

**Minutes for the Meeting of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E**

October 30, 2006
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by the Chair, Commissioner Solomon, with Commissioners Starrels, Lever, and Clements present, constituting a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes: The minutes of the October 3, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously as distributed by Commissioner Clements.

Commissioner Eason arrived at this time.

Financial Quarterly Report: Commissioner Lever announced that the 4th Quarter Financial Report would be presented at the December meeting.

Authorization for Legal Counsel, BZA Appeals: Commissioner Lever moved (Solomon Second) to approve the invoice submitted by Laurie Horovitz for services to the ANC and authorize its payment. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 (Clements Opposing).

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Police Report: Lt. Lucas of the Metropolitan Police Department gave the police report for October. The following crimes were committed in PSA 206: five robberies (three arrests), two assaults, eight burglaries, sixteen thefts from auto. As Lt. Lucas had explained in previous months, thefts from auto generally occurred when doors were not locked and valuables were clearly visible. Lt. Lucas explained the Halloween plan, which would include barricades near the sidewalks and no parking orders on M Street beginning at Key Bridge and on the 1000-1300 blocks of Wisconsin Avenue.

CAG Sponsored Community Clean-up Day: Victoria Rixey of the Citizens Association of Georgetown announced that CAG would sponsor a community clean-up from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM on November 12th. Those interested should meet at Volta Park at 1:00.

Addison School Security Issues: Commissioner Solomon informed the community that security concerns at the Addison School had been addressed by the city. Individuals had been gaining access to the vacant building and living in it. The doors and windows were secured and “No Trespassing” signs were posted. Additionally, the Grace Church homeless program was contacted to assist any individuals in need.

Commissioners Skelsey and Halley arrived at this time.

Introduction of ANC Candidates: Commissioner Solomon introduced the following candidates who each said a few words to the community:

Ron Lewis
Jenna Lowenstein
Tom Birch

Update on Hurt Hall: Ruth Werner from Councilmember Jack Evans' Office informed the ANC that the DC Department of Mental Health had recently closed its facility at the location, but was in search of a new provider to operate the facility. The city would be removing lead paint from the facility in the meantime. Commissioner Eason noted that the neighborhood would likely not have any issues if the use for the building remained the same.

DC Comprehensive Plan: Barbara Zartman of the Citizens Association of Georgetown updated the community on the Comprehensive Plan. She said that the city updated the plan approximately every four years and that the mayor is the chief planning officer. She asked that the ANC pass a resolution requesting deferral of its approval until some inconsistencies, which would be very important in zoning disputes, were clarified. Commissioner Eason moved (Halley Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-1 (Lever Opposing and Starrels Abstaining):

ANC 2E requests that the City Council refer the Comprehensive Plan back to the Mayor so that the new Administration and new Council will have an opportunity for review.

Georgetown University Business School Traffic Plan: Linda Greenan and Alan Brangman presented the proposed traffic plan for the Georgetown University Business School. All trucks would enter and exit via Canal Road. Additionally, the left turn procedures for exiting trucks would be clarified so as to prevent illegal turns. A calendar of truck traffic was distributed to the Commissioners. Most of the truck traffic would occur during the excavation process.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC Matters

Rugby Café (Application #75703): Rugby Café submitted a request for a new ABC license, to be transferred from the former Saigon Inn. The license would allow forty indoor seats and eight outdoor seats. The license would cover end at 10:00 PM on weekdays and 11:00 PM on weekends. Commissioner Skelsey requested that the ownership either move the outdoor chairs and tables inside after closing or chain them in place. Commissioner Starrels moved (Clements Second) which passed by a vote of 6-1 (Skelsey Opposing):

ANC 2E supports the application for a “C” License at the Rugby Café located at 1065 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. In addition we support stipulated approval of the license pending permanent approval.

Special Items

Proposal Concerning the O and P Street Rehabilitation MOA: ANC 2E was informed that information regarding a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the review process for the O Street trolley tracks would be distributed to adjacent neighbors. Plans had already been finalized for the P Street tracks. Several residents and commissioners expressed the importance of the plan. One resident appeared in opposition to the track removal. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Clements Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Eason Abstaining):

Whereas, O and P Streets present a severe safety hazard to the community and others; and

Whereas, the ANC is on record urging that O and P Streets be rebuilt to eliminate the safety hazards; and

Whereas, DDOT, FHWA and DCHPO have jointly developed the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which contains a method to rebuild O and P Streets in a manner which will eliminate the safety hazards and includes installing curb, gutter, sidewalk, repair and replacement of alley and driveway entrances, street maintenance, tree removal and replacement, streetlight and signage improvements, fire hydrant replacement, improvement of drainage and upgrading catch basins, replacement of a 100-year old water main and removal of lead pipe connections, and new pavement markings and removal of trolley tracks along P Street between Wisconsin Avenue and 36th Street;

And Whereas, this matter has undergone extensive study over an extended period of time during which the users of O and P Street have continued to be adversely affected by the conditions of the streets;

Now Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the ANC supports the attached MOA in its entirety and urges that the work to renovate O and P Streets proceed as quickly as possible;
2. That ANC 2E requests continuing status as a Consulting Party and that ANC 2E be given the “great weight” it is entitled to by law.

2007 Run for Rigby: Representatives of the Run for Rigby Committee appeared to present plans for the April 22, 2007 race. They asked for a thirty minute road closure for a course that was provided on a map. Commissioner Skelsey expressed concern that the closure of the intersection of 35th and P would create a dead-end for cars traveling south on 35th Street. He said he would like to work with the Committee to revise the plan.

Commissioner Clements moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses the proposal for the 3rd annual Run for Rigby to be held on Sunday April 22, 2007 with the caveat that discussions with ANC, CAG, and Holy Trinity Church will continue to determine a route that reduces traffic disruption, particularly on 35th Street. The ANC appreciates all efforts by the Run for Rigby committee to protect student and resident renters, disseminate information regarding safe housing, and encourage proper DCRA inspections and licensing. The ANC hopes that the Run for Rigby will continue for many years to come.

Circulator Bus Route Change Request: Commissioner Starrels noted that the current position of the Circulator bus stop at Thomas Jefferson and K was unsafe. Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E requests that the Department of Transportation move the Circulator Bus stop located near Thomas Jefferson Street on K Street a few feet east to make it safer for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Zoning Change Request for the 1400 block of 27th Street: Residents of the 1400 block of 27th Street presented a request to change the zoning on the block to prevent commercial businesses on the small street. It was noted that current zoning maps and the DC Comprehensive Plan did not agree on the designation of the properties. Commissioner Skelsey stated that he thought all affected property owners should agree before the zoning was changed. Commissioner Halley moved (Eason Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E hereby requests the DC City Council to correct the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan that increases, erroneously or otherwise, the C-1 low density commercial use designation beyond the current designation in the area of 27th and P Streets, NW; and

Petition the Zoning Commission to freeze all requested commercial use of the properties located from 1417-1425 27th Street, NW (on the east side of the street) until the conflict between the current Comprehensive Plan (which designates these addresses as residential) and the zoning designation of these properties as C-1 is settled.

Zoning and Planning

3254 O Street: (BZA #17535): Ann Goodman presented plans for a covered walkway with a brick path to be extended from the rear of her house to the garage. She noted that the area was often slippery during rain or snow. Betsy Eames presented a petition signed by neighbors stating that they objected. They were concerned about the reclassification of the garage under zoning laws that might allow for second level construction by right.

Commissioner Skelsey moved (Halley Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

Be it resolved that ANC 2E opposes the request for special exception for 3254 O Street due to the change in status from detached dwelling to rowhouse that would occur as a result of the proposal and the impact that the increase in allowable density and heights of building would have on an already dense yet fragile corner of the historic village of Georgetown. Given the stated justification for the proposal to correct a slippery sidewalk, ANC 2E does not find a special exception to be an appropriate remedy. Be it further resolved that the Chairman or any other of the commissioners of ANC 2E is authorized to represent the Commission in connection with this application and any proceedings in connection therewith.

1645 31st Street (OGB 06-214): Dale Overmyer presented revised plans for the property. The new plans consisted of two houses rather than four. The plans also called for a reduced roofline and two stories, rather than three, on the back of the current structure. More than a dozen neighbors appeared to oppose the project. Bob Gabriel noted that the submitted plans were insufficient and that neighbors did not have adequate time to review the changes. Several neighbors expressed concern about the construction traffic related to the large project as well as the loss of open space in the area. Commissioner Eason moved (Halley Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Lever Absent):

ANC 2E cannot support the revised plans as presented for the additions to the historic house, the new house and the other alterations to the property because of the overall size of the proposed project. ANC also notes that the presented plans were not clear making it difficult for us and the audience to understand. The plans not only were different from the ones submitted, but they did not appear to be drawn with measurements allowing us to conduct a meaningful review in such areas as setbacks from the property line and the height calculations of different parts of the house.

3325 Prospect Street (OGB 06-261): Revised plans for the Wormley School site included a skylights in the easternmost room of each house. The architects also stated that they tried to respond to OGB and ANC concerns over the loss of the green grass slope in front of the houses. They also simplified the façade as requested by OGB. Commissioner Skelsey stated that the changes did not adequately address the problems with the slope. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Halley Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E confirms our previous stance on the project.

2727 Q Street (OGB 06-299): Plans were presented for a rear addition that the architect stated would return the property to its cube-like shape as shown in photographs dating

back to 1895. The owners also wished to add a pool and parking. Commissioner Eason moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses the conceptual plans as presented for 2727 Q Street.

1715 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 06-253): Revised plans were presented for the revised design of the HSBC bank on the site of the former Japan Inn. The plans included more brick and would remain in the footprint of the original building. The R Street side of the building would be constructed of a sandstone-like material. The HVAC unit would also be concealed by a cornice line that was two feet higher. Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Skelsey Abstaining):

ANC 2E endorses the plans as presented for 1715 Wisconsin Avenue.

1069 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 06-306): New signage plans and a window box were proposed by the Ralph Lauren Rugby store. Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses the signage scheme for 1069 Wisconsin Avenue.

2520 Q Street (OGB 06-289): Plans were presented for the rear addition of three retaining walls and a fence. The construction would make the rear yard more level and provide space for parking. Commissioner Eason moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses the project as presented.

3315 Cady's Alley (OGB 06-306): Plans were presented for four "swing-out" doors for the Ambiente Collection. Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E approves the plans as presented.

3239 P Street (OGB 06-295): Revised plans were presented for side excavation and in-fill which would require under-pinning. Commissioner Skelsey requested that the building owner remain in contact with the adjacent owners and use a licensed, bonded, and insured contractor for the work. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Starrels Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E offers cautious support for the project as proposed and requests the applicant to continue to work with the adjacent neighbors to coordinate the structural detail necessary to excavate the project.

Commissioner Clements departed at this time.

1413 35th Street (OGB 06-308): Plans were presented for excavation in the front and for a front fence with a brick base. ANC2E passed the following resolution:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposals for the front but has concerns about the extent of proposed windows on the side wall, which is in the property line and look into a neighbor's yard, as well as the addition of the parapet to the side wall.

3221 Volta Place (OGB 06-311): Plans were presented for a one-story rear addition, garden wall, and third floor dormer. ANC2E passed the following resolution:

ANC 2E does not oppose the proposed plans for 3221 Volta Place with the exception of the proposed side window on the east side overlooking the public alley.

3047 N Street (OGB 06-309): Plans were presented for a two-story rear addition, retaining wall with stairs at the rear garden, and a new front driveway with the existing curb-cut. ANC2E passed the following resolution:

ANC 2E has no objections to the 2-story rear addition but we are opposed to the replacement of the fore court for a new driveway as it would harm or otherwise remove the front gated garden from public view and remove on street parking spaces which are a precious commodity in this part of Georgetown (currently drivers are permitted to park in front of the existing curb cut).

1318 28th Street (OGB 06-302): Plans were presented for alterations to the rear façade as well as the addition of a dormer window. ANC2E passed the following resolution:

ANC 2E has no objections to the proposed plans for 1318 28th Street but we encourage a resolution for the translucent window located on the party wall.

2613 Dumbarton Street (OGB 06-301): Plans were presented for a one-story rear addition with a roof terrace and a separate two-story rear addition. ANC2E passed the following resolution:

ANC 2E supports the proposals for 2613 Dumbarton Street with the exception of the proposed roof terrace subject to zoning regulations.

3001 Q Street (OGB 06-300): Plans were presented for the enclosure of the side porch on the Q Street side of the house. ANC2E passed the following resolution:

ANC 2E cannot support the proposed enclosed side porch as no effort was made to contact the neighbors.

With no further matters on the agenda, this meeting of ANC 2E was adjourned.

Submitted for the Approval of ANC 2E,

Brett F. Clements
Secretary, ANC 2E