ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 25, 2013, Public Citizens Headquarters

Call to Order/Introduction of Commissioners

The November Special Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chairman Stephens at 7:03 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Mike Feldstein (2B01), Kevin O'Connor (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Will Stephens (2B08), Noah Smith (2B09), Mike Silverstein (2B06) and Kishan Putta (2B04). Absent were Leo Dwyer (2B07) and Abigail Nichols (2B05).

General

1. Consideration of ZPD Committee recommendations for comments on Zoning Re-write

Coudriet Public Policy intern Daniel Warwick made a presentation to the Commission on his research related to the zoning re-write proposal.

Commissioner O'Connor made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Commissioner Stephens suggested a friendly Amendment to add a "whereas" clause related to bike minimums, which is reflected in the motion below. Passed 7-0.

Whereas the District of Columbia Office of Zoning is ending a five year process of updating the comprehensive zoning code, first written in 1958; and

Whereas it is the opinion of ANC2B that the Office of Planning and Zoning Commission have conducted an extensive and inclusive public process; and

Whereas the Commission supports the concept and implementation of a "Green Area Ratio" to protect neighborhood character and sustainability in our community; and

Whereas the Commission supports the concept of bicycle parking minimums to increase multi-modal transportation options; and

Whereas the Commission appreciates the Office of Planning's renaming guidelines for zone designations, including overlays as part of the zoning code, codifying mixed use corridors in zoning designations, and changing designation names without materially changing the features of a zone; and

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Whereas the Commission acknowledges the District-wide social injustice based in a lack of affordable housing because the supply of housing has not been able to keep up with demands, the Commission commends the Office of Planning for finding ways to increase residential housing supply in the District while respecting the historic nature and fabric of neighborhoods; and

Whereas the Commission acknowledges our walkable, livable, and in many parts mixed use, Dupont Circle neighborhood with many historic apartment buildings and townhouses without garages and surface parking lots could not exist under current zoning regulations due to parking minimum requirements; and

Whereas the Commission is concerned about the availability of on-street parking availability, which allows caretakers to help senior citizens age in place; nanny's and babysitters to help young parents; inhome physical therapists and doctors and nurses whom make house calls; and plumbers, electricians, and in-home repair workers, each of whom need available and accessible short term neighborhood parking; the Commission acknowledges these priorities are not under the purview of the comprehensive zoning code; and

Whereas the Commission respects the right of residents to individually choose to live car-free—especially in a transit oriented neighborhood as is represented by 2B—without being forced to subsidize their neighbor's choices to park a car; and

Whereas there have been several instances in neighboring ANCs where residents of new developments are prohibited from obtaining residential parking permits as a condition of a zoning variance to eliminate or reduce parking minimums.

Therefore, be it resolved that ANC2B supports the guidelines; values, public process, and forthrightness of the Office of Planning and Zoning Commission throughout the zoning update process.

Be it further resolved that ANC2B does not support the growing practice of prohibiting residents with certain addresses from obtaining residential parking permits as a "trade off" with the neighborhood and Zoning Commission for reducing parking minimum requirements. This practice rewards developers without a proven benefit to the neighborhood while dismissing the rights of tax-paying citizens to the same city services as others. ANC2B encourages the Zoning Commission to cease any such future arrangements and instead to work with the District Department of Transportation, ANCs and developers on more reasonable, effective and egalitarian solutions to parking concerns.

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Be it further resolved the Commission implores the District Department of Transportation to conduct a survey of existing parking utilization and conduct a public process to create new parking regulations which allow for our concerns about short term on-street parking, as expressed above, to be ameliorated, but, also believes the also-important five year process of the Zoning Update should not be delayed to conduct research in another part of the District's government.

2. Stead Park Santa Clause event on Dec. 7th 11am-1pm. Commissioner Stephens moved to send a letter of support for the event to the Department of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 7-0.

Adjournment (8:00)

Moved by Commissioner Stephens, adjourned by acclimation.