

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING,  
Wednesday, February 13, 2008 Jewish Community Center**

The February Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chairman Ramon Estrada at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Commissioners 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). The Chairman noted the presence of a quorum.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Estrada spoke to the Board of Elections and Ethics regarding the 2B04 vacancy. Three of the four candidates had their petitions challenged by the Republican National Committee. The special election will be delayed.

Commissioner Estrada distributed ABRA's official guidelines on voluntary agreements.

Commissioner Estrada announced that he had met with Jack Evans, Councilmember, Ward 2. Mr. Evans will speak at the ANC meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Meehan noted that DDOT would incorporate handicap access in the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape project. He noted that DCMAP criticized ANC 2B's resolution supporting handicap access.

Commissioner Carney distributed information on the DC Pesticide Project Survey. Contact Emily Selia at [Emily.selia@gmail.com](mailto:Emily.selia@gmail.com) for more information. He also distributed information on the Dupont Circle Village. Go to [www.dupontcirclevillage.org](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.org) for more information.

Commissioner Silverstein noted the recent DPW parking and ticketing problems.

Commissioner Stephens announced the launch of his new website and newsletter. Visit [www.willstephens.com/ANC](http://www.willstephens.com/ANC).

Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Management Specialist, Ward 2, DDOT, announced the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape Transportation study on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to formally request DDOT to make a presentation on the 17<sup>th</sup> Streetscape plan before the ANC. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

**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**

The Commission considered a request for an entertainment endorsement by Club Chaos (2B03). Commissioner Meehan stated that the ANC had not yet received the application request by mail. The ANC is unable to review such requests until it has been officially notified by mail. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to table this matter until the March meeting. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission heard a presentation by the GWSA regarding its National Marathon on March 29, 2008 from 7:00 am -12:30 pm.

The Commission discussed the recent nomination of four new members to the Historic Preservation Review Board. Rick Busch, President, Dupont Circle Conservancy, expressed concern over the four nominees' unwillingness to speak with preservation and citizen groups. Commissioner Silverstein made the following motion:

Whereas, the Mayor of the District of Columbia has the responsibility to select members of DC Boards and Commissions as part of his mandate from the voters, and

Whereas, the City Council has the responsibility to consider, then approve or reject those nominees, and

Whereas, Mayor Adrian Fenty has nominated architects Maria Casarella-Cunningham and Joseph Taylor to the Historic Preservation Review Board, along with Catherine Buell and Elinor Bacon to serve as public members, and

Whereas, the four nominees clearly fulfill all legal requirements for confirmation and display a diverse array of experience and talent, and

Whereas, within the past ninety days, current HPRB and OHP officials have been found guilty in federal court of violating citizens' Fourth Amendment search and seizure rights, and have also had to settle a federal discrimination complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and are currently under investigation by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's office of Fair Housing to determine if there is a pattern of discrimination, and

Whereas, Mayor Fenty has determined that new Board members would improve performance and accountability of this vital but troubled agency,

Therefore, ANC 2B urges all members of City Council to approve the nominations of Maria Casarella-Cunningham, Joseph Taylor, Catherine Buell and Elinor Bacon to the Historic Preservation Review Board and we urge these new board members to regularly

meet with preservation groups and citizen groups on matters of community concern.

Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Farrar abstaining.

The Commission did not hear a presentation by Pentec Health for community support of Certificate of Need request at either 1776 I Street, NW or 1875 I Street, NW (2B06). No representative was present. The Commission took no action.

The Commission considered support for the Dupont Circle Conservancy Historic Preservation Office Grant application. Rick Busch, President, Dupont Circle Conservancy, stated that DCC requested a grant from HPRB to hold a symposium on how to evaluate contemporary architecture in a historic neighborhood. He requested a letter of support. Commissioner Estrada requested the inclusion of the ANC in the symposium. Commissioner Farrar made a motion to send a letter of support. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0). Mr. Busch subsequently withdraw the request for support, so no letter was sent.

The Commission considered a resolution supporting ANC 2A regarding the deplorable building conditions of the West End Library and West End Fire Station. Commissioner Silverstein made the following motion:

**Whereas** ANC 2A considers the condition of the West End Library building in Square 37 to be well beneath the standards that the Foggy Bottom-West End neighborhood deserves and that the District should provide;

**Whereas** ANC 2A participated in an 11/26/07 tour of West End Fire Engine Company 1 in Square 50 and found the condition of that building to be deplorable;

**Whereas** the District has announced its intention to relocate the Police Special Operations Unit out of Square 37 in the West End and has no plans to reuse this building for another public purpose;

**Whereas** ANC 2A held an ANC meeting on 7/18/07 where members of the community expressed their outrage that the Mayor and Council awarded redevelopment of these facilities without proper community notice or input; **Whereas** ANC 2A passed a resolution on 9/17/07 calling on the Council of the District to reconsider and reverse its emergency resolutions (R17-0288 & R17-0289) disposing of these properties to a private developer, which the Council subsequently did in October 2007;

**Whereas** ANC 2A held a joint meeting with the Foggy Bottom Association on 11/26/07 to review the condition of the West End Fire Station and West End Library and to obtain neighborhood feedback on what residents would like to see happen with the two sites plus the soon-to-be vacant police special operations building;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** ANC 2A asks the Mayor to immediately

commence a 45-60 day community planning process co-chaired by ANC 2A and 2B with the participation of the West End Library Friends, and neighborhood civic associations to gather community input for a city-issued RFP for the potential redevelopment of these sites; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** ANC 2A asks that, immediately upon completion of this planning process, an RFP be issued by the District to redevelop these sites so that the District can benefit from a competitive process when selecting a plan and a development team; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** time is of the essence because the continuing deteriorating condition of the current public facilities is not tolerable for the employees who serve our community or the citizens who depend on these facilities.

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

The Commission discussed a proposed amendment to the Zoning Map for Hay-Adams Holdings, LLC . Commissioner Wexler stated that the Commission had not received additional information to fully consider this matter.

## **REGULATORY AGENDA**

The Commission considered the Mixed-use Development proposal by Utopia (1912 - 1944 14th Street NW and 1400 - 1418 U Street NW) Eric Colbert, and Georgetown Strategic Capital, to develop floor retail and apartments (2B09). Eric Colbert explained various substantial changes to the proposed designs. He noted the designs feature a reduction of 20,000 square feet. Commissioner Estrada expressed concern over the massing of the building. He expressed concern over the size of the structure in the context of the historic neighborhood. The Commission took no action. Commissioner Meehan made a motion to update the Commission's letter of opposition with a notation that the Commission approves of the direction of the project, but that the structural mass of the building remains too large, and that the Commission is eager to review the DDOT's transportation study. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Commissioner Silverstein recognized Morgan Zehner, Executive Director, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, announced the annual Spring Fling dinner on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Hilton. More information can be found at [www.dupontcircle.biz](http://www.dupontcircle.biz).

The Commission considered a public space application for the installation of a new driveway at 801 17th Street NW (2B05). Commissioner Wexler made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission considered the St. Regis Hotel request for the building of an addition on the K Street side of hotel at 16th and K Streets NW (2B05). The applicant plans to

expand the hotel by five to eight rooms. Commissioner Wexler made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission Application No. 17785 regarding a Zoning Variance request for an area variance to complete an extension of the existing third floor at 1776 Willard Street, NW (2B08). The applicant noted that people cannot stand in the room because of the low ceiling. Commissioner Estrada noted that the Commission does not approve requests with the goal of increasing property value. Commissioner suggested the applicant come before the Commission with additional information. The Commission tabled this item until the March meeting.

The Commission considered ABC License Application No. 77812 by TGR, Inc. T/A Teatro Goldini (1909 K Street NW) for a Substantial Change Request for a sidewalk café with seating capacity for 16 people (2B06). The Commission took no action.

### **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Silverstein submitted the quarterly report to the Commission. He stated that the Commission has \$32,000 (\$17,000 in checking, \$19,000 in savings, and \$4,000 in withholding). He made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

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 (8-0).

Commissioner Farrar suggested forming a working group to address the Commission's proposed comprehensive review DC Zoning Regulations. Commissioner Meehan made a motion to support the forming of a Comprehensive Plan working group. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission decided to hold an informal meeting on ANC administration at Commissioner Farrar's home.

Commissioner Stephens noted that he was taking part in a protest group against Straits of Malaya. Commissioner Stephens made a motion that the Commission submit a letter regarding Straits of Malaya's ABC license renewal. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Commissioner Stephens inquired about ANC funding of newsletter printing costs. The Commission decided to address this issue at an informal meeting on ANC administration.

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, March 12, 2007, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets, NW.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADOPTED: March 12, 2007