

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING,
Wednesday, June 14, 2006 Jewish Community Center**

The June 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 (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 Silverstein announced the establishment of a Friends of Francis School program to help the school buy ESL textbooks and transition into a middle school over the next year. He also noted that the Commission had previously approved an ABRA application by Eyebar (1716 I St NW), which included an expansion to the second floor of the property. ABRA requested confirmation that the Commission had approved ABC use on the second story. Commissioner Silverstein requested the Commission to send a letter noting its previous approval for ABC use on the second story. Commissioner Bowie made the motion. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Commissioner Bjorge announced a public Stead Park design meeting on June 27th at Stead Recreation Center from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. He also announced that the Commission would discuss community amenities with the Rhode Island Avenue PUD developers. He also announced that the Foundry Methodist Church will close its child daycare center at the end of August. He also announced that Gloria Smith retired as Principal from Ross Elementary School.

Commissioner Movahedi announced that he attended a meeting with the Metropolitan Police Department and Councilmember Mendelson regarding the Commission's previous MPD foot patrol motion. He noted that MPD's foot patrol would start in one week.

Rob Halligan, President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) announced a kick-off meeting on June 21st for the next house tour on October 15th. The meeting will take place at 1300 17th Street NW.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Sergeants Kern and Green, Metropolitan Police Department, announced that the MPD foot patrol would commence on June 16, 2006. Commissioner Bowie noted that residents have experienced an increase in drug dealing in Dupont Circle East (15th and R and Corcoran Streets NW; between 15th and 16th Streets from Q – F Streets NW). A resident expressed concern over drug deals in the alley behind 15th and Q Streets NW.

Commissioner Movahedi noted that MPD made 8 arrests in Dupont Circle.
Commissioner Bjorge requested MPD to monitor the alleys east of 17th Street NW.

Rob Halligan, President, DCCA inquired whether MPD was issuing jaywalking tickets to pedestrians. The Officers did not have any information on jaywalking incidents.

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.

GENERAL AGENDA

The Commission confirmed the selection of a new ANC 2B01 Commissioner – Morra Aarons (1920 S Street NW #506). Commissioner Bowie noted that the Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE) posted a vacancy announcement for the opening. Morra Aarons filed a petition and was certified by BOEE. Commissioner Bowie made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single-Member District 2B01 was certified vacant, and the Board of Elections and Ethics submitted a list of qualified candidates to Advisory Neighborhood Commission ANC 2B following the period for petition circulation and challenge pursuant to D.C. Code §1-257(d) (1992 Repl. Vol.); and

WHEREAS, only the name of Morra Aarons was certified as a qualified candidate by the Board of Elections; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §1-257(d) (1992 Repl. Vol.), if there is only one person qualified to fill the vacancy within the affected Single-Member District, the area Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners shall appoint the qualified person to the vacancy at its next regularly scheduled meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission ANC 2B, requests that the Board of Elections and Ethics declare the vacancy filled by Moora Aarons by publication in the District of Columbia Register.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, the Mayor, the Secretary of the Council of the District of Columbia, and Moora Aarons.

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).
Commissioner Bowie noted that Morra Aarons would need to be sworn in before participating in a future ANC meeting.

The Commission heard a presentation by Juan Amaya, Supervisor, Office of Infrastructure Oversight, District Department of Transportation (DDOT), on the Public

Space Permitting Office's rules for use of public space. Mr. Amaya noted that all public space regulations are available at www.ddot.gov. Commissioner Movahedi expressed concern over the property at the corner of 17th and P Streets NW. Mr. Amaya stated that DDOT would resolve this issue in two weeks. Commissioner Robinson inquired about public space guidelines regarding moving "pods" left on streets. Mr. Amaya stated that moving "pods" require a permit. He suggested she contact Denise Wiktor, Public Space Manager, DDOT for more information. Commissioner Robinson inquired about the use of signs in the middle of sidewalks. Mr. Amaya stated that this use of signs is illegal. A constituent noted a possible public space violation involving parking spaces at Cosi on 20th and R Streets NW. Concerned constituents may contact Juan Amaya at juan.amaya@dc.gov or at 202-645-7050.

The Commission considered a proposed ceremonial designation of P Street Bridge to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the end of the American Revolution. Betty Jane Gerber, Chair, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R), stated the organization's goal is to have this route designated a national trail. It would extend from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA to Boston, MA. W3R requested the P Street Bridge be designated as the Lauzan Bridge.

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to send a letter to DDOT and the DC Council supporting the proposed ceremonial designation of P Street Bridge as "Lauzan Bridge" to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the end of the American Revolution. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission discussed ongoing construction at Palomar Hotel (2121 P Street NW). Commissioner Robinson noted that the Palomar Hotel would open shortly. She noted that current regulations allow construction to take place between 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday - Sunday. She expressed concern over this matter and requested any constituents to contact her regarding legislation changing these regulations.

The Commission discussed new bike lanes proposed by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) (21st and 22nd Streets NW between Virginia and Florida Avenues NW). Jim Sebastian, Bicycle Program Manager, DDOT, presented information on the proposal and its effects on traffic and parking in the District. The proposal calls for restricting rush hour traffic to two lanes. Commissioner Robinson expressed concern over the possibility of losing parking spaces. Mr. Sebastian stated that the District would, in fact, gain more parking spaces. Commissioner Silverstein expressed his approval of the proposal, since it creates additional parking for residents. Commissioner Movahedi inquired as to how many people currently use the bike lanes. Commissioner Meehan noted that DDOT's proposal does not address problems with a lack of bike lanes leading downtown. Commissioner Robinson suggested inviting Mr. Sebastian back to a future meeting to provide the Commission with an update.

REGULATORY AGENDA

The commission discussed the proposed expansion of the 16th Street Historic District (2B05). Commissioner Bowie noted that the DC Preservation League proposed expansion of the 16th Street Historic District (from H Street NW to the existing Historic District). A representative of the DC Preservation League appeared before the Commission.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that a number of buildings with no historic character or architectural merit are negatively affected by inclusion under the Historic District. Commissioner Bjorge inquired whether or not the extension would impact the sense of space on 16th Street NW. Representatives stated that it would positively preserve the sense of space. They also noted that the creation of the U Street Historic District did not negatively impact the U Street area.

Commissioner Movahedi stated that he would not support the extension because of the negative effects on residents and on new construction on buildings. Commissioner Silverstein requested the Commission to delay voting on this matter in order to research which buildings (from the end of World War II until 1959) could be negatively affected by the Historic District extension. Commissioner Bowie agreed with Commissioner Silverstein and requested him to continue to look into this issue. Commissioner Movahedi stated for the record that he received assurances from the DC Council Chair that it would establish more specific guidelines regarding making improvements to buildings within the Historic District. He stated he would not vote for any expansion until proper guidelines are in place to protect the residents.

Commissioner Estrada agreed with Commissioner Silverstein. He requested that an archivist with the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) appear before the Commission to present a detailed slide show on the proposed extension.

Commissioner Bowie noted that HPRB is not petitioning for this proposal. Commissioner Robinson disagreed with Commissioner Silverstein and stated that the Commission needs to preserve the neighborhood's historic character. Commissioner Silverstein requested a list and slideshow of proposed buildings to be included under the 16th Street Historic District. Commissioner Bowie requested the DC Preservation League to appear before the Commission at a future meeting.

The Commission considered an HPRB application in connection with proposed construction at 1225 Connecticut Avenue NW (2B05). Commissioner Silverstein noted that the building was constructed in 1968 and that the HPRB included it in the Dupont Circle Historic District. He noted that this building should not be designated a historic building. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered an HPRB application in connection with proposed construction at 2000 Massachusetts Avenue NW (2B02). The applicant appeared before the Commission proposing plans to build extensions of retail space and parking. Commissioner Robinson inquired about the Dupont Circle Conservancy's opinion on this

matter. Commissioner Bowie noted he would address the Conservancy's opinion later in the meeting. A representative of the Optical Society of America (2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW) noted its objection to the proposal on grounds of light and air.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to support the following comments by the Dupont Circle Conservancy. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. Commissioner Movahedi made a point of order and requested that the Conservancy's letter be read aloud.

Although we applaud the architect's intention of removing the west edition to further expose the original architecture of the Blaine Mansion's west side, and we appreciate the internal mechanical systems to remove the existing window AC units, we would like them to go further to consider removing or improving through a new design alternative, the commercial element on the P Street side.

We feel this was an unfortunate 1920's edition and is a blight on the streetscape as it currently exists. We discussed internally that maybe this element coming off and being replaced with a beautiful glass and steel structure, a modern storefront as it were, would be a positive contrast that could highlight the mansion better, setting it up on a modern diet as it were.

Furthermore we feel the proposed masonry "screen" on the P Street side and the Massachusetts Avenue side of the building is too visually busy, which competes with the beautiful and complex nature of the mansion itself, and would prefer this element to be removed for a more simple, elegant and beautiful element between the Blaine Mansion and the masonry mass of the building to the west. The glass and steel idea they are proposing for the main body of the building is not objectionable to us. We suggest that thinking of a beautiful jewel between two rocks –simple, understated elegance. An example of this is the International Economics building on the south side of the 1700 block of Massachusetts Avenue NW. However we did not cite a specific example to the applicant.

Commissioner Movahedi called the question. Commissioner Bowie stated the motion was already made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Commission considered a Public Space application for a new permit for an existing fence at 1918 17th Street NW (2B08). Commissioner Bowie noted that the Office of Public Space referred this matter to the Commission because the height of the fence is not compliant with public space regulations. The Office of Public Space requested the Commission's view on this matter.

Commissioner Klempay made a motion to support the application for a permit for an existing fence and any waiver that would be required. Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. He inquired whether the Commission would be setting a precedent by supporting the applicant. Commissioner Bowie stated that the Commission is not setting a precedent by supporting this application. The motion carried unanimously (7-0) with

Commissioner Robinson not present for the vote. Commissioner Bowie stated that he would send an email and letter to the Office of Public Space.

The Commission considered an amended ABC application by The Indian Experience (1050 17th Street NW) (2B05) to permit special events with a disc jockey, pianist and other live entertainment (6:00 PM – 12:00 AM for public events; 6:00 PM – 2:00 AM for private events). A representative of the applicant stated that all nightclub activities had ceased and that the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) is actively monitoring the restaurant.

Commissioner Bjorge expressed concern over supporting the full application. He made a motion to only grant the request for entertainment during public hours, and require the applicant to appear before the Commission in six months for consideration of the remaining request for entertainment for private events. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion.

Commissioner Robinson expressed her support for the applicant. Commissioner Silverstein asked Commissioner Bjorge about the possibility of expediting a voluntary agreement with the applicant. Commissioner Bowie noted the Commission must take action on the application at the June meeting. Commissioner Meehan noted that ABC licenses can be revoked and that the Commission should give the applicant the benefit of the doubt. Commissioner Movahedi noted that the Commission is not the ABC Board. Commissioner Movahedi made a point of order and requested the motion be read aloud. Commissioner Bowie repeated Commissioner Bjorge's motion:

To support the first prong of the application to allow the pianist, vocalist, Indian dancers and a sitar player during public hours; and to oppose the requested disc jockey and dancing for private events upon negotiation of a voluntary agreement.

Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. Commissioner Movahedi made a friendly amendment to divide the motion. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the amendment. Commissioner Bjorge accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Bowie moved to support the first prong of the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0). Commissioner Bjorge withdrew the second prong of the motion.

Commissioner Silverstein announced that the Science Club (1126 19 Street NW) requested the Commission to defer its request for an entertainment endorsement to permit a disc jockey and live entertainment.

The Commission heard an update on proposed changes to the District's Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Meehan made the following motion:

ANC 2B generally supports the Dupont Circle area policies and land use map changes incorporated in the revised Comprehensive Plan to the Dupont Circle neighborhood, subject to the following two major objections:

1. *The objective boundary of the mid-city element coming into the Dupont Circle neighborhood (S Street NW between 18th and 15th Streets NW) violates the planning principle of not dividing neighborhoods between two larger planning units. Dupont Circle neighborhood is defined as within the northwest element.*
2. *We object to the definition of the Dupont Circle neighborhood having a northern boundary of Florida Avenue NW between 15th and 23rd Streets NW. This is too far north. The actual boundary is Florida Avenue NW to U Street NW and 18th and U Streets NW to 14th Street NW. As addendums we insist that the Dupont Circle neighborhood area plan include all of the Dupont Circle neighborhood as defined by the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and our Dupont Circle ANC 2B.*

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. He made a friendly amendment to revise the motion to include the 14th and S Streets NW boundary, which Commissioner Meehan accepted. The motion carried (7-1) with Commissioner Movahedi voting against the motion.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowie made a motion to approve the April and May regular meeting minutes. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the April and May meeting minutes. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 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: July 12, 2006