

ANC 2E Meeting Minutes April 4, 2016

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E
April 4, 2016
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, NW. Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Commissioner Ron Lewis, Chair. Commissioners Lewis, Solomon, Jones, Starrels, Birch, Clausen, Roaché and Howard were present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the agenda of the April 4, 2016 ANC 2E public meeting. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the February 1st and 29th, 2016 Public Meetings. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Jones reported that ANC 2E finances are secure.

Public Safety Report

Lt. Hoyle of MPD presented District 2 crime figures for the previous period. Crime is down in general in DC, robberies are up in 2D and all over the city. Thefts from automobiles continue to be a problem with 46 reported from January to March of this year.

Environmental Report

Community Comment

Ruth Werner reported that the DC budget has been transmitted from the Mayor's office to the Council. Hearings will begin in the next week. They are open to the public and the schedule of hearings in April is on the DC Council website. She also reported that the security camera reimbursement program recently announced will not be available to Georgetown at this time.

Candace Mosely of Georgetown University announced special events at the University including special Emancipation Day programs.

Maggie Downing announced that the BID French Market will be April 29th-May 1st from Q St to Reservoir on the East side of Wisconsin. This is the first time the market has been 3 days.

Peter Eisler commented on behalf of Friends of Fillmore Arts center encouraging residents to support refunding the program after next year with the council, the Mayor, DCPS, etc. and encouraging the ANC to show their support with a resolution.

Ed Solomon on behalf of DC Clear Skies Coalition reported that despite a motion to dismiss the coalition is going forward with the campaign to reduce airline noise of 2E and surrounding neighborhoods in DC, MD and VA.

New Business

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

Whereas, Georgetown is one of the District's densest commercial districts, with a tight grid of walkable streets, and

Whereas, with over 450 shops, restaurants, art galleries, salons and, hotels, in the two linear miles of our commercial corridors, Georgetown is an extremely popular area for locals and tourists alike, and

Whereas, WalkScore ranks Georgetown's commercial center as a "Walker's Paradise" with a score of 98 out of 100 points, and

Whereas, pedestrian crowding of our sidewalks is a well-known issue, and particularly acute at intersection corners where pedestrians wait to cross the street, and

Whereas, the current signal timing at 30th/M, Thomas Jefferson/M, 31st/M frequently results in up to 90 seconds of wait time for pedestrians trying to cross M Street, and

Whereas, that same signal timing has caused vehicular backups on 30th, Thomas Jefferson, and 31st streets, and

Whereas, the current signal timing detracts from the success of Georgetown as a pedestrian-oriented district, and has caused ancillary delay for automobiles on cross streets, therefore,

Be it resolved that ANC 2E requests that DDOT examine the existing signal timing at these intersections and modify the timing plans to shorten pedestrian wait times, with the goal of waits no longer than 60 seconds for any crossing.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

Resolution in Support of Continued Funding for Arts Education:

Whereas, the Mayor's budget retains the funding, which had been proposed for elimination, for the Fillmore Arts Center program for the coming school year, but not beyond 2016-17, leaving the future of the program uncertain; and

Whereas, the arts program provides a valuable resource with a broad range of arts instruction to students from five D.C. public schools, including for our neighborhood students attending Hyde-Addison Elementary School in ANC 2E; and

Whereas, elimination of the arts program after the 2016-17 school year would mean the end of the high-quality arts education offered to the 1,700 students from the 5 schools served by the program; and

Whereas, arts instruction is an essential component of elementary school curriculum and contributes to higher overall student achievement levels, and the arts program is a reason many local families choose to send their children to Hyde-Addison and continue to support the D.C. public school system; and

Therefore, be it resolved that ANC 2E commends the continuation of the funding of the Fillmore Arts Center program for the 2016-17 school year and urges the District of Columbia public school officials to explore other options to continue funding an arts education program beyond the next school year.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion:

ANC 2E supports the application for permit to allow the Citizens Association of Georgetown to hold Concerts in the Park at Volta Park on May 22 and June 19, 2016 and at Rose Park and on July 10, 2016. This annual event is very popular and welcomed by the community.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

ABC:

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

ANC 2E moves to accept the Settlement Agreement for GoPuff.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Zoning:

Commissioner Birch made the following resolution with regard to Club Monaco, special exception for roof HVAC equipment:

ANC 2E recommends that the board deny the application or defer these proceedings because the applicant did not respond to ANC 2E's request for information and did not

appear. We note further as grounds for denial that the existing equipment is very intrusive to neighbors, is not shielded and is objectionable.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Birch chaired the OGB portion of the agenda.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to C & O Canal National Historical Park:

ANC 2E supports the work presented by the National Park Service for the rehabilitation of locks 3 and 4 at the C & O Canal.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to OG 16-163 (HPA 16-283) 3300 Block O Street, NW:

ANC 2E requests that DC Water and any of their contractors working on the 3300 O St. CSO Rehabilitation and Excavation Project reuse all existing materials, including the historic bricks, gutters, and stone pavers. These materials shall be restored in the same manner as originally installed in keeping with the historic character and design of the streetscape. We also strongly encourage that the applicant be required to design and accomplish the work in a manner to prevent any future cracks, damage to trees, or other possible impacts that may weaken the road, gutter and/or sidewalk surfaces. The materials shall be securely stored off-site until being put back in place.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 02 OG 16-155 (HPA 16-275) 3324 Dent Place, NW:

We do not object to the width and placement of the proposed house, which do appear to comply both with earlier comments from the Board and with the width and side-yard zoning exception granted by the BZA. We recommend that the height be limited to two stories and that the Board consider reducing the depth by 10 feet so that the rear façade is in a plane with the rear façade of the neighboring house to the west.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 03 OG 16-168 (HPA 16-290) 1353-1355 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E supports the proposed design. We agree with the applicant that as the bay windows are not original to the building they can be removed as proposed. We suggest that the windows should not extend as low as proposed but should have a higher, masonry base, which is more in keeping with historic properties along Wisconsin Ave.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 05 OG 16-149 (HPA 16-263) 1027 31st Street, NW:

ANC 2E appreciates the Board's consideration of the property located at 1027 31st. St., NW which has been a nuisance to the neighborhood for quite some time. Most recently it has been abandoned and placarded as such. Numerous un-permitted changes have been made to the property including the most concerning: paving of the entire back yard which is akin to having an outdoor deck and provides the opportunity for overcrowding and noise affecting the surrounding neighbors.

ANC 2E strongly objects to all plans for this property. Granting approvals at this time could serve to legitimize illegal construction by the current owners and would send the wrong message to other businesses and residences in this historic neighborhood. We urge the Board to reject all proposed plans until all un-permitted construction has been reversed. We hope this can include OGB requesting the owners to restore the rear yard to its original unpaved state.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 05 OG 16-071 (HPA 16-119) 1044 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E supports the concept for 1044 Wisconsin Ave., NW as presented.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 05 OG 16-169 (HPA 16-291) 1206 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E supports option #2 (lighting concept) and believes it adds vibrancy to an otherwise difficult alley and the surrounding buildings.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following motion::

With regard to SMD 06 OG 16-177 (HPA 16-299) 1320 29th Street, NW:

ANC 2E has concerns about some aspects of the proposed renovation at 1320 29th St., NW, in particular the new windows and large areas of glass which compromise the historic fabric of the house; the massing of the house at the rear; and the introduction of the new third floor and windows, which serve to compromise the privacy of the residences to the west.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 06 OG 16-165 (HPA 16-286) 2709 N Street, NW:

ANC 2E supports the proposal for fencing at the height of 10 feet as presented to shield both visibly and audibly the HVAC units at the rear of 2709 N St.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Roaché made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 07 OG 16-176 (HPA 16-298) 1815 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E has no objection to the site work at 1815 Wisconsin Ave., NW.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Roaché made the following motion:

With regard to SMD 07 OG 16-152 (HPA 16-268) 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E has no objection to the guard booth and fence.

The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

At 9:29 with no further business on the agenda Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Maysak
ANC 2E