

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING,  
Wednesday, April 11, 2007 Jewish Community Center**

The April Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Ramon Estrada at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Commissioners Curtis Farrar (2B01), Bob Meehan (2B03), Ryan Butler (2B04), Mark Bjorge (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Brian Branton (2B02) was not present due to his resignation from the Commission. Commissioner Douglas Johnson (2B08) was ill and did not attend the meeting. The chair noted the presence of a quorum.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Carney announced a Ross Elementary School fundraiser on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He also announced the GLBT Walking Tour in West and East Dupont Circle on April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Interested residents can find more information at [www.walkingtowndc.org](http://www.walkingtowndc.org).

Commissioner Silverstein announced that a tree planting took place at Francis Junior High School. He also announced a Francis Junior High School dinner taking place April 12<sup>th</sup> to help raise funds to pay for calculators.

Sean Howard, Ward 2 Community Outreach Coordinator, Office of Community Outreach and Service, for Mayor Adrian Fenty, announced the Emancipation Day Rally at Freedom Plaza at 2:30 on April 16. The rally will march on Congress to demand the right of DC residents to vote. He also passed out a graffiti removal request letter for residents to use when requesting graffiti removal services. Residents can reach Mr. Howard at [sean.howard@dc.gov](mailto:sean.howard@dc.gov).

Debbie Hanrahan expressed concern over the City Council's recent vote to approve \$50 million to ?????. She requested the ANC consider this issue at a future meeting.

Carlton Wilson, District Manager (Dragonfly, Local 16, 18<sup>th</sup> Street Lounge) introduced himself to the community. He requested anyone with problems or complaints to contact him at [carlton@eslmusic.com](mailto:carlton@eslmusic.com) or at 703-309-2156.

Charles Mason, Director, Constituent Services, Councilmember Kwame Brown, introduced himself to the community. Residents can contact him at 202-724-7782 or at [cmason@dccouncil.us](mailto:cmason@dccouncil.us).

Zach Dobelbower, Ward 2 Planner, DC Office of Planning (OP), extended an invitation to the community for the Center City Action Agenda Stakeholders Meeting on April 18 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Washington Convention Center (801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Room 102B). The meeting will address the development of downtown DC. Residents can

contact Mr. Dobelbower at 202-442-7631.

Commissioner Estrada recognized David Moorehead of PEPSCO.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Rob Halligan, President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association, announced that the Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) station at 1620 V Street NW.

## **GENERAL AGENDA**

Commissioner Estrada distributed special election rules and guidelines to the Commission. He announced voting would take place from between 7:15–9:30 on May 9, 2007. He stated that Gottlieb Simon would act as Election Monitor for the special election. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to adopt the special election rules and guidelines. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

The Commission heard a candidate statement for the ANC 2B02 special election from Joshua Sharlin. William Hewitt was ill and could not attend the meeting. Joshua Sharlin noted that he has lived in Dupont Circle for one year. He stated he wanted to contribute to the neighborhood through service on the Commission. He stated that he is concerned about noise issues in the neighborhood. Mr. Sharlin stated that William Hewitt is his neighbor, and that he also believes Mr. Hewitt would be a good candidate for 2B02.

Commissioner Estrada determined the candidate order on the special election ballots by the flip of a coin. Joshua Sharlin will appear first on the ballot.

The Commission heard a presentation by Dr. Patricia Hawkins, Associate Executive Director, Whitman-Walker Clinic, for community support of a certificate of need request. She stated that Whitman-Walker is planning the creation of a GLBT family care, substance abuse, and baby boomer services center. Dr. Hawkins stated that Whitman-Walker needs additional space for these services, in addition to their current locations at 14<sup>th</sup> and R Streets NW, and 14<sup>th</sup> and S Streets NW. They are seeking a mixed-use development for the renovations of their building at 14<sup>th</sup> and S Streets NW. She requested a letter of support for an expedited certificate of need.

Commissioner Bjorge inquired why Whitman-Walker needs a certificate of need. Dr. Hawkins stated that public clinics need a certificate of need to ensure that they are not providing duplicative services with HMOs and other public clinics. She also noted that Whitman-Walker needs a certificate of need because it will invest more than \$500,000 in building renovations. She noted the building resides in the Historic District. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to support the certificate of need request. He requested Whitman-Walker to provide the Commission with any future application documentation. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

The Commission did not hear a presentation by Capital Pride Parade organizers for community support. The representative notified the Commission that the parade route is still being negotiated.

The Commission heard a presentation on behalf of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets of a project to improve and maintain the median on the 1700 block of Connecticut Avenue (between Q and S Streets NW), involving installation of a commemorative plaque in public space. Louis Wassel presented the proposal for installation of a commemorative plaque, recognizing businesses making donations to maintain the median streetscape.

Commissioner Meehan stated that plaques are normally used after the completion of a project. Mr. Wassel stated the purpose of installing a plaque before the completion of the project is to engage other local businesses to make contributions. He noted that the maintenance and upkeep could surpass a total of \$100,000.

Commissioner Silverstein stated that he supports the proposal. Commissioner Farrar stated that he does not think the Commission should be involved in the micromanagement of Main Street's fundraising. He and Commissioner Bjorge stressed that Main Streets should be careful with the wording of the plaque. Mr. Wassel requested the Commission's support for the application.

Commissioner Farrar made a motion that ANC 2B give very strong support and commendation to the decision by Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets to undertake the upgrading and improvement of the median on Connecticut Avenue, and we endorse the proposal and concept of affixing a plaque, which accurately describes many contributions made in the past, and calls for additional contributions needed to complete the project.

Commissioner Estrada made a friendly amendment modify the language of this motion, which is reflected above. Commissioner Bjorge seconded the motion. The motion passed (7-0).

The Commission discussed the Voter Rights March on April 16. Commissioner Meehan made the following motion:

*Dupont Circle ANC 2B deplores the severe limits that are imposed on the voting rights of DC residents, limits that are not imposed anywhere else in the United States. If America calls itself a democracy, democracy must begin at home. Therefore, ANC 2B urges all its residents to turn out on April 16 - DC Emancipation Day - for the rally at Freedom Plaza in front of the Wilson Building and the subsequent march to Capitol Hill in support of DC voting rights. The rally begins at 2:30 PM. If you cannot physically participate in the rally and march, please participate in spirit by signing the petition on the DC Vote Website.*

Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0). Commissioner Meehan requested the Executive Director to distribute the motion to the ANC email list and Dupont Circle Forum. Commissioner Silverstein noted that he left flyers for all Commissioners at the resource center.

## **REGULATORY AGENDA**

Commissioner Bjorge requested a public space application for a sidewalk café by BLT Steak (1625 I Street NW) be added to the agenda. Commissioner Estrada agreed to the addition.

Commissioner Estrada noted that he requested ANC 2B02 candidates to provide analysis of regulatory applications, in order to give the Commission and community insight into their analysis of such issues.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Bouzid, Inc., License No. 60695, T/A Marrakesh Palace Pasha Lounge, 2147 P Street NW, CT (Tavern) License, for Substantial Change (2B02). The applicants appeared before the Commission to explain their request for an ABC substantial change application to serve alcohol on the third floor of their building. Commissioner Silverstein noted that there have been complaints of noise on Sunday nights. He noted that he found these complaints troublesome because this establishment is not open Sunday nights. He noted the applicants have worked diligently with their neighbors.

Joshua Sharlin, ANC 2B02 candidate, noted that the applicant had installed sound installation on exterior and interior walls. He stated that he thought the applicant was an asset to the neighborhood. Rob Halligan, President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association, stated that he contacted the applicants' previous attorney Michael Fonseca, who stated that he is not representing the applicants on this matter. Mr. Halligan requested the applicants to explain the application because it appeared that their request violates the Dupont Circle West ABC Moratorium. Mr. Halligan noted that the applicant does not have permission to serve alcohol on the third floor. Commissioner Estrada noted that the substantial change request is separate from the protest of the applicant's ABC license, and the Commission must consider them separately.

Commissioner Bjorge expressed concern over the potential conflict of this request with the Dupont Circle West ABC Moratorium. Commissioner Farrar stated that he is uncomfortable that the ANC is unable to say whether or not the applicant is violating the ABC Moratorium. Commissioners Bjorge and Estrada noted that there appears to be general confusion regarding this application.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to take no action. Commissioner Farrar suggested protesting the application on grounds that the application actually conflicts with the Moratorium. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. Commissioners Bjorge and Butler expressed concern over not having enough information from ABRA to make an informed decision on the application. Commissioner Estrada made a friendly

amendment to protest the application to seek clarification on whether this substantial change violates the Moratorium, and we ask that ABRA hold this request for a substantial change in advance, subject to the Commission receiving this information. Commissioner Farrar accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioners Butler and Bjorge expressed concern over protesting this application. Commissioner Estrada stated that the Commission had to legally protest the application in order to retain the ANC's standing on this matter with ABRA. Commissioner Silverstein will serve as the contact for this matter. The motion carried (7-0).

The Commission considered Public space Application No. 2583 for the purpose of installing an outdoor café for Dunkin Donuts at 1511 17th Street NW (2B05). The applicant did not appear before the Commission. The Commission took no action on this matter.

The Commission considered BZA Application # 17633 for a special exception by the Government of Montenegro to replace its Trade Mission with a full chancery at 1610 New Hampshire Ave NW (2B03). Representatives appeared before the Commission and explained the application. Commissioner Meehan made the following motion:

*Dupont Circle ANC 2B has no objection to BZA application No.17633 for Special Exception by the Government of Montenegro to use 1610 NH as a chancery.*

*ANC 2B opposes any effort to provide diplomatic street parking for the Embassy of Montenegro via converting residential parking to diplomatic parking.*

*ANC 2B notes that the D.C. Government has provided extensive diplomatic parking privileges to the four buildings of the neighboring Embassy of Argentina – including street parking in front of three buildings on Q St NW and one building on Corcoran St NW as well as parking in the public space between the sidewalk and the main embassy building. The Embassy of Argentina also has substantial parking on their property. However, according to residents on the 1800 block of Corcoran St NW, the parking spaces behind Corcoran St on the Embassy's property are usually not fully used. Taking all of the above into account, ANC 2B urges the D.C. Government to negotiate with the Embassy of Argentina a modification of their diplomatic parking zone on Corcoran St to permit joint use by both the Embassy of Argentina and the Embassy of Montenegro.*

Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

The Commission considered a Public Space application by BLT Steak for a sidewalk café at 1625 I Street NW (2B05). Commissioner Bjorge noted that the application before the Commission was an amended version of the original application filed with DDOT. The application was amended to supply an unimpeded sidewalk path of ten feet or greater between a support column and existing lantern. He noted that there does not appear to be an issue with pedestrian traffic.

Commissioner Bjorge made a motion that ANC 2B support the public space application of BLT Steak, located at 1625 I Street NW, for an outdoor café with the provision that the two center tables located in front of the structural columns in the application, and between the two front doors, be removed and the movable railing be positioned to provide an unimpedable right of way of at least ten feet. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

Commissioner Estrada recognized Joe Martin, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Ward 2, Office of Community Relations and Services.

## **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Carney made the following motion:

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project of Washington, DC began in the year 2000 as a volunteer project to collect, preserve and promote an active knowledge of the history, arts and culture relevant to our sexually diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities of metropolitan Washington DC.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project has built an impressive collection of over 100 taped oral histories, personal papers and memorabilia reflecting the history, arts and culture of our GLBT diverse communities.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project has created an extensive timeline tracking the events and organization of GLBT history - identifying almost 400 clubs, bars, community centers and other social GLBT spaces in metropolitan Washington from 1920 to the present.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project maintains a website, [www.rainbowhistory.org](http://www.rainbowhistory.org) to serve as a virtual archive.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project is guided by an Advisory Board of community members, archivists, and historians who serve as important resources reinforcing professional standards and providing guidance in research and presentations.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project works with The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and the Washingtonian Division of the District of Columbia Public Library to house collections and donated materials.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project compiled and published a West Dupont Walking Tour Brochure and in conjunction with Cultural Tourism DC conducts semi-annual West Dupont Walking Tours to educate about our west Dupont neighborhood's GLBT history.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project joined with Washington cultural heritage organizations and joined Cultural Tourism DC to help promote GLBT history.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project, with financial assistance from Dupont Circle Citizen's Association, has just completed and published The East Dupont Walking Tour Brochure.*

*WHEREAS, The Rainbow History Project in conjunction with Cultural Tourism DC will offer the first East Dupont Walking Tour to be held on the weekend of April 20/21, 2007, featuring GLBT history in our east Dupont neighborhood.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission, ANC2B, on the occasion of the new GLBT Neighborhood history and the first east Dupont GLBT history tour, thanks and honors each volunteer of The Rainbow History Project for their commitment and work to preserve the rich and significant GLBT history in our city and in our diverse and historic Dupont neighborhood.*

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to approve the February and March regular meeting minutes as amended. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the February and March meeting minutes. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

Commissioner Silverstein noted that the Commission received a disbursement of \$6,000 from the DC Government. He made a motion to reimburse a sum not exceeding \$35 for two sheet cakes for Francis Junior High School. Commissioner Bjorge seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16<sup>th</sup> 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: May 9, 2007