

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING,
Wednesday, May 19, 2008 Resource Center**

The May Special 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), Jack Jacobson (2B04), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08) and Ramon Estrada (2B09). Chairman Estrada noted the presence of a quorum.

REGULATORY AGENDA

Commissioner Farrar explained that the Commission did not have adequate time to fully consider a presentation by Marilyn Harper and Peter Sefton on a petition to HPRB to designate the National Permanent Building as an historical landmark (2B06) at the May 14th meeting.

Carolyn Brown, Holland & Knight appeared before the Commission. Ms. Brown elaborated on her comments from the May 14th meeting. Ms. Harper and Mr. Sefton joined the meeting late because of other commitments. Ms. Harper briefly summarized her presentation made on May 14. There was an extensive, broad ranging discussion of the issue.

Commissioner Jacobson made the following motion:

Whereas, public support for energy efficiency is universal, and there is no support in our community for any governmental action that would halt or hamper green energy projects such as the energy efficiency retrofit project currently underway at 1775 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (the "National Permanent Building").

Whereas, the National Permanent Building is the first commercial office building in Washington, DC, to undergo a large-scale energy efficiency retrofit with the intent to achieve LEED Silver status and certification from the U.S. Green Buildings Council.

Whereas, the energy efficiency retrofit project on the National Permanent Building is extremely important symbolically to the environmental movement and to those who support the development of green buildings.

Whereas, the Mayor convened and participated in a green building workshop with the Energy Efficiency Partnership of Greater Washington on April 23, 2008 – Earth Day – to support large-scale energy efficiency retrofit programs like the one currently underway at the National Permanent Building through similar projects throughout the City.

Whereas, landmarking the National Permanent Building while the building is in the midst

of a project of this nature sets a precedent that would disincentivize and discourage similar energy efficiency retrofit projects throughout the City.

Whereas, corporate leaders in energy efficiency and environmentalism should be rewarded and not hindered or discouraged by unnecessary intervention by government agencies.

Whereas, approving the applicants' preservation petition at this time, while extensive internal and external renovations currently underway remain unfinished, would bestow historic status on building and architectural elements not yet or no longer in existence.

Therefore, be it resolved by ANC 2B:

That we oppose the application for historic landmarking of the National Permanent Building at 1775 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, at this time.

That landmarking of the National Permanent Building may be appropriate at a future time.

That we urge HPRB to reject the application or postpone action on the National Permanent Building until the energy efficiency retrofit project currently underway, which has significantly altered the architectural design of the building, is completed.

That we encourage energy efficiency retrofit projects, and support the Mayor's plans to replicate similar energy efficiency retrofit projects in other commercial office buildings throughout the City.

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

At 8:50 PM, Commissioner Estrada 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