

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 2012 Brookings Institution

January 2013 Minutes

The January 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), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Kishan Putta (2B04), Leo Dwyer (2B07), Will Stephens (2B08), and Noah Smith (2B09). Commissioner Silverstein (2B06) expected for late arrival due to his duties on the ABC Board.

Election of ANC Officers & Committee Chairs

Commissioner Smith moved to nominate the following as ANC Officers for 2013. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and Passed 7-0.

Chair: Will Stephens

Vice Chair: Michael Feldstein

Treasurer: Stephanie Maltz

Secretary: Michael Silverstein

Commissioner Stephens moved to nominate the following as heads for committees. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein & Passed 7-0.

ABRA Policy Committee: Kevin O'Connor

Community Involvement Committee: Mike Feldstein

Zoning, Preservation, & Development Committee: Leo Dwyer

Public Safety Liaisons: Noah Smith & Kishan Putta

2B06 Liquor Liaison: Stephanie Maltz

Minutes/Calendar

Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve December 2012 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 7-0

Public Announcements

- Commissioner Stephens announced that community members could sign up for the Commission's email list. Also announced that Freddie Blicher will be stepping down as Web/IT consultant.
- Commissioner O'Connor reminded everyone to use #ANC2B on Twitter
- Passport DC (May 2012) by Cultural Tourism DC would like to use Resource Center on May 2nd, 4th & 6th as a headquarters for the event and to stage materials. Commissioner Stephens moved to support use of the center. Seconded by Commissioner Maltz. Passed 7-0
- Commissioner Feldstein announced that Dupont Festival will have a Groundhog Day event on Feb 2nd at 8am at Dupont Circle.
- DCCA will be having their annual gathering at the Arlington House on Jan 16th at 7:30pm.
- Mark Bjorge – Director of Communications for Jack Evans – has been hired to fill the vacancy left by Andrew Huff and will be handling the Dupont Circle neighborhood (mbjorge@dccouncil.us)
- Mike Tucker with CSMI-DDOT Connecticut Ave Streetscape Project announced that the median construction is finished and they are now working on the sidewalk on L & K Streets; also putting up traffic signals. The project ends in March. For the New Hampshire Ave. project they are putting in concrete barriers from O Street

NW to Dupont Circle. January 11th at 12am there will be late night work around 1200 New Hampshire. Websites: Connavestreetscape.com & newhampshireavestreetscape.com. Email: Mike@thecsmi.com

General

Approval of participation in ANC insurance pool

Commissioner Stephens moved to participate. Seconded by Commissioner Putta. Passed 7-0.

Approval of FY 2012 Annual Report of ANC 2B

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Passed 7-0.

Consideration of resolutions in support of the ANC Empowerment Amendment Act & ANC Allotment Efficiency Amendment Act

Commissioner Stephens read the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. Passed by a hand vote of 6-0-1, with Commissioner Putta abstaining.

Whereas, in 2012 Council Member Barry introduced the ANC Empowerment Amendment Act, which would allow Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to pursue litigation to strengthen “great weight”; and

Whereas, in 2012 Council Member Barry also introduced the ANC Allotment Efficiency Act, which would streamline procedures for review of ANC financial reports by the D.C. Auditor; and

Whereas, both bills were withdrawn before the end of the 2012 session;

Therefore be it resolved that the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) strongly encourages these bills to be reintroduced in the new legislative session and supports their passage by the Council in order to support ANCs in their work.

Consideration of Revised Friends of Stead Park Renovation Plan for playing field and designation of Victor Wexler as Stead Park liaison. (2B05)

The landscape architects made a presentation on the revisions to the plans. Friends of Stead passed out a document for Commissioners that addressed the points raised by the October 2012 resolution. Former Commissioner Victor Wexler recommended supporting the revised plans. Commissioner Stephens moved to support the project as presented & thank friends of Stead for addressing the issues raised by the ANC. Seconded by Commissioner Putta. Friendly amendment by Commissioner Dwyer to reconsider entrance location-Church St alley side. Passed 7-0 with the friendly amendment included.

Commissioner Stephens moved to appoint Victor Wexler as the Friends of Stead Park Liaison. Seconded by Commissioner Maltz. Passed 7-0.

Commissioner Silverstein arrived.

Consideration of action regarding tree removal by Ross School

Trees at Ross Elementary were removed without permit or notification to neighborhood residents.

Mark Bjorge explained that trenching was required to repair foundation of the school and for water proofing. The trees needed to be removed because trees would have been destroyed by the construction. There is a plan for replanting and landscaping.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to ask DC to withhold any further tree removal work at Ross Elementary until additional outreach has been conducted with the Dupont Circle community, including the Ross School PTA & ANC 2B. Seconded by Commissioner Maltz. Passed 8-0.

Regulatory

Request by Lauriol Plaza, for (1) renewal of zoning special exception for parking lot in Lot 862, Square 152 (BZA) and (2) public space valet parking application (DDOT Public Space). (2B08)

Commissioner Stephens read the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Dwyer. Passed 8-0.

Whereas the Lauriol Plaza has applied to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for renewal of a “special exception” for the small parking lot off T Street NW (Square 152, Lot 862), originally granted by the BZA in 1998;

Whereas the Lauriol Plaza is a large and popular restaurant that brings in patrons from around the metro area, including many by car;

Whereas the parking lot benefits the neighborhood by relieving parking pressure on neighborhood streets, and Lauriol Plaza has operated valet parking at the lot for many years, in order to maximize use of the lot for parking;

Whereas due to its location very close to the intersection of 18th Street and T Street, the parking lot also adversely affects the neighborhood when patrons’ cars form a queue, which bottlenecks traffic at the intersection – causing hazards to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers on both T Street and 18th Street; preventing emergency vehicles from passing up and down 18th Street; and creating noise nuisance to surrounding properties;

Whereas since the parking lot “special exception” was originally approved in 1998, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) constructed a new streetscape along 18th Street NW, including new pedestrian “bulb-outs” at the intersection of 18th Street and T Street NW that substantially narrowed the opening to T Street to 1 car width and eliminated substantial curb-side idling space near the corner;

Whereas this change in infrastructure has exacerbated the problems associated with the queuing of patrons’ cars;

Whereas also since the parking lot “special exception” was originally approved in 1998, the D.C. Council passed and DDOT implemented new rules and regulations for any valet parking that utilizes public space; and

Whereas the current valet staging area utilizes public space for staging, because the cars queue up on T Street and in the public space driveway, despite efforts from the restaurant to dissuade this behavior using traffic cones and off-duty police officers;

Whereas in response to the concerns raised about the negative effects of the parking system at T Street, Lauriol Plaza has applied to DDOT for a valet parking permit to stage all car drop-off using 3 space on 18th Street, directly in front of the restaurant;

Whereas the ANC appreciates the efforts of Lauriol Plaza to mitigate the hazards and to apply for the DDOT permit;

Whereas the ANC had hoped to consider the DDOT permit and the BZA application together at the ANC's January 2013 meeting, however, the DDOT permit application has not been posted for comment and will not be on the DDOT Public Space agenda until February 2013;

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B supports the renewal of the "special exception" for the parking lot, but conditioned on DDOT's approval of a permit for the new 18th Street valet staging area, in order to alleviate the hazards and nuisance issues that derive from the existing lot and valet system.

Be it further resolved that ANC 2B also requests as part of its support that Lauriol Plaza plant or re-plant taller trees or greenery in the garden outside the wall separating the parking lot from T Street, to mitigate views of the lot from T Street and surrounding residences.

Historic Preservation & Zoning Applications

Application to HPRB for concept design approval for 1337 Conn Ave NW, for five-story residential addition to existing commercial building (Michael Beidler, for applicant) (2B07)

Charlie Ellis with Dupont Circle Conservancy read their resolution, which supports the design and looks forward to additional development of the project. Commissioner Feldstein moved to support the resolution of DCC. Seconded by Commissioner Dwyer. Passed 8-0

Alcohol Applications

Due to his position on the ABC Board, Commissioner Silverstein does not participate in votes pertaining to alcohol applications.

Application #ABRA-091046 by Noodles & Company, 1667 K Street NW, for fast-casual themed restaurant; Seating capacity 97, Occupancy 111; Summer Garden w/14 seats; Sidewalk Cafe w/18 seats; Hours Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-11pm. Petition due 1/22/13; Roll Call Hearing 2/4/13. (2B05)

No action taken.

Application #ABRA-82446 by Kabab-ji, 1351 Conn Ave NW, for Entertainment Endorsement for 3-Member jazz band; Hours of entertainment 7 days a week 6pm-12am. (2B07)

Commissioner Dwyer moved to support. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens. Passed 7-0.

Public Space Applications

Public space application by Glen's Market, 2001 20th St, NW for outside cafe, DDOT tracking number 77850. (2B01)

Tabled until next month's meeting.

Public space application by Third Church, 900 16th St NW, for curb cut on Eye Street NW (2B05)

The applicants presented a drawing of the curb cut and explained this was consistent with the project as supported by the ANC previously. Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the curb cut application. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 8-0.

Committee & Liaison Reports

Public Safety Liaisons

Commissioner Smith solicited help from community for anyone interested in being involved.

ABRA Policy Committee

Commissioner O'Connor: looking for new committee members. Toolkit should be up on the site very shortly

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

Commissioner Dwyer is the new chair of this committee.

Community Involvement Committee

First meeting will tentatively be held the Monday before February ANC meeting.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner O'Connor announced that ANC 2A has new commissioners.

Short Reports on Old Business (if any)

NU = No Update

1. 1751 18th Street: zoning variance (2B01) NU
2. James Hobans: VA amendment (2B02): still waiting for them to provide a draft
3. Catch 15: new CT license (2B05): self-delayed approval process
4. Bean & Bite: sidewalk cafe (2B05): not approved yet
5. Federal Spirits: New ABC license (2B05): approved
6. Camelot: additional valet parking days (2B06): NU
7. 1729 H Street: landmark (2B06): approved
8. 1800 Eye Street: zoning variance (2B06): approved
9. Ozio: DDOT sidewalk cafe (2B06): approved
10. Boloco: DDOT sidewalk cafe (2B06): NU
11. The Gryphon: New license (2B07): NU
12. Neighborhood Restaurant Group: new CR license (2B07): NU
13. School Consolidation (Silverstein): NU
14. Resource Center (Stephens/Feldstein) meeting held regarding renovations; more storage may be included in the design
15. S/T Street Parks (Silverstein/Stephens): NU

Administrative/Financial Matters

Commissioner Stephens circulated a new draft Policy & Procedures Manual

Adjournment (9:43pm)