

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING,  
Wednesday, March 12, 2008 Jewish Community Center**

The March 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**

Councilmember Jack Evans attended the meeting and addressed Commissioners and residents. He addressed issues regarding the school system. He requested residents to determine appropriate locations for security cameras. He noted the introduction of legislation allowing for the demolition of the Third Church. Commissioners expressed concern over the use of brick in the sidewalks in the neighborhood. Mr. Evans expressed support for the use of brick. Commissioner Estrada expressed concern over government agencies not giving “great weight” to ANCs. Mr. Evans agreed with the Commission. Rob Halligan, President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association, expressed concern over Mr. Evans lack of involvement in the Dupont Circle neighborhood.

Commissioner Meehan noted that there would be an update on S & T Street parks at the April meeting.

Commissioner Carney noted that TENAC, Department of Health and the National Park Service were addressing rat problems in the area. He thanked DDOT for new curb cuts and sidewalk replacements on P Street east of the circle. He noted that the Stead Park contract would be awarded on March 21st.

Commissioner Hewitt announced that the Metropolitan Police Department would have a number of officers monitoring taverns at 22nd and P Streets NW on Saturday and Sunday (12 – 4 AM). He noted that residents and tavern owners contributed money to support this effort. Commissioner Silverstein commended Commissioner Hewitt for his hard work on bringing residents and business owners together on this issue.

Members of the Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets announced their Silent Auction and Gala at the Hilton Hotel on March 19th.

## **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 announced the start of the special election to fill the vacancy in SMD 2B04 would take place from 7:15 – 9:00.

The Commission heard an update by the Cultural Development Corporation regarding its progress on Source Theatre (1835 14th Street NW). Representatives spoke before the Commission and noted that CDC anticipates finishing contraction on the building in May. Residents may contact Merin Frank for more information at [merin@culturaldc.org](mailto:merin@culturaldc.org).

The Commission heard a presentation by DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration and Casey Trees about the schedule of services and trees in the neighborhood & its tree watering initiative. A representative from DDOT briefly spoke about DDOT's tree services and its partnership with Casey Trees. Commissioner Silverstein expressed concern over the number of trees planted with no follow-up on ensuring trees are watered. The DDOT representative noted that DDOT follows up on trees twice per year. Commissioner Meehan expressed concern over tree boxes in the neighborhood.

The Commissioners heard a presentation by DDOT on the 17th Street Streetscape Project. Olusegun Olaore, Project Manager, DDOT, appeared before the Commission. DDOT representatives noted that the streetscape construction drawings are 30% completed. DDOT proposed adding “teardrop” and “Washington globe” lighting styles. DDOT also plans to add additional planters, benches and bike racks. Commissioners Carney, Hewitt, Meehan, Silverstein, Wexler and Farrar expressed concern over the use of brick instead of concrete. They expressed concern over residents slipping on the brick surface during the winter. Residents also expressed concern over bricks and the potential

to have an accident.

Commissioner Carney made the following motion:

Whereas, brick sidewalks are high maintenance and DDOT has a very poor record of providing sidewalk maintenance;

Whereas, bricks tend to be slippery when wet and tend to ice over sooner than concrete;

Whereas, bricks are hard to keep on a uniform plane and create tripping hazards;

Whereas, budgeted maintenance of installed sidewalk equipment is critical;

Whereas, minimizing the construction impact on businesses is critical;

Whereas, one purpose of the Streetscape Project is to provide uniformity of design; DDOT is encouraged to work with businesses to coordinate public space fencing replacement to provide uniformity along 17th Street NW;

Therefore, be it resolved by ANC 2B:

That brick should not be used, unless the public is assured that it will be well maintained; we also recommend maintenance for all of the brick sidewalks in Dupont Circle;

That no equipment or furniture be installed without budgeted maintenance;

That a business leader from the Dupont Circle Historic Mainstreet Project with P Streetscape experience be added to the 17th Streetscape Committee;

That DDOT is encouraged to work with businesses to use one design of public space fencing;

Resolved, subject to DDOT's and Dupont Circle Historic Mainstreet's acceptance of the above recommendations and resolution of all other issues, ANC 2B supports the continued development of this important and long-awaited project.

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. Commissioner Carney made a friendly amendment that Commissioner Estrada is empowered to make technical changes. Commissioner Estrada seconded the friendly amendment. Commissioner Meehan made a friendly amendment that DDOT repair all of the brick in Dupont Circle. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the friendly amendment. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Hewitt abstaining.

Commissioner Estrada announced that Jack Jacobson won the special election for SMD 2B04. The vote total was:

1. Robin Diener - 18
2. James Kadtke - 23
3. Marisa Uchin - 53
4. Jack Jacobson - 62

Commissioner Estrada made the following resolution:

The Board of Elections and Ethics informed ANC 2B that the only candidates who qualify to fill the vacancy in Single Member District 2B04 were Robin Diener, James Kadtke, Marisa Uchin, and Jack Jacobson.

The Commission conducted an election on March 12th at the Jewish Community Center. The winner of the election is Jack Jacobson.

RESOLVED, therefore that ANC 2B request the Board of Elections and Ethics declare the vacancy filled by Mr. Jacobson by publication in the District of Columbia Register; and

RESOLVED, further that copies of those resolutions also be sent to the Council, Mayor, and Mr. Jacobson.

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

## **REGULATORY AGENDA**

The Commission considered a Public Space Application by The Society of the Cincinnati

(2118 Mass. Ave, NW) for a bronze statue of George Washington in public space (2B02). Commissioner Hewitt made a motion to support the application. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission considered an ABC Application by Dupont Fine Wine & Spirits, Inc., T/A Dupont Fine Wine & Spirits (1325 Connecticut Avenue NW) for Retailer's Class "A" license (2B02). The Commission took no action, but spoke with the applicant regarding trash issues.

Commissioner Estrada withdrew from the agenda the Application for Substantial Change by Utopia Bar and Grill (1416 U Street NW), License No. 23516, 1416 U Street NW, to change the Hours of Operation and Hours of Entertainment (2B09). He stated that this item was an administrative error by ABRA. The Commission took no action.

The Commission did not hear the presentation by Pentec Health for community support of Certificate of Need request at either 1776 I Street, NW or 1875 I Street, NW (2B06). The applicant was not present.

### **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Silverstein noted that the Commission has \$19,000 in a savings account and \$11,000 in a checking account. He made a motion that Commissioner Estrada be reimbursed \$10 for taxi fare to the Committee of the Hall meeting. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Commissioners Hewitt and Stephens noted that the Phillips Collection was willing to host a primary debate in late July. Commissioner Estrada noted that DCCA was available to participate in June.

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

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

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 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: April 9, 2008