

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009 Jewish Community Center

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Estrada made a motion to approve the June minutes, subject to technical corrections. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Public Announcements

Rick Busch, Dupont Circle Conservancy, thanked the Commission for their support on saving the building at 1841 16th Street NW.

Public Safety

Commissioner Jacobson introduced Officer Steven Fletcher, MPD, PSA 208. Residents may reach him at steven.fletcher@dc.gov. He announced the National Night Out at Dupont Circle on August 4th from 6 - 9 PM.

He noted three rooftop burglaries in the past 30 days. He cautioned residents to close their rooftop hatches.

Statistics since January 2008

- robberies are down 4%
- assault with a dangerous weapon is down 20%
- burglaries are down 7%
- theft and auto is down 3%
- stolen autos are down 13%
- overall increase in crime of 2%

The Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee normally meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) station at 1620 V Street NW.

Committee Reports

Working Group on 17th Street

Commissioner Jacobson noted that the working group would hold another meeting in the near future. A date and time will be scheduled and the ANC will send out an email to the community.

Working Group on P Street Moratorium – Community Meeting July 15th

Commissioner Silverstein recommended the Commission hold a special meeting on Wednesday, July 15th at Hotel Dupont at 7:00, to consider a request to carve out the 1400 block of Connecticut Avenue from the West P Street Moratorium zone. Commissioner Patel suggested holding a special meeting, so that the Commission may act if it so chooses. Commissioners Meehan, Stephens and Carney expressed concern over holding a special meeting, and recommended the Commission hold a community meeting instead. Commissioner Silverstein agreed and the Commission decided to hold a community meeting on July 15th at 7:00 at Hotel Dupont.

Commissioner Reports

Revised Report on Meeting Space & Resolution to Change Regular Public Meeting Space to the Brookings Institute (Mass. Ave. NW btw 17th & 18th Streets)

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

Whereas ANC 2B has comprehensively researched potential meeting spaces in and around the Dupont Circle neighborhood; and

Whereas the Brookings Institution has offered meeting space at \$100 per month at the main building on Massachusetts Ave. NW between 17th and 18th Streets; and

Whereas the Brookings Institution has several handicap-accessible rooms available for evening public meetings at this facility, with audio-visual equipment;

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B elects to change its regular, monthly public meeting space to the Brookings Institution, effective as soon as practicable; and

Be it further resolved that the Commission authorizes payment for meeting space rental and fees to the Brookings Institution up to a total \$1500 per year, to be revisited by the Commission as necessary in the future; and

Be it further resolved that the Chairman is authorized to enter into any negotiations and agreements necessary to carry out this resolution.

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

Neighboring Jurisdiction Reports (Foggy Bottom, Kalorama, Logan Circle, Georgetown)

There were no neighboring jurisdiction reports.

General

Gabe Klein, Director DDOT

Mr. Klein introduced himself to the community. He spoke briefly on the District's inability to further build anymore capacity to handle transportation. He noted the importance of encouraging people to use different modes of travel in the District. He briefly spoke about the Pay by Phone parking pilot. The pilot program is expected to start in late 2009.

Commissioner Jacobson suggested that DDOT should work on the residential side of 17th Street reconstruction during the summer and the business side during the winter. He expressed concern over businesses being negatively impacted by summer construction. He also inquired about a previous request for 20 treeboxes. Mr. Klein noted that DDOT is currently experiencing a funding and capacity issue and the staff is behind on this project. He also noted that DDOT took over management of 240,000 trees from DPR.

Mr. Majett, DCRA - demolition by neglect and other issues

Mr. Majett, Director of DCRA, spoke briefly regarding the recent demolition by neglect case at 1841 16th Street NW. Commissioner Carney noted that the house at 1420 17th Street NW was another case of neglect. Mr. Majett stated that he would investigate. Commissioner Stephens inquired what residents can do if they discover construction taking place outside of legally allowed hours of operation. Mr. Majett stated that residents would need to contact DCRA which would notify its on-duty officer of the violation. Commissioner Feldstein requested DCRA to hold a meeting with the Commission to address any future issues and questions.

Presentation by Rick Bauman of BikeDC in advance of October event

Mr. Bauman briefly presented changes in the BikeDC route this year in October. He requested support by the Commission to contact the National Park Service, in order to move a part of the event to Rock Creek Park, to alleviate traffic problems experienced at last year's event. He noted that the organizers would reduce the time frame of the event to minimize any negative impact on residents. He provided a turn-by-turn route narrative. Commissioner Silverstein stated that the Commission would consider the request and contact Mr. Bauman.

Commissioner Wexler left the meeting.

Resolution on Engagement of a Public Policy Intern

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

Whereas ANC 2B engages the community and local decision-makers in a wide range of public policy matters; and

Whereas ANC 2B would be well served by having additional information and research at its disposal on such public policy matters; and

Whereas an unpaid public policy and research internship position could better assist the Commission in its decision-making and actions;

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B engage an unpaid intern to assist the Commission as set forth in the attached “ANC 2B Public Policy & Research Internship – Job Description”; and

Be it further resolved that the intern may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses related to the intern’s job description—including, but not limited to, online research fees or printing costs—subject to the approval of the Chair and Treasurer; and

Be it further resolved that Commissioner Feldstein serve as the “Intern Coordinator” as described in the job description.

Job Description Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B)

Public Policy Intern

Job Title – Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission Public Policy Intern

Overview – The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission Public Policy Intern, or ANC Intern (ANCI) is an unpaid position dedicated to assisting the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission improve the overall quality of its decisions and recommendations by having better and more timely research on relevant public policy matters.

Reporting Relationships – The ANCI will work directly with the various Dupont Circle ANC Commissioners. One Commissioner will be named Intern Coordinator and will be responsible for the overall coordination of the ANCI’s work. Commissioners wanting the assistance of the Intern should first contact the Intern Coordinator.

Responsibilities

Undertake research, related to issues and concerns of the Dupont Circle ANC on a wide range of public policy matters:

- Track District of Columbia laws, regulations, and policies relevant to the Dupont Circle ANC;
- Participate, as assigned, to assist various Dupont Circle Working Groups or ANC Committees (e.g., the 17th Street and the P Street Working Groups, ABRA Policy Committee);

- Investigate the various urban policy “think tanks,” universities, and associations in the DC area to determine if they are undertaking activities relevant to the work and priorities of the Dupont Circle ANC;
- As time permits, attend relevant meetings or hearings of the DC City Council, neighboring ANCs, citizens associations, etc., and provide written reports.

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

Resolution Objecting to Change of ANC Commissioner Elections from November to September

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

Whereas the D.C. Council is considering legislation that would move the ANC Commissioner elections from November to September, from the general election date to the primary election date; and

Whereas the Council has not identified a serious problem, fault, or deficiency which would be cured by moving the election of ANC Commissioners from November to September; and

Whereas ANC positions are important offices which deserve to be on the November ballot; and

Whereas such a change would result in an additional two months of lame-duck status for ANC Commissioners who are not re-elected or who choose to retire; and

Whereas electing ANC commissioners during the partisan primary in September unnecessarily mixes the non-partisan ANC elections with the partisan primary elections for other offices; and

Whereas such a change would mean that ANC Commissioner candidates would not be able to volunteer, canvass, or participate as fully in September partisan primary elections for other local offices, which are often the most contested and important races in the District; and

Whereas such a change would mean that ANC Commissioner candidates would need to submit petitions with signatures to the Board of Elections and Ethics during the week of Independence Day in July, a time when many DC residents leave town; and

Whereas if the Council is concerned about the ability of the Board of Elections and Ethics to correctly create over 200 ballots in the span of two months, a simpler and less drastic solution would be to require ANC candidates to submit petitions one month earlier; and

Whereas independent voters are not accustomed to voting in the September elections, which are partisan elections;

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B objects to any change in ANC Commissioner elections from November to September; and

Be it further resolved that the Chairman send a letter to Ward 2 Council Member Jack Evans and all other Council Members describing the Commission's aforementioned objections.

Commissioner Carney made a friendly amendment, which is reflected above. The motion passed (8-0).

Commissioner Jacobson asked to join Chairman Silverstein in testifying before Council Member Cheh's hearing on this issue.

Notice: Resolution on Working Group to Enhance Dupont Circle Metro Entrance

Commissioner Stephens provided the Commission with notice on a proposed item for a subsequent meeting.

Notice: Resolution to Initiate Tree Box Adoption Program

Commissioner Stephens provided the Commission with notice on a proposed item for a subsequent meeting.

Regulatory

Amendment to voluntary agreement for Kanu, Inc.

Commissioner Silverstein made the following motion:

Be it resolved that ANC2B amend the Voluntary Agreement with Kanu Inc t/a 1 West Dupont Wine and Liquors to modify hours of operation to match those of neighboring competing liquor stores, and to reflect the owners continuing efforts to negotiate installation of a trash compacter with the cooperation of neighboring restaurants.

Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

Application before HPRB for rear addition at 1820-22 Jefferson Place. Randy Creaser of Creaser/O'Brien architects.

The applicant did not appear before the Commission. The Commission took no action on this matter.

Application before HPRB for rear addition to first and second floors at 1824-26 Jefferson Place. John Edwards of Bonstra Haresign Architects for Havde Capital

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to approve the application, pending approval of the Dupont Circle Conservancy.

Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Public Space application for sidewalk cafe at Sweetgreen, 1512 Connecticut Av.

The applicant requested permission for a sidewalk cafe consisting of 10 - 12 seats.

Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support the request for a small sidewalk cafe in front of their establishment at 1512 Connecticut Avenue.

Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

ABC application # 082214, Local 14 LLC, for CR license with capacity for 199 patrons at 1832 14th Street NW, including a sidewalk cafe for 16, summer garden/roof deck for 40 and balcony for 8 patrons.

Commissioner Estrada made the following motion:

ANC 2B protests the application by Local 14 LLC, 1832 14th Street NW, for a Retail Class "C" Restaurant license based on issues related to peace, order and quiet pending the negotiation of a Voluntary Agreement by the ANC.

The motion carried (7-0).

Administrative/Financial Matters

Proposal for minor renovation/painting of Resource Center.

Paul Williams, HDCMS, requested \$400 to paint the resource center. Commissioner Silverstein made a motion to support the request for \$400. Mr. Williams plans to paint the resource center himself.

Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Jacobson noted the following:

- \$20,723.71 in checking account
- \$19,857.97 in savings account

ANC 2B is up-to-date and in compliance with all financial reporting with the DC Government. He also noted that he had not yet received the new check register, and that he ordered new checks and cancelled the old order.

Policy & Procedures Manual

Commissioner Stephens distributed binders with the most up to date Policy & Procedures Manual, as approved at the June 2009 ANC meeting (version 1.1). Commissioner Stephens also proposed additional changes to consider at the August meeting (proposed version 1.3).

He made a motion to approve proposed version 1.2 of the Policy & Procedures Manual, which was distributed for review and comment at the June 2008 meeting. Commissioner Estrada suggested the Commission hold off on voting to review language on the Committee structures, in order to vote on the motion at the August meeting.

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

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, 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 12, 2009