

October 2012 Minutes

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 Brookings Institution

The October 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), Kevin O'Connor (2B02), Jack Jacobson (2B04), Victor Wexler (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Phil Carney (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08), and Ramon Estrada (2B09).

Bob Meehan (2B03) was not present.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to approve the September minutes. Commissioner Feldstein seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Public Announcements

- Commissioner Stephens announced that the November ANC Meeting: Change of Venue. New location located at 1717 Mass Ave, NW 5th Flr Rm BOB500
- Commissioner Stephens announced that the website has a few minor formatting and cosmetic changes.
- Commissioner Stephens announce that there are still 2 Intern Position Openings (Public Policy, Community Involvement)
- Introduction of Brad Burger, Freshfarm Markets: Commissioner O'Connor moved to write a letter of support for Freshfarms. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 8-0.
- 2012 17th Street High Heel Race 10/30/12: Commissioner Jacobson moved to provide a letter of support asking to waive fees and grant permits as well. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Passed 8-0.
- Commissioner Carney announced the blessing of the animals.
- Commissioner Estrada announced the installation of the new mural on 14th & T St.
- Commissioner Silverstein announced that a stop order has been placed on the streetscape project on New Hampshire Ave. Mike Tucker with DDOT announced that traffic will be reduced to one lane during non-rush hour times
- Commissioner O'Connor announced that the Dupont Circle South entrance will be open at the end of the month.

General

Presentation of ANC 2B Candidates on the November Ballot:

- 2B03-Bevan Mace and Stephanie Maltz
- 2B04-Stephanie Sheridan & Kishan Putta (Martin Espinoza could not be present)
- 2B07-Leo Dwyer
- 2B09-Noah Smith

A Resolution Opposing Planned Sequestration Mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (introduced at the request of Mayor Gray)

Commissioner O'Connor read the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Commissioner Jacobson moved to table the issue. Seconded by Commissioner Estrada. Table motion denied. Resolution passed 7-1.

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B in the District of Columbia fully understands the need for fiscal responsibility and the tough choices that are required to achieve a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, the Commission has been supportive of making challenging, even painful, cuts during this economic downturn;

WHEREAS, the impending sequestration process mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 is perhaps the biggest threat to the economy of the United States of America, and, the Budget and Economic Outlook for FY 2012 to FY 2022 warns that failure to alter the currently scheduled federal tax and spending policy changes would “lead to economic conditions in 2013 that will probably be considered a recession” as published by the Congressional Budget Office;

WHEREAS, the Commission is particularly concerned with deep reductions in non-defense discretionary spending, one-third of which is directed to state and local programs; 36 percent is directed to education; 28 percent to housing and community development; 18 percent to health and the environment; ten percent to workforce; and five percent to public safety and disaster response;

WHEREAS, the additional cuts scheduled to occur through sequestration will bring domestically appropriated funding well below historical levels as a share of the economy, forcing inevitable cuts to a number of critical local services and dramatic job losses for teachers, first responders, and health care workers;

WHEREAS, the Commission also shares the concern expressed by many of your colleagues and industry stakeholders over the impact of sequestration on our military forces and national security; however, the impact will extend far beyond the Department of Defense and related activities because the defense industry, military personnel and innovative research underway at institutions of higher education are significant contributors to our local economy, and while nearly half of the estimated job loss and personal earnings reductions will occur in the defense industry, many of these job losses will occur in the civilian sector;

WHEREAS, eighty-four percent of the nation’s population resides in 363 metro areas, which will gain 84 million residents over the next 30 years, and to support this growth, we have no choice but to make investments to relieve congestion, make our ports globally competitive, dramatically improve all levels of education, promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, develop first-in-class technology information systems, and work toward energy independence while urgently addressing climate protection;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia economy is at the center of all these issues and failure to invest in them will lead to the gradual decline of both the District’s and our national economy;

WHEREAS, any federal budget solution that does not make the necessary federal investments in urban infrastructure, education and public safety will impede the national economic growth necessary for our nation to maintain global competitiveness and future fiscal health;

WHEREAS, the private sector needs this investment to achieve the productivity improvements and innovation that will lead to the economic growth our country desperately needs;

WHEREAS, discretionary spending has already been significantly reduced in recent years, while our local economy – which drives the regional economy – continues the struggle to recover from the worse national recession in decades;

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the financial burden that additional discretionary spending cuts would require just to meet the most emergent needs of our constituents;

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges the need for the federal government to get its fiscal house in order, and encourages you to work together to find a bipartisan and balanced solution to achieve deficit reduction that facilitates, not undermines, economic growth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in the coming months, as the Congress addresses both short- and long-term federal fiscal challenges, the Commission urges you to adopt a bipartisan and balanced approach to deficit reduction by incorporating spending cuts with additional revenue from sources such as tax code reform and closing unfair corporate tax loopholes.

Consideration of Stead Park proposal from Friends of Stead Park

Commissioner Wexler read the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Carney and passed 8-0.

Whereas, ANC 2B applauds the initiative of the Friends of Stead Park (FOSP) to design and propose improvements to the Stead Park athletic field; and

Whereas, the ANC appreciates FOSP's efforts to launch community discussion of Stead Park improvements during a Community Meeting on October 3rd; and

Whereas, the ANC also appreciates FOSP's efforts and willingness to further engage community stakeholders over the next 2-3 months — including the ANC, the sports leagues who utilize the field, parent groups, and others — to improve upon the designs and plans before presenting any final proposal to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR);

Whereas, the ANC shares FOSP's stated goal of arriving at a final proposed plan that reaches consensus or near-consensus among stakeholders;

Therefore be it resolved, that the ANC would like to see further discussion, development, and detail on the following issues, which would create greater community support:

1. the dimensions of the playing field, so as to allow at least two simultaneous sports activities (e.g., two kickball games, or two soccer matches);
2. the look and nature of the perimeter fencing, lighting, trees, and benches;
3. the look and nature of the viewing area benches;
4. the location of the softball/kickball/baseball backstop(s);
5. where the locked fencing would be placed for securing the field after-hours;
6. the practicalities of a water feature;
7. whether certain improvements could be implemented in the parts of the park south of the building, facing P Street NW;
8. the proposed sources of funding.

Be it further resolved, that the ANC requests to be kept in touch regarding these suggested items and others as we move to a final resolution and proposal for DPR in late 2012 or early 2013.

Resolution on whether to request participation in “visitor parking pass” program

Commissioner Stephens read the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Feldstein and passed 8-0.

Whereas ANC 2B hosted a community parking forum on October 2, 2012, attended by community members and representatives from the Department of Transportation (DDOT); and

Whereas Council Member Jack Evans has requested the ANC's recommendation on whether to include part or all of ANC 2B in the existing Visitor Parking Pass (VPP) program; and

Whereas DDOT officials explained that the VPP program is undergoing modifications which may include a new online system within the next several months; and

Whereas residents may currently apply for and receive visitor parking permits 24 hours a day at the police station DDOT permit consoles, among other means; and

Whereas the ANC is unsure of the potential unintended negative effects of joining the VPP program in its current form;

Therefore be it resolved that the ANC recommends currently that ANC 2B not be added to the existing VPP program.

Be it further resolved that the ANC will continue to monitor the changes to the VPP program and other parking issues and remains open to revisiting this issue in the future.

Resolution on new West End Library and Fire Station

Commissioner Silverstein read the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and passed 4-0, with 4 abstentions.

Whereas, the proposed West End development project includes a new library and fire station as part of the amenities package, and
Whereas, this project was thoroughly vetted by ANC 2B in a process that included various presentations and open bidding, and
Whereas, the package was approved by the Council and Government of the District of Columbia and supported by ANC's 2A and 2B, the Foggy Bottom Association, the West End Citizens' Association, and the West End Library Friends, and
Whereas, there is a clear and demonstrated need for a new fire station and a strong desire for a new library, Therefore, be it resolved that ANC 2B joins with Foggy Bottom ANC 2B urging the Library Renaissance Project to settle its dispute with the District over this project in an amicable and expeditious manner so as not to bring about unnecessary delay and spending of additional taxpayer dollars.

Alcohol Applications

Commissioner Silverstein left the room and did not participate in this portion of the meeting due to his position on the ABC Board.

Applications # ABRA-090082 and # ABRA-090078 by Glen's Garden Market, 2001 S St NW, for Class B Grocery (Beer & Wine) retail license with on-premises consumption; Communal seating for 24 patrons, sidewalk cafe capacity 16. Hours 8am-12am daily. Petition due 11/13/12; Roll Call hearing 11/26/12. Andrew Kline representing (2B01)

Commissioner Feldstein moved to support, on condition that the application be amended to end outside hours by 10:00pm. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Passed 6-0.

Public Space Applications

Public space application for new sidewalk pavers for ongoing renovation project at 1140 19th Street NW. DDOT tracking #75154. Carlos Iglesias presents. (2B06)

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. Passed 5-0.

Public Space application for purpose of fixture: umbrella at Sette Osteria (1666 Connecticut Avenue NW). DDOT tracking #74755 (2B02)

Commissioner O'Connor moved to send letter to Public Space to postpone, because the applicant did not attend the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens 6-0.

Historic Preservation & Zoning Applications

Application to HPRB for concept design approval for rear addition to three story rowhouse at 1321 21st Street. Architect: Damian Manning. (HPO Contact Kim Elliot) (2B06)

Commissioner Silverstein read the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Estrada. Passed 7-0.

Having examined the proposed rear addition for 1321 21st Street, ANC 2B offers the following observations to the Historic Preservation Review Board and Office of Zoning:

- 1.) The project appears to be in compliance with Historic Preservation guidelines, at three stories and a cellar.
- 2.) The new construction style appears to be in compliance with Historic Preservation guidelines.
- 3.) The proposed height appears to be in minimal compliance with Historic Preservation guidelines, but we would urge HPRB to confirm that the addition not be visible from Newport Place.
- 4.) Although not a matter of Historic Preservation guidelines, ANC 2B shares neighbors' concerns that the massing of this rear-facing property may be out of scale with the rest of this pristine block, and we fear this

would be the first of many such rear additions in our neighborhood. We support additional population density in the neighborhood. But are concerned about the precedent being set with this concept design.

Historic Landmark Application #1015, The Barr Building, 910 17th Street NW. HPRB will also consider listing the property in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. Nominated by the DC Preservation League. (2B06)

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the inclusion of the Barr Building in the DC inventory of historic sites and national inventory of historic places. Seconded by Commissioner Estrada. Passed 7-0.

Committee & Liaison Reports

Public Safety Liaisons

The Bicycle & Safety meeting was briefly recapped. Upcoming goals include repaving 15th St bike lane, better signage, and better pedestrian signaling. Resolution will be brought forward at next month's ANC meeting.

ABRA Policy Committee

Commissioner Estrada reported that a hearing on Omnibus Bill will be on 10/15/12 at 5pm.

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

Next Meeting: 11/1/12 7pm @ Resource Center

Administrative/Financial Matters

Finances/Treasurer Report: Beginning of the month = \$66,670, Deposits = \$10,662, Expenses = \$4,005.26

Balance at the end of the month = \$73,407.44

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve financial report. Passed 7-0

There will be a special meeting on 10/23/12 at 6:30pm at the Resource Center to hear the N Street Follies project and go over old business.

Adjournment 9:50pm.