

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 9, 2008 Jewish Community Center**

The July 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: Commissioners William Hewitt (2B02), Bob Meehan (2B03), Jack Jacobson (2B04), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Commissioner Curtis Farrar (2B01) was not present. The Chairman noted the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Silverstein: Paul K. Williams is the new Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets.

Commissioner Carney: A young woman was run over and killed by a garbage truck. A garden on P Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW was seriously vandalized over the weekend.

Commissioner Hewitt: The ANC and DCCA are cosponsoring a Ward 2 candidates debate between Cary Silverman and Jack Evans on August 7, 2008 from 7:00 - 8:30pm: <http://2008ward2candidatesdebate.blogspot.com/>

PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Jacobson:

- Sgt. McDonald could not attend tonight's meeting
- Theft from autos are up in the past month
- Muggings are up on 15th Street NW along P and T Streets (Borderstan)
- 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.

Response to decision in D.C. v. Heller

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

WHEREAS, gun-related violence destroys neighborhoods and burdens the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, gun-related accidents both inside the home and outside the home cause innumerable injuries and fatalities, particularly among children and young adults;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's June 26, 2008 decision in District of Columbia v. Heller, No. 07-290, struck down the District's most stringent handgun laws as a violation of the individual right to bear arms set forth in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dupont Circle ANC 2B calls upon the Mayor and the City Council, with assistance from the Chief of Police and other law enforcement representatives, to protect our neighborhoods by enacting and vigorously enforcing robust gun licensing, carrying, and use restrictions within and up to the limits of the Second Amendment.

Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

GENERAL AGENDA

Mr. Maurice Kennard, incoming Principal at Francis School, was briefly introduced to residents.

Presentation by Hilton Hotel regarding historic landmark application & design concept proposal for July 24, 2008 HPRB hearing

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) is scheduled to hear the merits of an historic landmark application by the Hilton Hotel and Towers (Hilton) at its July 24, 2008 meeting;

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the HPRB is scheduled to hear information about the design concept for a new, approximately 11-story, 200-unit condominium building on the grounds of the Hilton, located roughly where the swimming pool now sits;

WHEREAS, the Hilton was conceived as a hotel on the off-ramp of a freeway which was never constructed, and the design of the parking and loading dock are not conducive to its location in a thriving urban, residential neighborhood;

A. LOADING DOCK

WHEREAS, the community has expressed significant concern about the design flaws and safety of the loading dock, problems which will be exacerbated by additional

deliveries and traffic brought on by new condo residents;

WHEREAS, the trucks at the Hilton loading dock often take up street and sidewalk space, thus forcing school children from the Adams School to walk out into the street on their way in and out of the school building, a dangerous situation which is absolutely unacceptable and untenable;

WHEREAS, the current location and size of the loading dock area forces trucks to pivot into the driveways in a manner that disrupts traffic at the intersection of Florida and 19th Streets for several minutes at a time, many times a day;

WHEREAS, the loading dock remains a serious concern and danger, despite the Hilton's honest efforts to better manage and oversee the area in recent months;

WHEREAS, ample space exists on-site to house a loading dock system which does not endanger the school children or cause traffic havoc at the narrow intersection of Florida and 19th Streets;

B. PARKING

WHEREAS, the Hilton's current parking facilities do not meet current legal requirements for hotel parking;

WHEREAS, the community has expressed significant concern about the lack of sufficient parking space for current employees, customers, guests, and visitors of the Hilton, let alone the additional residents of a new condominium building;

WHEREAS, Hilton employees currently park in significant numbers in and around the neighboring streets of the hotel and are seen walking between their street-parked cars and the hotel on a daily basis;

C. MASSING

WHEREAS, the community has expressed significant concern about the mass of the planned condominium building and its potential to block light and otherwise dwarf the surrounding residential neighborhood;

D. LANDMARK DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, to request the landmarking of a structure, only to subsequently present a design concept that will cover a vast portion of the street view of the structure with a new high-rise building, is not in keeping with the spirit and purpose of historic preservation;

WHEREAS, under zoning regulations, a landmark designation will also serve to grandfather the current state of the Hilton structure so as to permit the Hilton to avoid the District's more recent and more stringent rules on parking availability and loading in the construction of a new condominium highrise;

E. SWIMMING POOL

WHEREAS, the Hilton pool has been a meeting and exercise spot for both hotel guests and community residents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that ANC 2B objects to both the landmarking designation and the design concept at this time;
2. that ANC 2B respectfully requests HPRB to postpone decision on both the landmarking designation and the design concept for the new building until such time as further community input and dialogue can take place to find additional ways to ameliorate the concerns set forth above;
3. that ANC 2B urges HPRB to request additional, alternative design concepts;
4. that ANC 2B calls upon the Hilton to further address the community's legitimate concerns about the current and future parking and delivery systems at the hotel;
5. that ANC 2B calls upon the Hilton to incorporate into the concept design a loading and unloading system which does not endanger the ingress and egress of schoolchildren and does not significantly and regularly disrupt the intersection of Florida Ave. and 19th Street;
6. that ANC 2B calls upon the Hilton to lessen the massing of the new condominium

structure in order to minimize the anticipated additional pressure on neighborhood parking spaces and to conform better to the surrounding residential neighborhood;

7. that ANC 2B calls upon the Hilton to incorporate into the design concept sufficient parking to reasonably accommodate employees, residents, guests, and visitors;

8. that ANC 2B encourages the Hilton to provide each of its employees as soon as practicable with Smartrip benefits from the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, which provide the employer with a tax benefit and will allow its employees to use the Metro and bus system to commute to and from the hotel, thus alleviating some of the community's parking concerns;

9. that ANC 2B encourages the Hilton to offer its new condominium residents Smartrip benefits, Zipcar memberships, shuttle services, bike-sharing, or other such incentives to encourage the new residents to walk, ride bicycles, car-share, or use mass transit, rather than have their own cars;

10. that ANC 2B encourages the Hilton to retain in its design concept an outdoor lap-swimming pool large enough to accommodate hotel guests, condo residents, and the community-at-large in a space that is conducive to both mingling and exercise.

11. that ANC 2B supports the efforts of our neighboring ANC 1C and endorses the resolution passed by ANC 1C on July 2, 2008, a copy of which is attached.

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

Discussion of a resolution of support for increased fuel efficiency in DC taxicabs.

Hans Hess spoke about his hybrid taxi company, Enviracab, and how such a company would work in DC.

Presentation by Eric Colbert regarding 14th and U Project Alternative Design Proposal

Eric Colbert gave a brief update on design plans. Commissioner Estrada asked any concerned neighbors to contact him to view the design plans.

REGULATORY AGENDA

Presentation by Constantine Stavropoulos regarding proposed comedy club and diner at 14th and T Streets NW

Constantine Stavropoulos briefly introduced his business concept for a proposed comedy club and diner. He is in the beginning stages of the application process.

BZA Application No. 17820. Presentation by owner/architect of 1718 15th St., NW for a special exception to allow an addition not in compliance with the minimum open court width of an existing non-conforming single family dwelling row structure. (2B04)

Commissioner Jacobson made a motion to support the application and submit a letter of support to BZA. Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Public Space Application # 37918. Three parking spaces in public space behind City Lights Restaurant at 1727 Connecticut Ave NW.

Commissioner Estrada noted Commissioner Farrar's approval of this application in his absence. Commissioner Estrada made a motion to approve the application on Commissioner Farrar's recommendation of approval. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. Commissioner Meehan expressed concern over the voluntary agreement. Commissioner Estrada amended the motion to be subject to the negotiation of a voluntary agreement. The motion carried (6-2) with Commissioners Meehan and Silverstein abstaining.

Proposal by Hickok Cole Architects to install new windows, perform minor brick work, replace fire escape and refinish wood door at 1424 16th St. N.W. (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler noted that Hickok Cole Architects do not need formal approval, but they wanted to share their plans with the neighborhood.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to the Office of Planning requesting a clarification of what is being asserted by participants in the Working Group on Height Limitations to be a shift in the definition of moderate residential zoning, ie R5B, and the designation of moderate residential land use as shown in the recently approved new comprehensive plan.

Expenses

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to authorize an expense reimbursement in the amount of no more than \$70 for ANC expenses for the Pride Parade. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Discussion of possible campaign signage violations and visual pollution in ANC 2B.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that the city currently has a regulation of no more than three signs per side, per block. He contacted Jack Evans and informed his staff of the signage violations. A number of signs appear to have been taken down.

Resolution regarding legislation restricting single beer, ale, and malt liquor sales

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the sale of single containers of beer, ale, and malt liquor -- as well as small spirits containers -- can have a significant impact on the safety, peace, order, and quiet of our neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, Ward 2 Councilman Jack Evans has introduced legislation restricting such singles sales within Ward 2, but only in the Logan Circle and Shaw neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, the Council did not seek input from the Dupont Circle ANC 2B on this proposed legislation, which is reported to be scheduled for a mid-July vote; and

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle ANC 2B would like to provide input prior to the consideration and passage of the proposed legislation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dupont Circle ANC 2B requests that Councilman Evans hold this legislation until such time as the ANC may consider whether it would like to participate in the proposed singles sales restrictions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councilman Evans or a representative be invited to make a presentation on the proposed legislation at the August 2008 meeting of the ANC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ANC shall invite other relevant parties to the August meeting to aid the ANC in the consideration of this important issue.

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

Discussion of DDOT plan to halt DC2NY intercity bus service from Dupont Circle and require all such service to originate and terminate from L'Enfant Plaza.

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

WHEREAS, inter-city bus service provides a low-cost alternative to Amtrak, airplanes, or driving for residents to enjoy East Coast cities such as New York and Philadelphia, among others;

WHEREAS, traveling residents are better served by having inter-city buses which are conveniently located;

WHEREAS, inter-city buses which pick up and drop off in the Dupont Circle area bring tourists and other travelers to the Dupont Circle area who are a boon to the neighborhood economy;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Dupont Circle ANC 2B opposes DDOT regulations which would force all inter-city buses to leave from the same location, particularly a location such as L'Enfant Plaza;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dupont Circle ANC 2B urges DDOT and the Council to seek an accommodation which would allow inter-city buses to drop off and pick up in neighborhood locations such as Dupont Circle at mutually agreeable sites which cause minimum traffic and pedestrian disturbance.

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to approve the June regular meeting minutes as amended. Alfred E. Blicher, Jr. is empowered to make technical changes to the June regular meeting minutes. The motion carried (8-0).

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, August 13, 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: August 13, 2008