

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 11, 2010 Brookings Institution

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Stephens tabled approval of July minutes.

Circulation of Monthly Work Calendar

The Chair circulated the monthly work calendar for Commissioners with deadlines for letters, agenda items, minutes, and resolutions. Any additional letter language is due by Saturday, August 14th, and letters will be distributed August 16th and 23rd. September agenda items are due by August 28th, and any resolutions by August 29th. The September 2010 agenda will be published August 30th.

Public Safety

Discussion of recent bias crimes

The Chair introduced Lt. Scott Dignan, MPD 208, to report briefly on PSA activities and discuss hate/bias crimes. Lt. Dignan reported that National Night Out on Dupont Circle was a great success. He also reported on neighborhood crime statistics: up 8% over last year for violent crimes (but only up about 2-3 crimes over last year), including increase in robberies and assaults with dangerous weapons; six hate/biased crimes were reported in our PSA between June 2nd and July 30th; and five were confirmed by MPD as hate/bias crimes.

Commissioner Jacobson thanked MPD for transparency and reminded all that the monthly PSA meeting is next Tuesday @ 7pm at the Third District headquarters at 17th & V Streets NW. Commissioner Silverstein asked if any of these hate/bias crimes were falsely reported. The 5 were confirmed through MPD's processes as hate/bias crimes, which occurred late at night. Lt. Dignan reported that citizens should call our PSA at 202-727-9099 with any concerns.

Public Announcements

Commissioner Stephens announced that the 18th Street Reconstruction Public Meeting will take place August 17th at the International Student House from 7:00-8:30.

Commissioner Stephens reminded the Commission and public that the 3-year renewal of Tavern licenses will begin next month.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that "Tree Dishes" could become "West Nile Incubators," and that DDOT/UFA can be contacted if any are blocked.

Deborah Hanrahan announced the 17th Street Fair (w/ street closing between P St & Riggs Place) on September 25th. Applications for participating artists are available on DCCA Website.

Andrea Doughty of ANC 2F and the MidCity Arts District branding campaign announced a meeting at Busboys and Poets.

Paul Williams of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets announced the Taste of Dupont on October 5th and asked for support of funding for the Clean Team.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to provide a letter of support for Main Streets' application for funding for the Clean Team. Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Presentation by Neighborhood Organization/Special Guest

Introduction of Joyce Tsepas, Office of Planning Ward 2 Community Planner.

Joyce Tsepas, Ward 2 Office of Planning, briefly spoke before the Commission. Ms. Tsepas described the work of the Office of Planning and offered to work with ANC 2B's Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee on planning and development in our neighborhood. She can be reached at 202-535-1556.

Special Items

Request for Ross School Trash Compactor

Commissioner Meehan made the following motion:

Whereas ANC 2B's resolution of supporting the incorporation of public space into a redesigned playground contained as one of its stipulations that Ross School would find a way to manage successfully its trash stored in back of the school,

Whereas in all these years Ross School has not succeeded in securing enough dumpsters and frequent enough pickups to ensure that the lids of all dumpsters are closed at all times, Whereas the immediate neighborhood has been suffering from severe rat infestation over these and earlier years in large part due to the food cartons and food stored in improperly secured dumpsters,

Whereas beginning this fall, all 165 students of Ross will be eligible for free breakfasts, thereby substantially increasing the volume of live trash,

Whereas the two existing trash dumpsters, measuring only four feet high, six feet wide, and three feet deep, are clearly inadequate but that more and larger dumpsters appear impractical because all the current dumpsters are located behind a 10 foot high chain link fence to the right of parked cars, and stationed up to 40 feet away from access to the alley,

Whereas, although the neighbors during the past 150 days have taken collective action on their part to call in DPW for rat abatement services, start policing themselves to improve their own trash storage, fill rat holes, and place baited rat boxes on their property, it is the judgment of the neighbors and DPW that Ross's share of the rat problem needs a trash compactor to bring about a significant, sustained reduction of the rat population during the school year as well as during the summer recess,

Now therefore ANC 2B strongly recommends that Ross School request and that DCPS approve the placement of a trash compactor behind Ross School in lieu of the insufficient trash dumpsters. This recommendation is supported by the evidence reported by ABC establishments which have shifted from regular dumpsters to trash compactors showing very substantial reductions in the rat population behind their establishments and around neighboring properties. It is also supported by common knowledge that high levels of rat infestation pose a real and severe health risk to pre-schoolers and elementary grade children and that common sense dictates that this health menace be removed with deliberate effort and speed.

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

Presentation of Community Involvement Award

Commissioners Feldstein and Stephens presented a Community Involvement Award to Aaron DeNu, co-chair of Dupont Festival's Soccer in the Circle.

Regulatory

Consideration of ANC Comment on Proposed Vending Regulations

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

Resolution providing ANC comments on proposed vending rule-making

Whereas the Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) has promulgated proposed regulatory changes for permitting of vendors, including new regulations allowing for mobile roadway vending permits, and has asked for public comment; and

Whereas the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (GT BID) has submitted the attached list of comments on the proposed rules; and

Whereas the attached list of comments include (1) increased community notice and ANC participation before vending permits are issued and (2) elimination of the mobile vending provisions because the statute does not provide authority for mobile roadway vending permits;

Therefore be it resolved that the Commission supports and seconds the attached GT BID comments in their entirety.

Be it further resolved that the Commission respectfully requests the Council to table approving any mobile roadway vending regulations until full public hearing and debate on amending the statute itself to allow for mobile roadway vending permits.

Be it further resolved that this issue is now delegated to the Commission's Community Involvement Committee for any follow-up work with DCRA, GT BID, Dupont Circle Merchants and Professionals Association (DCMAP), the Council, and other stakeholders.

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

Request for letter of support to BZA for rear addition, incl. garage, at 2023 N St NW. Applicant already received ANC support for same project before HPRB. (2B06)

Commissioner Silverstein noted the Commission already sent a letter of support for this project to HPRB. He moved to support the project before BZA. Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Application by Rosemary's Thyme, 1801 18th Street to open their outside patio one hour earlier – from current 5pm opening to 4pm opening Monday to Thursday, and on Saturday from 11am to 10am. (2B01)

Commissioner Feldstein moved to support the application. Commissioner Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0, with Commissioner Silverstein not participating due to his position on the ABC Board.

Request by Carlos Rosario Public Charter School to relocate its satellite campus from 1501 Columbia Road to 2001 S Street. The DC Charter School Board has asked ANC approval for this move. (2B01)

Commissioner Feldstein introduced representatives of the School. Commissioner Feldstein made a motion to support the request and welcome the school to the neighborhood. Commissioner Patel seconded. The motion passed 9-0.

Request (DDOT Tracking Number 56321) by The Johns Hopkins University to occupy public space at 1619 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. for the purpose of paving sidewalk and installing Bike Racks and Tables. (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler introduced representatives of Johns Hopkins University to describe the request. Commissioner Wexler moved to support the request. Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

Application by Zodiac Rest. Group, Inc. t/a Scion, 2100 P St NW, for substantial change to include extension of hours of operation & sales/service Sun 10am-2am, M-F 11am-2am, Sat 10am-2am. (2B02)

The Chair and Commissioner Patel apologized for not having personally invited Scion representatives to last month's meeting. Last month's vote was to protest the license change on the basis of peace, order and quiet, subject to the successful negotiation of a Voluntary Agreement. Scion representatives explained their request. The Commission did not change its action from the July meeting.

General

DDOT Presentation/discussion regarding experimental bicycle crossing at New Hampshire/16th Street/U Street NW

Chris Ziemann, Ward 2 Transportation Planner, DDOT, described the new intersection and DDOT's planned study. He noted that bike lanes are used regularly up until T Street. Commissioner Silverstein noted that many cyclists are not heeding traffic laws and stop lights. He inquired whether DDOT would ticket cyclists. Mr. Ziemann could not comment. The Commission took no action.

Committee Reports

17th Street Working Group

1. Status of 17th Street Project

Commissioner Jacobson noted that treeboxes and paving has been finished over the last few weeks. Pepco also finished wiring street lights.

2. 17th Street Festival

Commissioner Jacobson made a motion to provide **no more than \$2,000** toward the 17th Street festival. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.

ABRA Policy Committee

1. Omnibus ABRA Legislation

Commissioner Estrada reported that the Committee will consider the proposed Omnibus Legislation and the ANC guidelines on public space sidewalk cafes at its next meeting, which is to be scheduled.

2. Next Meeting

Commissioner Estrada will schedule the next meeting.

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

1. Conn Ave median & landscaping

Commissioner Feldstein noted he would schedule and hold this meeting in two weeks.

Community Involvement Committee

1. Next Meeting Sept. 7th

Commissioner Reports

Neighboring Jurisdiction Reports: West End/Foggy Bottom (2B06), Adams Morgan (2B01, 2B08), Kalorama (2B01, 2B02), Logan Circle (2B04, 2B05, 2B09), Georgetown (2B06), Columbia Heights/Shaw (2B09)

Commissioner Stephens reported that the 18th Street reconstruction project from Florida up to Columbia in ANC 1C will be underway shortly and is scheduled to be completed March 2011.

Commissioner Estrada reported that the 14th Street Streetscape (mostly ANC 1B) is also getting underway.

Reports on Old Business

Commissioner Meehan voiced objection to this agenda topic, and the Commissioners briefly discussed agenda order and items. Commissioner Stephens recommended that such administrative discussion be reserved for the administrative section below.

1. Farragut “Virtual Tunnel”

Commissioner Feldstein reported on an article in the Dupont Current on this issue, and that WMATA agreed to report on this later in 2010. Existing gate technology would not support the upgrade.

2. P.J. Clarke’s (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler reported that a VA was reached with sidewalk cafe hours of 1:00am every day.

3. Hank’s Oyster Bar (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler reported that other parties protested, but since the Commission took no action, this item is complete.

4. National Restaurant Association (2B05)

Commissioner Wexler reported that the Association submitted their formal application for zoning amendment with the ANC resolution letter of conditional support included.

5. Teatro Goldoni (2B06)

Special designee Kevin O’Connor reported that communication with the establishment is ongoing for the purposes of a VA.

6. Policy (2B09)

Commissioner Estrada reported that Policy has requested an amendment to their VA, and that the VA parties are making progress in discussions.

7. Cada Vez/Station 9 (2B09)

Commissioner Estrada reported that the ABC Board dismissed the application because the applicant did not appear for the roll call hearing. The applicant has 10 days to request reinstatement.

8. 1461 S Street NW (2B09)

Commissioner Estrada reported that although HPRB liked the plans of the third floor addition, the board said that at no time in the history of HPRB has the board approved the addition of a third story addition on a corner in a historic district anywhere in city and didn't want to create a precedent. HPRB did not approve the design concept.

9. Townhouse Tavern

Commissioner Jacobson reported that a VA was executed which will include a security guard on duty Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Administrative/Financial Matters

Commissioner Jacobson provided the following Treasurer's Report:

- Account balance on the money market account is \$34,885.22
- Checking is \$33,277.45

Request for approval of the 3rd quarterly report

- Savings: \$34,905.92
- Interest: \$14.58
- Bank Fees: \$29
- Final: \$34,891.50
- Checking: \$20,224.65
- Allotments from DC Government: \$12,249.36
- Total: \$28,630.67

Commissioner Jacobson moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's report, subject to inspection by the Chairman. Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Commissioner Jacobson noted that PNC Bank began charging additional fees this month. Commissioner Stephens made a motion to explore other banking options. Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Commissioners noted that election petitions are available for ANC election this Fall, and are due in early September.

The Commission discussed the organization of the monthly meeting agenda, including special guests or neighborhood organization presentations and other agenda items. Commissioner Jacobson moved to permanently strike several items from the monthly meeting agenda, including the special guest or neighborhood organization presentation item. There was no second.

Commissioners agreed not to have a special executive session in September to discuss Backpack, the Policy & Procedures Manual, the Annual Report, and the new ANC 2B website, but to consider the documents at regular public meetings. Commissioners Feldstein and Wexler noted that individual Commissioners can seek help with Backpack. Commissioner Stephens asked Commissioners to please review the document drafts carefully when they are circulated prior to the relevant meeting.

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

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 7:00 PM at the Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW - 1st Floor, Falk Auditorium .

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Blicher, Jr.
Executive Director
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B
ADOPTED: October 13, 2010