

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

May 4, 2009  
Georgetown Visitation School, 35<sup>th</sup> and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Golds, Starrels, Birch, and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

**Administrative**

***Public Safety and Police Report***

Commissioner Solomon reported on public safety matters and recent crimes in the community. Sergeant Antoine noted that crime has gone up slightly, including robberies and violent crimes. Sergeant Antoine and Commissioner Solomon responded to questions from Commissioners and community members, including those concerning the parking violations by towing companies in Georgetown.

***Approval of March 30 Meeting Minutes***

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on March 30, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Starrels (Commissioner Birch seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

***Financial Report***

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances, noting that ANC 2E is still working with the DC auditor to get three payments.

Commissioner Solomon moved (Commissioner Lewis seconded) that ANC 2E accept the second quarter FY2009 report as presented, which passed 6-0.

***Transportation Report***

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community, including a reminder to dial 311 for all potholes. The Commissioners reported on a recent meeting with the new head of DDOT, which was productive and included further funding to maintain streetscape, including all lampposts in historic Georgetown, brick sidewalks where needed (let ANC 2E know of any asphalt patches), signposts as needed, but no funding for traffic light poles. The Commission thanks Patrick Clausen for his hard work to document all lampposts in Georgetown. Commissioner Lewis mentioned that the gas company will be performing work on the 3200 block of P St and that the WASA Q St. project is still not ready for presentation. Commissioner Starrels noted up-coming fiber optic cable work on Thomas Jefferson St. The Commissioners reminded the public that Safeway construction is underway with a traffic plan approved by DDOT and that with regard to the O and P Street

trolley tracks, DDOT and the Federal Highway Administration continue their lengthy study of alternatives, though we are told the study should be completed this year.

### **Community Comment**

A member of the Georgetown University Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS) spoke about their service and wanted to know of any community concerns. They mentioned that their service is free of charge, faster than the DC EMT's and available to the public in west Georgetown and Burleith. Dial (202) 687-HELP if needed.

### **New Business**

#### ***Pepco Presentation regarding Phase II of electrical updates***

Representatives from Pepco presented plans for their updates to electrical systems within ANC 2E. Conduit work will take 4 to 5 months to complete, cable work will continue for the rest of the year. There will be no excavation work next year. Linda Jo Smith is available to respond to community concerns at (202) 872-2024. Pepco has agreed to use noise reduction technology, keep traffic lanes open, and maintain parking availability to the maximum extent feasible.

#### ***DDOT rules concerning commercial signs on sidewalks***

Commissioner Lewis spoke about possible changes to the rules concerning commercial signs on sidewalks. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Under current rules regulating public space, commercial signs are generally not allowed on sidewalks in Georgetown.

ANC 2E understands that the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) is considering changing those rules to permit commercial signs on sidewalks in at least some areas of the District of Columbia.

ANC 2E joins the Georgetown Citizens Association and the Georgetown Business Improvement District in urging that sidewalk signs continue to be prohibited from sidewalks in the Georgetown Historic District.

Georgetown's sidewalks are narrow; they are made of brick, a surface that can be somewhat uneven; and the pedestrian volume can be extremely high. Signs on the sidewalks would block pedestrian movement and present serious safety issues.

Visually, commercial signs on Georgetown's sidewalks would be inconsistent with Georgetown's character and appearance as a National Historic Landmark District.

ANC 2E urges, therefore, that if DDOT considers relaxing the rules for commercial signs in some areas of the city, the Georgetown Historic District **not** be included.

### ***ITU World Championship Triathlon***

A representative from the ITU World Championship Triathlon presented plans for their 2009 event (June 21). After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the information as presented and notes the closure of M St. and Canal Rd. was mislabeled and needs to be corrected. We have no objection to the race as long as the roads open at the times indicated during the presentation.

### ***Public Space Permit for sidewalk café—1063 31<sup>st</sup> St. NW, Fratelli La Bufala***

Representatives from Fratelli La Bufala presented plans for the addition of a sidewalk café to their restaurant. The Commission raised questions over the adoption of permits. This issue has been deferred to the June 1 ANC meeting.

### ***Volta Park Day—June 7, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm***

Commissioner Lewis spoke about plans for the event. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the use of the Georgetown Recreation Center (Volta Park) for this year's annual "Volta Park Day" on June 7, 2009, from 3-6 p.m. We are grateful to the Friends of Volta Park for sponsoring this welcome community event and we appreciate the support as well of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

### **ABC Issues**

***Bacchus Wine Cellar, 1635 Wisconsin Avenue, NW***

***Dixie Liquors, 3429 M Street, NW***

***Potomac Wines and Spirits, 3100 M Street, NW***

***Towne Liquors, 1326 Wisconsin Avenue, NW***

***Wagner's Liquors, 1717 Wisconsin Avenue, NW***

No issues were reported to ANC 2E concerning the above establishments. The Commission will therefore not submit comments to ABRA and anticipates that ABRA will continue their renewal process as scheduled.

### **Zoning and Planning**

***Special exception for a change of nonconforming use from a grocery store to grocery store and pick up establishment for dry cleaning—3008 Q St. NW***

A presenter (Andrew Johnson) from Sara's Market presented plans to change the function of their store by adding a dry clean pick-up area. After discussion by Commissioners and

community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the special exception requested by the applicant. We note the support of the neighbors and the presence of a loading zone to accommodate the pick-up and drop-off of the dry cleaning and laundry at this establishment. We support this special exception narrowly for the applicant at this particular location and do not intend for precedent to be set for future changes in the neighborhood. In addition, we would express objection to any expansion of the dry cleaning and laundry service to include on-site processing. We note the minimal change from the existing operation.

### **Old Georgetown Board**

Commissioner Lewis recused himself from the consideration and vote of all of the following items relating to the Old Georgetown Board on the ANC 2E agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

#### ***Regular Calendar***

#### **Private Projects**

##### **3211 O Street, NW, OG 09-228 (HPA 09-207), Commercial:**

A representative from the property presented concept designs for a side addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept proposed to improve upon the residential space at 3211 O St.

##### **3000 K Street, NW, OG 09-240 (HPA 09-220), Mixed-use:**

Representatives from the restaurant (Agraria) presented permit plans for a wood deck at the lower fountain courtyard. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation and remains cautious about the possible establishment of an outdoor bar. Presently, we have no objections with this concept, but have concerns over the reception of this bar in the community. We also would like to ensure that proper and matching materials are used to construct the deck. These comments are directed toward the Old Georgetown Board for concept review only and should not be taken as a position by ANC 2E on the possible outdoor bar. ANC 2E reminds the applicant that currently an outdoor bar is not allowed under the current voluntary agreement which is part of the liquor license.

##### **3206 N Street, NW, OG 09-226 (HPA 09-205), Neyla:**

Representatives from the restaurant presented concept plans to add a mural on the adjacent property's wall. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation. However, ANC 2E objects to the design of the mural and does not want this concept to be approved as its scale and design are inconsistent with the character of historic Georgetown.

**1203 Potomac Street, NW, OG 09-065 (HPA 09-105), Commercial:**

Representatives for this project presented plans for a projecting sign on the M St. façade. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded) which passed by a vote of 3-0 (Commissioner Eason and Commissioner Solomon abstained):

ANC 2E is concerned with the proposed signage for 1203 Potomac St. NW as the sign would be located at 3275 M St. NW on the second floor. Furthermore, ANC 2E would like the Old Georgetown Board to look at the signage near the Potomac St. entrance. ANC 2E would like to note that the entrance to the business is located on Potomac St. and would be more favorable to a blade sign near the entrance on that street.

**3001-3009 M Street, NW, OG 09-229 (HPA 09-208), Retail:**

Concept plans were presented for a staircase at the rear of the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept presented for an exterior stair at the rear of 3001 M St. NW, with the caveat that whatever historic easements attached to this property do not prohibit this concept as proposed.

**3046 N St. NW, OG 09-049 (HPA 09-084), Residence:**

Representatives from the residence presented plans to alter the rear of the residence by adding a balcony. After discussion by Commissioners and community members (one neighbor spoke against the project), Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to the presence of a deck on the second floor as proposed for 3046 N St. NW because it will impose on the privacy and enjoyment of the gardens of neighboring properties. ANC 2E supports a rear landing and stair off the first floor which is reduced in size to the extent that it fits all requirements.

**1520 26<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, OG 09-215 (HPA 09-179), Residence:**

Item has been withdrawn from ANC 2E review.

**1650 30<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, OG 09-236 (HPA 09-215), Residence:**

No representatives from the property were present. Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

In light of the failure of the applicant to appear, ANC 2E recommends that the Old Georgetown Board reject the proposed application.

**3007 Q Street, NW, OG 09-241 (HPA 09-224), Residence:**

Concept plans were presented for a parking pad at the front of the residence. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E resolves to advise the Old Georgetown Board that we cannot support the concept to create an additional parking space at the front of the house.

**3020 Cambridge Place, NW, OG 09-232 (HPA 09-211), Residence:**

A representative from the residence presented concept plans for a parking pad at the rear of the residence. After discussion by Commissioners and community members (one neighbor spoke representing a number of neighbors against the project), Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E, having considered the applicant's presentation and the neighbors' opposition, urges the Old Georgetown Board to reject the proposed concept as submitted.

At 9:29 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Golds seconded) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Aaron Golds  
Secretary, ANC 2E