

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING,  
Wednesday, February 28, 2007 Jewish Community Center**

The February 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), Mark Bjorge (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Douglas Johnson (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Ryan Butler (2B04) was not present. Commissioner Brian Branton (2B02) was not present due to his resignation from the Commission. The chair noted the presence of a quorum.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Estrada announced the 2B02 vacancy due to Commissioner Bryan Branton's resignation. Any interested parties must register with the DC Board of Elections and Ethics - [www.dcboee.org](http://www.dcboee.org).

Bill Hewitt announced that he would run for the 2B02 vacancy. He noted that he had already registered with the DC Board of Elections and Ethics.

Commissioner Farrar announced that BZA Application No. 17564 by 1815 19th St LLC for variances to allow the renovation and expansion of an existing seven-unit apartment building at 1815 19th Street NW (2B01), ran into considerable opposition at the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). He noted that the applicant withdrew the application.

Commissioner Bjorge announced a book sale at the West End Library (1101 24th Street NW). He noted that they raised \$4,000, which will be used to purchase new books. Residents are welcome to make requests.

Commissioner Carney noted that 206 sidewalk trees are scheduled to be planted in April. He noted that adjacent property owners need to adopt the trees and water them for two growing seasons because the DC Government does not provide this service.

He also announced that the Departments of Health and Public Works started a pilot program to deal with a rat and sanitation problem on the east side of Connecticut Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. The program aims to coordinate with businesses and residents to effectively deal with rat and sanitation problems. He also noted that graffiti has been an issue in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Silverstein noted his displeasure of the planting of two ginkgo trees on Sunderland Place NW near the metro. He noted ginkgo trees would create a mess for pedestrians. He inquired whether we could request the DC Government to plant different

trees in this area. Commissioner Bjorge noted that there is a provision allowing residents to request the planting of alternative trees in place of ginkgo trees.

Commissioner Silverstein announced that Stephanie Crutchfield, Principal, Francis Junior High School, organized a meeting with NASA astronauts for the student body. He also noted that the school was awarded three Japanese cherry trees from the Cherry Blossom Festival, which will be planted on school grounds. He also noted that funds from a PUD matter on 24<sup>th</sup> Street NW are slated for purchase of new computers for the school's computer lab.

A representative of the Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets announced the 2007 Annual Spring Fling & Silent Auction on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Washington Hilton & Towers Hotel. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by contacting Susan Taylor at 202-667-6404 or at [suetaylor1@juno.com](mailto:suetaylor1@juno.com).

Anne Corbett, Executive Director, Cultural Development Corporation, announced that her organization purchased the Source Theatre (1835 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW). She noted that her organization would appear before the Commission to present its renovation plans, which are slated to begin in the summer. She thanked the Commission for its support in allowing CDC to purchase the building.

John Hammond stated that the owners of Marrakesh Palace Pasha Lounge (2147 P Street NW) have not abided by their voluntary agreement, as they had promised at the January 2007 ANC meeting. He stated that he and other affected neighbors went to the ABC Board and established a protest group. Pasha's next status meeting before the ABC Board will be held at 10:00 AM on March 28, 2007. Mr. Hammond submitted a letter to the Commission detailing various allegations of misconduct by the owners.

Joe Martin, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Ward 2, Office of Community Relations and Services, Government of the District of Columbia, introduced himself to the Commission and residents. He asked for any residents to contact him with any unresolved requests already submitted to 727-1000. Residents can contact him at 202-442-9509 or at [joseph.martin@dc.gov](mailto:joseph.martin@dc.gov). Commissioner Estrada thanked Mr. Martin for attending the meeting. Commissioner Carney noted that Ward 2 is very fortunate to have Mr. Martin's support.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Rob Halligan, President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association, announced that Ross School (1730 R St NW) would have an open house for parents and prospective students on March 7<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that Mayor Adrian Fenty and Councilmember Jack Evans would appear at a DCCA meeting to answer residents' questions on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at Anderson House (2118 Massachusetts Avenue NW).

Commissioner Estrada recognized David Moorehead of PEPCO. Commissioner Silverstein noted that there were outages in Dupont Circle West. Mr. Moorehead stated that the ice storm caused the intermittent power outages.

Representatives of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) appeared before the Commission. Officers announced an “Adopt a Block” program, where officers focus attention on specific areas of Dupont Circle. Mr. Halligan noted that graffiti is a problem in the neighborhood.

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 (MPD) station at 1620 V Street NW.

Commissioner Meehan noted the increase of graffiti tagging across four blocks of residential and commercial buildings. He stated that he attempted to call the Police Chief’s office and Gang Taskforce to research whether the graffiti is gang related. He expressed concern that nobody was available to address gang related inquiries. Commissioner Johnson noted his concern over numerous and unresolved graffiti cleaning requests he has submitted to 727-1000. Joe Martin stated that he has photographed many instances of graffiti throughout the neighborhood.

A resident complained of people going through trash in alleyways and littering on the sidewalk. Commissioner Meehan noted that property owners are responsible for trash on sidewalks. Commissioner Borge stated that property owners should provide a locked area to store residents’ trash.

A resident complained of violence and noise on 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW and New Hampshire Avenue NW. Officers stated that the violence and noise was caused by patrons of Cloud (1 Dupont Circle NW). They noted that MPD closed down Cloud until the owner has a hearing before the ABC Board. Commissioner Silverstein inquired what MPD thought of Cloud. The officers responded that Cloud attracted troublesome clientele on Friday and Saturday nights. Commissioner Meehan noted that Cloud is currently designated as a CR Restaurant, which morphed into a club.

## **GENERAL AGENDA**

The Commission discussed a proposed DC Nightspot Licensure Legislation. Commissioner Silverstein stated that a provision of the legislation would curtail the sale of liquor in situations where individuals under the age of 21 years are present. He noted Apex Nightclub’s (1415 22<sup>nd</sup> Street) “College Night” would be adversely affected by this provision. Commissioner Silverstein invited Apex Nightclub’s manager Joey (last name?) to speak on this matter.

Mr. (last name?) stated that the new legislation would crush Apex financially because it would not allow underage individuals to attend its “College Night” party. He noted the

new legislation would cause Apex to forgo \$8-10,000 in weekly revenue. He noted that Apex goes to great lengths to ensure underage individuals are not served alcohol. They provide education and training regarding such matters to all employees. Sergeant Brett Parsons appeared before the Commission to address Apex's "College Night". Commissioner Silverstein inquired whether MPD had experienced any problems as a result of Apex's "College Night". Sergeant Parsons stated that Apex has always been proactive with problems and has implemented MPD suggestions on reducing violence. Sergeant Parsons stated that MPD believes underage individuals should not attend bars where alcohol is served.

## **REGULATORY AGENDA**

The Commission considered a Historic Preservation Review Board Application regarding a new façade at 1510 H Street NW (2B05). A representative of Eric Colbert & Associates appeared before the Commission. He noted that the project was being reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts and the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). The representative stated that the applicant intends to install new windows, façade and a balcony. Commissioner Bjorge inquired whether HPRB expressed any opinion. The representative stated that HPRB would defer the application. Commissioner Bjorge recommended taking no action.

The Commission considered BZA Application No. 17572 of Taylor Real Estate Trust LLC at 1128 16th Street NW for a special exception and variance to raise the height of an existing elevator penthouse (2B05). No representative was present. Commissioner Bjorge noted that the applicant had contacted the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) regarding removal of a railing. HPO did not have any objection. Commissioner Bjorge recommended taking no action.

The Commission considered an ABC Application by TJP, Inc., License No. 76344, T/A Black Fox, 1723 Connecticut Ave NW, for a new CT (Tavern) License (2B01). Jim McGlade appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Meehan inquired whether patrons would have access to the door located on 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW. He recommended the Commission pursue a voluntary agreement stating that patrons would not have access to this door to prevent disturbances to the surrounding neighbors. Mr. McGlade stated his establishment would remain open until 4:00 AM. Commissioner Farrar noted the closing time was unusual for the location, and also expressed concern regarding noise disturbance from the use of dumpsters. Commissioner Estrada noted that the owners of Circa Café signed a voluntary agreement regarding hours of operation, noise and waste management. He stated that the Commission and Mr. McGlade must address all of these issues in a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Carney pointed out that a voluntary agreement serves to protect the neighborhood, and that other businesses near Mr. McGlade have also signed voluntary agreements.

Commissioner Farrar proposed a motion opposing the application based on grounds of peace, order and quiet pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Mar de Plata LLC, License No. 76396, T/A Mar de Plata, 1827 Jefferson Place NW for a new CR (Restaurant) License (2B02). Commissioner Silverstein noted that the applicant is requesting a stipulated license under the previous owner's (Bacchus) terms and conditions. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to extend a stipulated license to Mar del Plata to operate under the terms of the previous tenant of the building - Bacchus. Commissioner Bjorge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The Commission heard an informational presentation by Eye Bar for an expansion at 1716 I Street NW (2B06). A representative of Eye Bar appeared before the Commission. He notified the Commission of Eye Bar's intent to apply for a substantial change to extend into the third floor and build a rooftop terrace. He noted that Eye Bar has not yet begun the application process. Commissioners Estrada and Bjorge thanked the applicant for proactively notifying the Commission of its expansion plans.

Commissioner Estrada provided an update on the ABC Application by Grey's Holding LLC, License No. 76187, T/A Paradise Fusion, 1401 T Street NW, for a New CR (Restaurant) license with a summer garden and entertainment endorsement (2B09). The ABC Board required the applicant to properly place placards to notify neighbors of the application. The ABC Board's request extended time for residents to file complaints. He stated that no action was required tonight, since the Commission voted at the January 2007 meeting to protest the application pending the negotiation of a voluntary agreement.

## **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission discussed the recent HPRB support of the expansion of the Historic District. Commissioner Silverstein stated that HPRB ignored the ANC's request that 1500 Massachusetts Avenue NW not be included in the Historic District. He inquired about what steps the ANC should take to address this matter. Commissioner Silverstein expressed his dismay with HPRB's ignoring of the public and ANC's request. Commissioner Estrada recommended requesting Tersh Boasberg, Chairman, HPRB to appear before the Commission regarding any outstanding issues.

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

Commissioner Silverstein presented the quarterly report to the Commission.

- The Commission began with \$10,548
- The Commission spent \$3,600
- The Commission's ending balance is \$6,866

There were no extraordinary expenses during the previous quarter. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to adopt the quarterly report. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Freddie Blicher, Executive Director, addressed several administrative matters regarding the ANC phone and tracking system for deadlines for letters and applications. The ANC receives very few important voice mail messages from constituents. The ANC will save a considerable amount of money by canceling phone service, since the majority of residents communicate with the Commission via email and the ANC website.

Commissioner Farrar made a motion to cancel the ANC phone service. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 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: April 11, 2007