

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 11, 2008 Jewish Community Center**

The December Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chairman Estrada at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Curtis Farrar (2B01), William Hewitt (2B02), Bob Meehan (2B03), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Jack Jacobson (2B04) was not present, but arrived later in the meeting. Executive Director Freddie Blicher was not present. The Chairman noted the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Estrada: Campaign finance reports from Commissioners are due on December 29, 2008.

Commissioner Meehan: DDOT scheduled a meeting on the commercial loading problem on 17th Street, at First Level restaurant at 17th and R Streets NW. DDOT officials will address the problem with the community.

Recognition of outstanding neighbor: Carlyle Suites

Commissioner Meehan made the following motion regarding Carlyle Suites:

Please contact Commissioner Bob Meehan at 202-234-5151 for the motion language.

Commissioner Silverstein presented Commissioner Farrar a plaque in appreciation for his service from 2007-2009. Commissioner Farrar thanked the Commission.

Commissioner Wexler announced a ribbon cutting ceremony at Stead Park on December 12th. The park will be available to the children on December 13th.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Office Fletcher, MPD, PSA 208:

In the past month:

- Violent crime is up 15%
- Burglaries are down 29%
- Theft from autos are up 81%

- Stolen autos are down 47%

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

Consideration of request from Farmer's Market to use Resource Center (2B02)

Representatives of Farmer's Market requested use of the Resource Center bathrooms on Sunday mornings, and approximately 6 months temporary storage of equipment (approximately 12 feet by 4 feet). Commissioner Estrada made a motion to grant the request, subject to the following conditions:

1. That the request is only temporary for six months
2. Poles will be removed in January
3. And that the remaining material on the floor be moved into storage in one bathroom, in coordination with MPD and Paul Williams of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets.
4. The Commission requires a liaison from the Commission to work with the Farmers Market

Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Presentation by DDOT Public Space Committee head, Matthew Marcou, regarding recent applications to use the public space for parking

Mr. Marcou provided information on DDOT's general process regarding applications for parking in public space. He discussed parking vehicles in the public parking area, which he defined as the area between the sidewalk and the adjacent property. Mr. Marcou briefly addressed issues surrounding recent applications by City Lights of China, 1812 R Street NW, 1901 R Street NW and 1926 16th Street NW. He addressed Commissioner questions and concerns regarding the seemingly random enforcement of public space and parking regulations with respect to numerous Dupont Circle residents. Mr. Marcou stated that DDOT does not have authority over these matters, and that the Commission should speak with the Office of Parking Enforcement for clarification. He recommended the public and Commission to contact the Public Space Committee with any future concerns and complaints at publicspace.committee@dc.gov.

Presentation by Velvet Foundation

A representative did not appear at the meeting. The Commission did not consider this matter.

Consideration of Resolution re: joining appeal on Hilton Zoning Issues

Commissioner Stephens recommended taking no action on this item. He noted that the Kalorama Citizens Association and an architect came to the conclusion that the Zoning Administrator's letter approving some aspects of the Hilton project, may not have complied with zoning regulations. KCA filed an appeal stating that the zoning letter is incorrect. ANC 1A passed a resolution against the zoning letter decision. Commissioners expressed dismay about not being given adequate time to respond to the Zoning Administrator's letter. The Commission took no action.

Consideration of Resolution re: 18th Street DDOT Reconstruction/Resurfacing Project

Commissioner Stephens noted that DDOT's original resurfacing and reconstruction plans were scheduled to begin in the Fall, but have been delayed until 2011.

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

We urge DDOT to work with the Commission to schedule meetings regarding these projects, concluding by February 2009. Commissioner Silverstein requested the language be changed to March 2009.

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Commissioner Jack Jacobson arrived.

Consideration of Resolution re: Green Taxi Initiatives

The Commission did not consider this matter, per Commissioner Jacobson's request.

Consideration of a Resolution calling for the DC Taxi Commission to immediately repeal the \$1.00 surcharge for high gas prices

The Commission did not consider this matter, per Commissioner Jacobson's request.

REGULATORY AGENDA

Consideration of 1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW, HPA #09-036, concept/alterations to sidewalk café (2B02)

Commissioner Wexler noted that the Commission did not take action on this matter at a previous meeting. He noted the outstanding issue of compliance with the amenities package. Commissioner Wexler made a motion to approve the second stage of the PUD, conditional upon compliance with the original amenities agreement from the first PUD. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Commissioner Estrada stepped away from the meeting.

Consideration of 1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW, HPA #09-036, concept/alterations to sidewalk café (2B02)

Commissioner Hewitt made a motion to support the plan as submitted. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Consideration of 1524 18th Street, NW, HPA #09-075, concept/third and fourth floor addition to three-story house, front areaway stairs (2B07)

The Commission did not consider this matter.

Consideration of a Request from the Jefferson Hotel Company for approval of a vestibule and a port-cochere in preparation for a Public Space Hearing on December 18, 2008 (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler noted that the Commission had supported the applicant's original canopy request in June 2008. The applicant must now go before the Office of Public Space. Commissioner Wexler made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0-1) with Commissioner Estrada abstaining.

Review of concept plans for renovation of Taylor Motor Co. building at corner of 14th and T Streets NW. (2B09)

The applicant addressed concept plans, concerns over parking in front of the new store, and their involvement and potential impact on the community.

ABC License Application No. 73188 by Simply Home Cuisine, LLC T/A Simply Home Cuisine (1410-1412 U Street NW) for a substantial change request to increase capacity from 42 to 76. (2B09)

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to protest the expansion, subject to the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

ABC License Application No. 080501 by PQ Blain Mansion, Inc. T/A Le Pain Quotidien (2000 Massachusetts Avenue NW) for a Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license (2B02)

The item was withdrawn from the agenda.

ABC License Application No. 080108 by Clamenzah, LLC T/A DuPont 7 (2029 P Street NW) for a Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license (2B02)

The item was withdrawn from the agenda.

ABC License Application No. 060081 by Thomas and Hyun Sook, Inc. T/A Virginia Market (1776 U Street NW) for a Retailer's Class "B" license renewal (2B08)

Commissioner Stephens stated the Commission should take no action.

Consideration of a Stipulated License for Soho Tea and Coffee (2B02)

Commissioner Hewitt made a motion to support the request, subject to the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Review of concept plans for the redevelopment of the Whitman Walker Clinic site at the corner of 14th and S Streets NW (2B09)

The applicant had his hearing at the BZA. The BZA requested the applicant to submit additional information regarding parking requirements (18 fewer spaces than required). The community will also be able to submit comments. The applicant will provide bicycle parking in the garage for both residential and retail use, installation of bicycle racks in public space, reservation of one space for a Zipcar, and a one year membership in Zipcar or bike sharing services for affected residents. The applicant also addressed the Arts Overlay relief restriction on eating/drinking establishments. Commissioner Estrada noted that the Dupont Circle Conservancy does not support the project.

Please contact Commissioner Ramon Estrada at 202-412-9434 for the motion language.

Commissioner Estrada noted made a motion to oppose the concept as presented. The Commission would like to see a more cohesive design in and across the proposed facade, with fewer competing elements and multiple exterior materials. The current concept shows little relationship between the upper floors and the ground floor, and the volume of the west and north facades, in particular, should be lowered.

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

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion for spending no more than \$75 for plaques for retiring Commissioner Farrar and Michelle Molotsky. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Commissioner Meehan noted that the Commission did not officially vote on the **Recognition of outstanding neighbor: Carlyle Suites** matter. Commissioner Estrada seconded Commissioner Meehan's original motion. The motion carried (9-0).

MINUTES

The November minutes were tabled until the January 2009 meeting.

At 10:00 PM, Commissioner Estrada moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed by acclamation.

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2008, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16th and Q Streets, NW.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADOPTED: February 11, 2009