ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 Brookings Institution

The March 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), 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). The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were not distributed and tabled until next month. Executive Director Freddie Blicher was out of town due to a death in the family and was not able to distribute the minutes.

Public Announcements

Announcement of Community Meeting on Solutions to Public Safety Issues Related to Concentration of Late-Night Activity in and around 19th & M Streets NW

Commissioner Silverstein announced the public meeting will take place on March 24th at 7PM in the community room at the Palladium at 1325 18th Street NW. The Committee will discuss possible steps to address late-night activity.

Announcement of Planned Science in the Park Activities – Dr. Ines Cifuentes.

Commissioner Feldstein announced that Science in the Park would take place April 17th. He stated that Mayor Fenty and Jack Evans would attend the event. Dr. Ines Cifuentes of the American Geophysical Union spoke briefly about her organization and Science in the Park. They teamed up with the National Zoo, NASA, Green Living and others to have activities, talks and music at Dupont Circle. Sweet Greens will offer free food at the event.

A member of the Ross PTA announced that 78 kids are currently on the waiting list for Ross' Pre-Kindergarten program.

David Alpert, Greater Greater Washington, announced that DC created a Pedestrian Advisory Council. Mr. Alpert is the Ward 2 representative.

DDOT announced at the February meeting that the one way street change to 15th Street below Massachusetts Avenue will go into effect next week. Information on bike lanes on Pennsylvania Avenue will be released soon. Commissioner Stephens requested Chris Ziemann to attend the April meeting to discuss DDOT's two year plan. Commissioner Silverstein thanked DDOT for

repaving the intersection of Florida and Rhode Island Avenues, after the snow storm. Commissioner Estrada inquired whether DDOT's 15th Street study on bike, pedestrian and vehicle counts would be released soon. Mr. Ziemann stated the report would be released by April or May.

Commissioner Meehan noted that sidewalks on 17th Street were being replaced. He noted that all businesses on 17th Street will be ADA acceptable, with the exception of Annie's Steakhouse and Hank's Oyster Bar.

Commissioner Carney announced the Ross Elementary PTA silent auction fundraiser on April 24th.

Commissioner Stephens announced that ANC 2B now has a Facebook page. He noted the Commission would communicate its agendas and information using this page.

Public Safety

Commissioner Jacobson introduced Fred Moosally, ABRA and Lt. Dignan. He noted that the Commission held a public meeting six weeks ago regarding Connecticut Avenue, 2100 block of P Street and night life concerns. Commissioner Jacobson requested an update from Mr. Moosally and Lt. Dignan on their action plan from the most recent public meeting. Lt. Dignan reported that MPD arrested 13 people from Dupont Circle to 23rd Street and from Massachusetts Avenue to Newport Avenue. Arrests resulted from drug offenses, disorderly maintenance crimes, and assaults with a dangerous weapon. From January 9-March 9, MPD received 318 calls for this area, of which 37 were for disorderly conduct. He noted that this number was down, but not as low as MPD wants. Lt. Dignan noted that 2nd District MPD has given support from their VICE and attack units between 8PM and 3AM in the alleys on P Street. Lt. Dignan reported that he established a new footbeat from 8PM to 4AM. Lt. Dignan also noted that MPD's Dupont Tack Unit made seven arrests regarding quality of life crimes. This unit handles alleys and traffic issues. The VICE unit has identified drug offense problems in the P Street area. The District MPD has posted orders to MPD officers with regard to reimbursable details. Officers must get out of their cars, walk the area and be visible. Lt. Dignan thanked Sgt. McDonnell for his work on these issues.

Fred Moosally, Director, ABRA, noted that ABRA had designated February as Dupont Circle Enforcement Month. ABRA visited 170 establishments and monitored them 1,214 times. He noted that ABRA performed 123 detailed inspections, and found 17 violations regarding VA or Single Sale violations. Marrakesh Restaurant violated ABRA regulations with regards to using promoters, which its voluntary agreement explicitly forbids.

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

17th Street Working Group

Commissioner Jacobson noted that DDOT deployed more crews than usual to recover lost time from the snow storm. DDOT stated that it had completed the majority of ground work and laying of concrete from New Hampshire Avenue to Massachusetts Avenue. He noted that 48% of major work is complete. Commissioner Jacobson expressed concern over public safety during the Gay Pride Parade on June 12, and the affect of DDOT's work on 17th Street. He noted that DDOT and the Commission would hold a meeting to discuss this matter to ensure the parade will not be rerouted. Commissioner Jacobson noted that he spoke with the Councilmember's office regarding parking meters. He also began investigating measuring sound levels for a sound study for when the next moratorium comes up.

ABRA Policy Committee

Commissioner Stephens noted that the Committee held its first full meeting. They will help advise the Commission on the public meeting regarding 18th and N Streets.

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

Commissioner Stephens noted that they had a great training session on zoning and historic development for the Commissioners.

Community Involvement Committee

- Nomination of Steve Gavula to serve as committee member

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to nominate Steve Gavula to the Community Involvement Committee. Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

- Presentation of Community Award to Snowball Fight Organizers Ami Greener and Michael Lipin

Commissioner Stephens presented an award to Ami Greener and Michael Lipin for their efforts in organizing the Dupont Circle snowball fight on February 6th. Both Michael and Lipin thanked the Commission. They noted that they created merchandise and all profits are going to help Haiti.

- Recognition of Outstanding Work by the HDCMS Clean Team - Resolution to Establish Community Events Internship

Commissioner Silverstein thanked the Clean Team for their hard work clearing the 44 inches of snow that fell on DC. He noted that the Clean Team went above and beyond their call of duty. The community applauded their efforts.

- Discussion of Budget for Community Development

Commissioner Stephens tabled this item.

Commissioner Reports

Neighboring Jurisdiction Reports: West End/Foggy Bottom (Mike S.), Adams Morgan (Will, Mike F.), Kalorama (Mike F., Bhavna), Logan Circle (Ramon, Jack, Victor), Georgetown (Mike S.), Columbia Heights/Shaw (Ramon)

General

Councilmember Jack Evans

Councilmember Evans recognized Andrew Huff, Director of Communications. He noted that Commissioner Silverstein has been nominated as the Ward 2 representative on the ABC Board. Ward 2 has over 50% of liquor licenses in the city and no representative. Councilmember Evans stated that the financial crisis is the most important matter facing the District. He noted that the District's finances are sound. He also pointed out that revenues have been leveling off over the last few years, as a result of a decrease in Commercial taxes, fixed cost increases for District employees and reaching the District's debt ceiling. He noted that the District spends its budget in four primary areas: Human Services (26% of budget), Education (24%), Public Safety (17%) and Debt Services (13%). Any reduction in District spending would need to be made in these areas. The remaining 20% covers miscellaneous government expenditures. The Mayor must send budget to the Council on April 1 and then the Council will deliberate on the budget for two months. The Council will then send the budget back to the Mayor and then to Congress. Councilmember Evans noted that the 17th Street Streetscape project was behind due to the snow storm, but he is working diligently to get the project back on track.

Commissioner Stephens expressed concern over rat concerns with warmer weather. He inquired whether Councilmember Evans' bill was every finalized. The bill calls for businesses to get a tax benefit for buying trash compactors. Councilmember Evans stated that he believed the bill was finalized.

Commissioner Jacobson noted that he raised an issue with Councilmember Evans' office regarding the 17th Street Streetscape renovations. He noted that Councilmember Evans

supported lowering meter rates for the commercial strip during reconstruction. Commissioner Jacobson asked Councilmember Evans to continue pushing this matter with DDOT. Councilmember Evans stated he would push this matter with DDOT.

Commissioner Jacobson inquired how the Council determines return on investment for giving tax credits to Northrop Grumman. Northrop Grumman will move its headquarters to the DC metropolitan region. Councilmember Evans stated that it is rare for a Fortune 100 company to move to DC. He noted that the Council met with Northrop Grumman. The location would be on 4th Street and E Street SW. He noted that the Council proposed a grant of $5.5 million from the city which would make up the difference of doing business in DC versus MD or VA. He noted that Northrop Grumman would bring 300 employees to the region. Commissioner Jacobson expressed requested the Council to look at the return on investment of these types of grant programs for future projects.

Commissioner Feldstein thanked Andrew Huff for his work with Councilmember Evans.

David Alpert inquired whether WMATA would cut service, increase fares and reduce its budget. Councilmember Evans noted that WMATA needs additional funding and is requesting additional funds from DC, MD and VA. Councilmember Evans stated that he supports the request. He noted that the city has a $452 million gap between revenues and expenditures. He noted that WMATA would need an additional $25 million in addition to this figure. Councilmember Evans noted that he pushed hard for dedicated funding from MD and VA. DC already has dedicated funding for WMATA. Commissioner Silverstein inquired whether Councilmember Evans would support a one or two cent increase on gas. Councilmember Evans answered yes.

Comments on the revised Plan on Aging from the D.C. Office on Aging – Dupont Circle Village

Bernice Hutchinson, Executive Director, Dupont Circle Village, spoke about the revised plan. She noted that the DCV is a vibrant organization with a strong membership base. She stated that 98,000 older adults live in the city. DCV outlined 3 major goals it hopes the revised Plan on Aging will address:

1. To increase the health and social supports for older residents to enable them to stay in their own home longer.
2. Through education, outreach, and advocacy, to empower older persons and stakeholders to make more informed decisions about services that impact on quality of life and long term care outcomes.
3. Through expansion of programs and improved coordination, enhance services and outreach to older persons and older persons with disabilities, who are vulnerable and at risk concerning safety and health access issues.

Commissioner Silverstein made the following motion:

Resolved that we (ANC 2B) support the goals as expressed by Dupont Circle Village (attached) and forward our comments to the DC Office on Aging.

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

Resolution supporting DC as Google fiber network location

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

Whereas, Google is currently searching for localities in which to launch its new hi-speed internet cable infrastructure.

Therefore, be it resolved that ANC 2B strongly supports DC as a pilot location, and encourages the DC Council and Mayor to do everything possible to encourage Google to select DC as a pilot location.

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

Presentation by St Thomas Parish, 1772 Church Street NW regarding their capital expansion hopes. 2B03

Mall Clauninger spoke before the Commission about building a new sanctuary. St. Thomas Parish is far from the building permit process, but they wanted to reach out to the community early. Mr. Clauninger gave a presentation on the history of the Church. No zoning issues are foreseen.

Regulatory

Presentation and request by Fresh Farm Market for approval of dates and times for the 2010 market season. 2B02

Bernadine Prince requested approval of operating dates for Fresh Farm Market. The market will operate from April 4th - December 7th, 2010. They also requested a public space permit for three parking meters on the Massachusetts Avenue (MA1905NW, MA1903NW, MA1901NW) be reserved with the signage: 'Reserved for the farmers market from 6am to 3pm every Sunday' to be used by farmers who have larger vehicles that cannot be parked in the market site.'

Commissioner Stephens made the following motion:

ANC 2B supports the request for the 2010 market season, and also supports the request for a Public Space Permit to have three parking meters on Massachusetts Avenue NW be reserved with signage: “Reserved for the Farmers Market from 6am to 3pm, every Sunday” (Meter numbers MA1905NW, MA1903NW, and MA1901NW). The reserved spaces would be used by farmers who have larger vehicles that cannot be parked in the market site.

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

Application to Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago requesting permission to use 1714 Massachusetts Avenue for chancery purposes. They also own and occupy the adjacent building. Cynthia Chaney Giordano. 2B05

Commissioner Wexler made a motion to support the request. Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Public space application by Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to place two flagpoles in the courtyard of their government office at 1532 16th Street NW. John Thompson. 2B05

Commissioner Wexler made a motion to support the request. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Application for HPRB approval of proposed renovation of 1620 15th Street NW, to add side entrance on Corcoran Street, exterior balconies, new gardens, and reduce the number of apartments from the current five to three. Ryan Sullivan, architect. 2B04

Commissioner Jacobson made a motion to support the request, with the following qualifications:

1) The existing steps, which are deteriorating, should be replaced with a wrought iron stoop, steps and railings appropriate for 19th Century Washington row houses.

2) If the electric meters are located on the 15th Street facade, they comply with guild lines for placement of electric meters within historic districts.

3) The property should retain at least the appearance if not an actual functioning basement door under the stoop and steps.

4) We would recommend the proposed planter wall stop at the 15th Street facade, thereby exposing the full Corcoran Street side of the building to the sidewalk.

5) We support the proposed revision to add a parapet wall in brick to the rear elevation to the height of the side parapet to screen the deck and penthouse stairs from view from Corcoran Street.

6) We recommend the rooftop deck railings and air-conditioning units be sufficiently set back on both the 15th and Corcoran Streets facades to prevent visibility from the street.

7) We concur with the proposed reduction in the size of the penthouse by eliminating the enclosed landing at the top and the resulting shifting of the penthouse approximately six feet further back from the rear elevation.

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

Application for Class CR liquor license by Casa Nonna DC LLC, to operate an Italian cuisine restaurant at 1250 Connecticut Av NW, with a total capacity of 250 persons. Hours of operation and sales of alcoholic beverages: Sun 10am-2am, Mon-Thurs 8am-2am, Fri-Sat 8am-3am. Sidewalk cafe hours: Sun- Sat 10am-11pm. Adam Williamowski, David Conforti. 2B02

Commissioner Silverstein made the following motion:

Dupont Circle ANC 2B protests the CR license application for Casa Nonna at Connecticut and N Streets, on the basis of peace, order and quiet, pending the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement. The framework of such an agreement has already been worked out, and we are hopeful that it can be finalized soon.

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

Substantial change application for Nando's Peri Peri, 1210 18th Street NW, Class CR, to allow sidewalk cafe seating 12. May be combined with public space request. Beverly Berning. 2B06

Commissioner Feldstein made the following motion:

Dupont Circle ANC 2B supports the substantial change application request with the understanding that service will not continue past 9pm**.**

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

BCI Food Services, LLC t/a Standard, 1801 14th Street N.W., Class CR application for 15 seat restaurant serving hamburgers & fries located in former Garden District space; occupancy load 170; sidewalk café with 67 seating; summer garden with 64 seating. Hours of alcoholic beverage sale/consumption: Sun- Thurs. 11 am-1:30 am & Sat.-Sun. 11 am-2:00 am; hours of operation for restaurant, summer garden & sidewalk café: Sun-Thurs. 11 am-1:30 am & Sat.-Sun. 11 am-2:30 am. (next to 2B09)

Commissioner Estrada made the following motion:

Dupont Circle ANC 2B protests the application on the basis of peace, order and quiet, pending the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement.

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

Administrative/Financial Matters

Financial

Commissioner Jacobson reported that the Commission received approval for ANC 2B's 3rd and 4th Quarter reports.

Policy & Procedures Manual — Updates on Staff Descriptions, Agenda Template

Commissioner Stephens updated the Policy & Procedures manual with updated staff descriptions and additional revisions.

Commissioner Jacobson stated that four Commissioners are in violation of the ANC's bylaws. He inquired about what remedy the Commission had to ensure various proposals and guidelines comply with bylaws.

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

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 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: April 14, 2010