversight at 202-645-7050 (main line) or 202-497-1917 (cell phone available 24 hours), or contact the Mayor's Call Center at 202-727-1000, if storage pods are illegally left in parking spaces.

The Office of Public Space Management will fine a company \$300 per incident, and also require a blanket permit.

Commissioner Bjorge inquired about public space regulations regarding election signs. He noted the previous proliferation of campaign signs in the neighborhood. Ms. Wiktor stated that in order to place election signs on public space, a person must be a registered candidate and must remove any signs within 30 days of the vote. There may be no more than three signs per block and three per intersection. Additionally, signs must be filed with the Office of Public Space Management and must include a contact person, treasurer and tagline.

Anne Scanley (1615 Q Street, NW) inquired whether the Office of Public Space Management requires the filing of actual layouts of sidewalk cafes on public space. Ms. Wiktor stated that applicants are required to file actual layouts for a sidewalk café.

Commissioners Halligan and Bowie thanked Ms. Wiktor for her presentation.

The Commission considered three conceptual designs for renovation of the children's play area at Stead Park (1625 Q Street, NW). Leslie Schill, Chief of Planning, DC Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that a 2006 budget of \$500,000 was allotted for this project. She noted that DPR had met with Friends of Stead Park, Stead Family Trust, Councilmember Evan's office, and ANC 2B. She stated that the focus of this project is the improvement of the front-end of the park, including the children's playground and landscaping. Interested constituents may contact Ms. Schill at leslie.schill@dc.gov or at 202-673-2033.

Maryse Beliveau, Landscape Architect, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), presented three designs for Stead Park. DPR plans to create separate play areas for toddlers and school-age children. Interested constituents may contact Ms. Beliveau at maryse.beliveau@dc.gov or at 202-671-3246.

Commissioner Bjorge stated that all three designs were acceptable. Commissioner Silverstein stressed the need for a basketball half court for kids, so that children will have a safe area to play away from the full court. Commissioner Bowie inquired about maintenance plans for maintaining the landscaping. Ms. Beliveau noted that DPR plans to use native plants and irrigation to maintain the landscaping during the summer months.

The construction will last three months beginning in July 2006. ANC 2B would need to provide its support one week before February 1, 2006 for this project. Constituents voiced their support for the proposed designs.

Commissioner Bowie proposed holding a special meeting on January 25, 2006 at 7:00 to consider the three designs. He asked the Executive Director to reserve this time at the JCC for ANC 2B.

Commissioner Meehan presented his second draft of suggested revisions to the Comprehensive Plan maps. He noted inconsistencies between land use and zoning maps.

Barry Miller, Associate Director of Comprehensive Planning, Office of Planning, presented recommendations for correcting inconsistencies in the Comprehensive Plan maps. He requested the Commission make a motion supporting the recommendations set forth in Commissioner Meehan's document regarding map inconsistencies.

Commissioner Movahedi stated that he disagreed with the method of determining map inconsistencies in the Comprehensive Plan. He also questioned the legal basis for revising the Comprehensive Plan maps.

Commissioner Bowie proposed considering this matter at the February 8, 2006 ANC 2B meeting, in order for Commissioners and constituents to review Commissioner Meehan's and Halligan's recommendations.

REGULATORY AGENDA

The Commission considered Board of Zoning and Adjustments (BZA) Application No. 17425 for Variances and a Special Exception for renovation and construction of an addition allowing mixed use (Retail/Residential) building in the Arts/C-3-A District at 1832-1840 14th Street, NW. Representatives of the West Group appeared before the Commission and explained that the Historic Review Board process was complete. They presented more detailed drawings, which must now be approved by the Board of Zoning and Adjustments (BZA). The applicant is requesting six variances for:

1. Lot Occupancy
2. Recreation Space
3. Mixed Use Zone (Commercial and Residential)
4. Nonconforming building with rear yard setback
5. 18 foot wide columns in underground parking
6. Increased FAR

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

The Commission considered the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) Application No. 06-00 regarding proposed renovations to the Carlyle Suites Hotel (1731 New Hampshire Ave., NW) for adding wheelchair accessibility. A representative of Carlyle Suites Hotel noted that they were sacrificing meeting space in order to make Carlyle Suites Hotel handicap accessible. Commissioner Meehan made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

The Commission provided an update on Zoning Commission application No. 02-51A styled as a modification to an approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 1616 Rhode

Island Ave., NW. Commissioner Bowie noted that ANC 2B disagreed with several aspects of this application, including Rhode Island Associates' proposed amenities package.

Commissioner Bjorge noted that Rhode Island Associates had submitted a revised application with some revisions to amenities, including the potential for 3,000 square feet of retail space. He noted that the Zoning Commission decided to not consider the revised application because the proposal was out of scale. The Zoning Commission suggested the applicant submit a smaller scale proposal.

Commissioner Bowie noted that ANC 2B spent approximately \$20,000 on legal representation and expects fees to fight against this application. He thanked the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) for agreeing to pay \$5,000 for expert fees in this matter.

Commissioner Bowie recognized Bill Glew, President of DCCA and Commissioner Bjorge for their work on this matter.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Movahedi presented the proposed 2006 budget. Commissioner Bowie noted that Congress recently approved the District's appropriation bill. Consequently, ANC 2B is required to formerly approve its budget again. Commissioner Movahedi stated that Commissioner Bowie must make a motion to allocate \$3,000 for legal fees in the Cada Vez matter. Commissioner Movahedi made a motion to amend ANC 2B's authorization for legal fees in the Cada Vez matter from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

ANC 2B currently has \$32,980 on hand, an allotment of \$25,552 from the DC government, and anticipates \$45,457.68 in expenses.

Commissioner Bowie proposed retaining Thomas Defeo as Bookkeeper for ANC 2B, in order to assist Commissioner Silverstein in his role as Treasurer. He also requested Commissioner Movahedi to confirm that ANC 2B is not required to pay unemployment compensation for Mr. Defeo as an independent contractor.

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to retain Thomas Defeo as an independent contractor to perform bookkeeping services for ANC 2B, to be paid \$300 per month. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the budget with modifications. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Commissioner Bowie made a motion for ANC 2B to participate in the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund and authorize the Treasurer to pay the \$25 fee for January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006 coverage. The purpose of this fund is to provide

financial security in case of financial malfeasance. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Commissioner Bowie noted that Commissioner Silverstein must submit a new signature document to PNC Bank and file required forms with the DC Auditor by January 23, 2006.

Commissioner Bowie deferred approval of December minutes until the February 8th meeting.

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 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 acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADOPTED: February 8, 2006