

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING,
Wednesday, May 14, 2008 Jewish Community Center**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Carney announced that MidCity Artists would hold an open house from May 17-18. For more information go to www.midcityartists.com.

Commissioner Silverstein announced that Morgan Zehner, Executive Director, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, resigned.

Commissioner Silverstein introduced Joel Lawson, the new President of DCCA.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Rob Halligan, President, former President of 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.

Commissioner Hewitt noted that businesses and residents on P Street met with MPD and are attempting to find a solution to recent problems with crowd control at night outside of restaurants and bars.

GENERAL AGENDA

The Commission heard a presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation regarding S&T Street Parks and a request for ANC approval of final design prior to issuing bids for construction. Representatives appeared before the ANC and presented DPR's proposal. Commissioners and residents discussed the height of the fence of the dog park.

Commissioner Meehan made the following motion:

ANC 2B resolves that this is a terrific design, we approve it, and we urge expeditious implementation.

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

The Commission heard a presentation by Jeannie and Lindsey Reishman (Coldwell Banker) of guidelines in the selection of three movies to be screened at Stead Park: June 26, July 31 and Aug. 28 at 8:30. They are seeking approval of noise and crowd control as well as clean up procedure. They noted that they would hold three separate movie nights, and would not charge admission. Commissioner Carney expressed concern over the volume of movies and restroom accessibility. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to wholeheartedly support the summer movie mania project. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission heard a presentation by DDOT of the plan and specifications for the reconstruction/resurfacing of 18th Street NW From Massachusetts Avenue to Florida Avenue. DDOT was represented by Maduabuchi Udeh, Program Manager, Dawit Muluneh, Project Manager, and [name to be inserted] DDOT Contractor. Mr Udeh and Mr. Muluneh said that DDOT hoped to gather the community's comments and concerns. Mr. [Contractor] presented the plans, but noted that the presentation would not be available on DDOT's website. Residents can submit comments to Dawit at Dawit.Muluneh@dc.gov.

Commissioner Carney expressed concern over the potential for disruption of the community by this project. Commissioner Jacobson stated that the ANC should not collect public comments, but that DDOT should be responsible for collecting any comments directly from affected residents. Commissioner Stephens requested DDOT to contact potentially affected residents and to inform the public about how this project fits with several other planned DDOT projects in the neighborhood. Commissioner Silverstein expressed concern over the effect of this project on local businesses.

Residents expressed concern over not receiving notification from DDOT on their proposed plan. Michele Molotske from Councilman Jack Evans' office offered to collaborate with DDOT in arranging for timely community consultations.

Commissioner Meehan made the following motion:

On behalf of the Dupont Circle community, ANC 2B expresses its appreciation for DDOT having included the proposed 18th St project in its FY 2008 capital budget. However, in view of the lack of extensive community involvement in the proposed safety, sidewalk resurfacing, ADA access to buildings along the sidewalks, landscaping and other improvements designed to enhance the quality of life in this neighborhood, ANC 2B moves that :

1. DDOT pause its design efforts of those elements requiring community input, including but not limited to those elements mentioned above.
2. DDOT immediately convene a working group including all interested parties to vet fully on a systematic and expeditious basis those

elements of the project requiring community input.

3. DDOT, working with Councilman Jack Evan's office, send out notices to all affected parties - both owners and renters of record, informing them of the need for their participation in the design-approval process of 18th St project and alerting them to look for locally posted notices of community meetings to review the project.

4. DDOT, working with ANC 2B, develop a schedule of community meetings that would enable DDOT to wrap-up the design process in time for a final ANC 2B vote on the project at its September 10, 2008 public monthly meeting.

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

Commissioner Farrar noted that this meeting with DDOT was the first in a series of meetings to be held on this matter.

The Commission heard a report on the status of negotiations concerning Jack's application for a renewal of license No. 21211- 081031 to add three additional tables on an outside terrace. Commissioner Wexler reported that Jack's had accepted a voluntary agreement with the Commission and the protestants from the community.

The Commission considered a resolution of support for Circa's effort to comply with ADA, which will require the new door to open into public space and the addition of planters on either side of the door for safety (2B02). A Circa representative appeared before the Commission. He stated that Circa would install an ADA compliant second door on the Connecticut Avenue side of the restaurant. He noted the second door would open into public space. Commissioner Hewitt made a motion to support Circa's plans and send a letter to the Office of Public Space. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission heard a presentation by The Brookings Institute, 1778/1780 Mass. Avenue NW, for tax exempt bonds to purchase and renovate 1775 Mass. Avenue NW (2B05 and 2B07). Commissioner Wexler made a motion to support the request. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

REGULATORY AGENDA

The Commission considered a Public Space Application to occupy public space for the purpose of installing unenclosed sidewalk cafe at premises of 1909 K Street, NW (2B06). Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support the application and that we forward this letter to the Office of Public Space and DDOT. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission considered modifying the West Dupont Moratorium to include two additional beer and wine licenses (DR licenses) on P Street, along with reassertion that no

new tavern or nightclub licenses will be tolerated by the community (2B02). Commissioner Hewitt noted that the sense of business owners and residents in the area was that adding two beer and wine licenses would not contribute to the recent increase in late night alcohol-related problems on 22nd and P Streets NW because establishments with DR licenses were restaurants that close much earlier. He stated that stabilizing the restaurants in certain locations on P Street by giving them the ability to increase their earnings with beer and wine sales would help eliminate high turnover and vacant space. Commissioner Silverstein noted that tax rates and rent were cost prohibitive for unlicensed restaurants. Commissioner Hewitt made a motion to send a letter to ABRA requesting two additional retailer's Class DR licenses. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. Commissioner Meehan made a friendly amendment that the hours of the DR licensees be capped at midnight. Commissioner Hewitt accepted the amendment. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Commissioner Jacobson abstaining.

The Commission heard a presentation by JR's Bar for a request for approval of a beer garden during Gay Pride 2008, the proceeds of which will benefit gay DC sports teams (2B05). A JR's representative noted that the Gay Pride Parade will take place on June 14th. He noted that 17th Street would be shut down due to the parade route. Commissioner Farrar made a motion to support the request. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission did not hear a presentation for Historic Review for an expansion at 1727 Church Street, NW (2B07). Commissioner Carney tabled this matter until the June meeting.

The Commission considered a BZA Application by the owner of 2021 N Street, NW for a proposed garage addition (2B06). The applicant presented documentation previously requested by the Commission. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support the application, noting the support of the neighbors and the context of this particular request. Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission considered 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). Commissioner Silverstein made a motion that the Commission would not object to the application. Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Commission heard a brief presentation by Marilyn Harper and Peter Sefton on a petition to HPRB to designate the National Permanent Building as an historical landmark (2B06). The applicant is seeking LEED certification retrofitting. Commissioner Jacobson expressed support for the applicant's petition to the HPRB. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to urge HPRB to reject the application because the building is incomplete and does not rise to the historic merits necessary. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. Commissioner Farrar made an amendment that given the short time for discussion and the changing status of time, the ANC decides to take no action on this matter. Commissioner Meehan seconded the amendment. Commissioner Stephens made

a friendly amendment (to the amendment) for a request to HPRB to move consideration of the application back one month. Commissioner Farrar accepted the friendly amendment. The amendment carried (5-3) with Commissioners Silverstein, Wexler and Hewitt voting in opposition. The motion, as amended, carried (8-0).

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to approve the quarterly financial report. The motion carried (8-0).

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to purchase a plaque to honor Morgan Zehner for his work with HDCMS. The motion carried (8-0).

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

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, June 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: June 11, 2008