

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING,  
Wednesday, July 12, 2006 Jewish Community Center

The July 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 Morra Aarons (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 Bowie introduced Commissioner Morra Aarons, the new Commissioner for Single-Member District 2B01, and welcomed her to the Commission.

Commissioner Bjorge announced a community meeting regarding Stead Park. He noted the meeting had been scheduled for June 27th, but was canceled as a result of unfinished work regarding the Stead Park contract. He stated he would notify residents via the Dupont Forum listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DupontForum>

Commissioner Meehan announced that the Commission had received some serious emails regarding sewer backup flooding of residents' homes. He requested that the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) attend the August meeting to meet with the community. He requested the Commission send a letter to WASA, if a representative is unable to attend. Commissioner Bowie noted that flooding in the area has been a concern for a number of years. He noted the Commission had taken a number of measures to handle this problem. He recommended that WASA attend the August meeting. Commissioner Meehan stated he would contact WASA.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that Stephanie Crutchfield, Principal, Francis Junior High School, met with Penguin Books in New York to receive a donation of age-appropriate books for the Francis Junior High School library. He also noted that a local restaurant would provide a pizza party to welcome back students in September. He noted that the Friends of Francis Junior High School Association assisted in planning these events. Commissioner Bjorge thanked Commissioner Silverstein for his work on this matter. He requested residents to become involved with the organization to help make improvements to Francis Junior High School.

A representative of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) announced that it would have a meeting to plan the Dupont Circle House Tour in October. Interested residents can contact Rob Halligan, President, DCCA, at [president@dupont-circle.com](mailto:president@dupont-circle.com) for more information.

Commissioner Bowie noted that the Commission would not consider the 1745 Swann Street NW Historic Preservation Application 06-319.

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bowie 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.

Captain Frank Hill, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), appeared before the Commission to speak about the recently declared crime emergency in the District. He stated that current crime rates in the District are unacceptable. He noted that a foot patrol of MPD officers had begun patrolling 17th Street NW, per the Commission's request.

Commissioner Silverstein announced that Sergeant Brett Parsons and the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) won a \$100,000 award from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University for innovation and serving an underserved community. He stated that the Commission is very proud of the GLLU's contribution to the neighborhood. Commissioner Silverstein also noted that he witnessed the MPD investigation regarding the recent murder at 31st and Q Streets NW in Georgetown. He commended the MPD for its professional and comprehensive work. He also notified the community of related robberies at four establishments in SMD 2B06. Captain Hill stated that MPD has video of the suspects and is offering a \$10,000 reward for their arrest.

Commissioner Bjorge requested MPD to continue to monitor alleys in the neighborhood. Captain Hill announced MPD would have an open house at 1620 V Street NW on Saturday, July 15th from 1-6 PM.

Commissioner Estrada noted that he received emails and calls regarding an increase in muggings and robberies in SMD 2B09. He inquired whether Dupont Circle was experiencing an increase in these types of crimes. Captain Hill noted that these types of crimes have increased in the area.

## GENERAL AGENDA

Zach Dobelbower, Ward 2 Planner, DC Office of Planning, introduced himself to the Commission and residents. He stated his plans to focus on citywide revitalization through broad implementation of objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. He noted he would also revisit the 17th Streetscape Plan. Residents may contact him at 202-442-7600 or at zach.dobelbower@dc.gov.

Commissioner Bowie noted that ANC 2B had submitted a number of comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan to the DC Office of Planning. Mr. Dobelbower stated

that he had not yet reviewed these comments and requested the Commission send an additional copy of the Commission's comments to him.

Commissioner Estrada noted that Wards One and Two merge in SMD 2B09. He noted he would appreciate more outreach from the Office of Planning to notify all ANCs and Councilmembers of new plans under consideration. Mr. Dobelbower stated that he would provide the community with more information in the future.

A resident suggested Mr. Dobelbower use the Dupont Forum to provide the community with new information.

The Commission discussed recent noise complaints by residents of Dumbarton Place (1414 22nd Street NW). Jerry Rothman, Vice President, Dumbarton Place Condominium Association, appeared before the Commission to speak about noise from Apex (1415 22nd Street NW) affecting Dumbarton Place's residents.

Mr. Rothman noted that loud music and bass from Apex is disturbing residents. He requested advice from the Commission about decreasing the noise level of music at Apex. He noted that they would like to send a letter to Apex to request a meeting with the owners to address this issue.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that the Commission originally supported the Dumbarton Place project, but that the developer did not install double-paned windows, as Commissioners recommended. He stated that double-paned windows would have alleviated the current disturbances of Dumbarton Place residents.

Commissioner Robinson noted that many patrons of bars and nightclubs make noise when leaving a nightclub or bar, and that these disturbances are not necessarily coming from within a bar or nightclub.

Commissioner Meehan stated that residents should have the opportunity to complain about noise, regardless of how long a club or bar has been in the area.

Commissioner Movahedi noted that Apex had been in the area for many years before the residents of Dumbarton Place moved in. He recommended that residents of Dumbarton Place pursue a special assessment to install double-paned windows at Dumbarton Place. Commissioner Silverstein noted that Apex has been in the area for 23 years, and has made accommodations with neighbors regarding noise disturbances in the past. He noted that Apex contributes much to the community, and has hired over 800 people and paid \$2.3 million in taxes over 23 years. He stated that they are good neighbors and the Commission strives to work together with both businesses and residents.

## REGULATORY AGENDA

The Commission considered an application by Science Club (1126 19th Street NW) for an entertainment endorsement to permit live entertainment, and for a license class change

from a CR (Restaurant) license to a CT (Tavern) license. The applicant noted that there are no residents in the surrounding area of this establishment. He also discussed economic difficulties raised by operating under a CR license. Commissioner Meehan inquired about whether the applicant defined his establishment as a club. The applicant stated that his establishment is a lounge. Commissioner Aarons noted her support for the application. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion passed (8-0-1) with Commissioner Robinson abstaining.

The Commission considered an application by Beacon Hotel for an entertainment endorsement to permit live entertainment, and for permission to change operating hours (requested closing at and alcohol service until 11:00 PM on Sunday and 1:00 AM from Monday – Saturday.) The applicant did not appear before the Commission. Commissioner Bjorge noted that the applicant had not contacted him, and that he was inclined to oppose the application.

Commissioner Silverstein inquired whether Commissioner Bjorge would be willing to oppose the application pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioners Bowie and Meehan stated that the Commission should not vote against an applicant only because the applicant did not appear before the Commission. Commissioner Meehan recommended taking no action on the application.

Commissioner Bjorge stated he felt uncomfortable taking no action, without knowing anything about the application. He stated he would be open to opposing the application pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Bowie stated there is no absolute requirement that an applicant appear before the Commission, and that Commissioners should reach out to businesses that have matters pending before the Commission. Commissioner Movahedi noted that the Commission could only oppose the application based on objections related to peace, order and quiet. Commissioner Robinson recommended taking no action.

Commissioner Bowie stated that, given the possible adverse effects on peace, order, and quiet raised by the application, he would support a motion by Commissioner Bjorge that the Commission oppose the application pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Meehan inquired whether the application was limited to the outdoor café. Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to oppose the application based on concerns about peace, order and quiet, particularly with respect to the outdoor café. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. Commissioner Movahedi asked whether the Commission could divide the motion, considering the outdoor café separately from the entire application. Commissioner Bowie stated the motion on the table applied to the entire application. Commissioner Klempay stated he would only vote to take no action, and would not oppose an application on vague grounds related to the fact that the applicant did not appear before the Commission. Commissioner Meehan noted that this application is no different from similar applications in the neighborhood. The motion carried (5-4) with Commissioners Movahedi, Klempay, Robinson and Aarons voting against the motion.

The Commission considered an application by Café Citron (1343 Connecticut Avenue NW) for an entertainment endorsement to permit live entertainment and dancing, and for permission to expand to the second floor by adding a bar and increasing seats from 125 to 174. The applicant's attorney, Andrew Kline, appeared before the Commission and stated that the establishment is not a nightclub. He noted the applicant plans to hold dancing lessons with instructors as entertainment. The applicant also plans to expand the second floor of the establishment to increase seating capacity. Commissioner Movahedi noted that he did not object to the application because the applicant's establishment is not a nightclub and none of the applicant's neighbors have complained about this request. Commissioner Movahedi made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Commissioner Bowie noted that Commissioner Klempay requested that the Commission remove from the agenda HPA No. 06-319, Historic Preservation Application regarding a proposed addition to 1745 Swann Street NW.

The Commission considered a public space application regarding construction at 801 17th Street NW. The applicants stated their plan to tear down the current building and construct a new glass office building. They noted that demolition would last approximately nine months, and that one building would be taken down at a time. Commissioner Bjorge noted that the applicant would need to close sidewalks because the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) does not currently enforce a covered sidewalk provision. He noted he would like to reach a compromise that would not force pedestrians to cross the street at the demolition site. Commissioner Bjorge made a motion to request that DDOT require the applicant to install a covered walkway to the greatest extent practicable during demolition and construction. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. Commissioner Bjorge noted that he believes this motion should be adopted as standard policy in 2B. The motion carried 7-1-1 with Commissioner Movahedi voting against the motion, and Commissioner Aarons abstaining.

#### UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve payment of \$1,200 to the DC Jewish Community Center (JCC) for use of meeting space. The motion carried unanimously (6-0) with Commissioners Robinson, Bjorge and Movahedi not present for the vote.

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the June regular meeting minutes as amended. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the June meeting minutes. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0) with Commissioners Bjorge and Robinson not present for the vote.

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16th and Q Streets, NW.

At 9:30 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: August 9, 2006