

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

March 30, 2015

Georgetown Visitation School, 35<sup>th</sup> and Volta Place, NW Heritage Room

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

### **Administrative**

#### ***Approval of, March 30, 2015, ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda***

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the agenda of the March 30, 2015 ANC 2E public meeting. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

#### ***Approval of March 2, 2015 meeting minutes***

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 ANC 2E meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

### ***Public Safety Report***

Lt. Knutsen of MPD reported that the robbery on 33rd Street remains unsolved. MPD received a call reporting a robbery of the caller's marijuana. The perpetrator was apprehended and the seller and the thief are jailed. Lt. Knutsen reminded citizens to keep their doors locked. He also reported that ongoing traffic "hot spots" are being reviewed and monitored by MPD on a rotating basis.

### ***Financial Report***

(Treasurer) Commissioner Jones reported that finances are secure.

### ***Transportation Report***

Commissioner Lewis reported that DDOT is studying parking issues in our community and has a variety of tools to address parking problems. DDOT is soliciting suggestions and community input at a meeting at St. John's church April 1st.

Commissioner Starrels noted that potholes are a big springtime problem and should be reported to 311. Also he reminded the community that with warmer weather comes

bicycling season and pedestrians and drivers should be aware. The BID is also working on this.

### ***Department of Public Works Report***

Commissioner Jones thanked the various city agencies that worked together along with Georgetown University for snow cleanup and other services during the snow season. He also reported that there is a formal process for reporting vacant properties that are being neglected to DCRA.

### ***EDNet***

Commissioner Roaché presented information on EdNet, a group of volunteers and an ANC commissioner to address educational issues within each city ward. She noted her own background and interest in the education arena and volunteered to serve as the representative from ANC 2E.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion:

### **ANC 2E moves that Monica Roaché represent ANC 2E at EdNet.**

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

### ***Community Comment***

Robert White from Office of the DC Attorney General Karl Racine reported on the OAG's goals for uses of the budget including saving or raising millions of dollars by increasing consumer protection and community outreach, affordable housing and public safety as well as "protecting taxpayers by ensuring the government is working as it should." He encouraged the community to contact him by email: [robert.c.white@dc.gov](mailto:robert.c.white@dc.gov) Or phone: 202-724-5487.

John Wiebenson of the BID gave information about the French Market April 24-25, now in its 12th year.

Pamla Moore of CAG announced details of the next CAG membership meeting April 14th with a focus on getting to know our ANC commissioners, most of whom will be in attendance.

Toni Ruffin of Georgetown Village announced there will be a meeting April 15th in Blake Hall at St. John's church to discuss helpful information on seniors and end of life decisions, etc.

Commissioner Solomon announced a meeting May 5th with Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton to discuss FAA flight patterns for Reagan National Airport, noise reduction and mitigation. Commissioner Jones recused himself from that meeting and discussion.

Ruth Werner from Councilman Jack Evans' office announced that Mayor Bowser would be presenting the DC budget to the D.C. Council on Thursday and the public is invited to go on record at [dc.council.us](http://dc.council.us) Also April 16th is Emancipation Day and DC Government offices will be closed.

### ***New Business***

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

**ANC 2E once again supports the Sprint for the Cure being held September 19, 2015 and it is important that the parking for the surrounding residents, including those of the James Place condominium, be accommodated.** The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion:

**ANC 2E supports the Concerts in the Park series on May 17 & 21, 2015 held in Volta Park and on July 12, 2015, held in Rose Park.**

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

No representative was present for the Lawyers Have Heart event so the item was tabled until next meeting.

### ***Zoning***

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion with regard to 3220 Prospect St., NW:

**ANC 2E endorses the BZA variance as requested. We endorse proposal #3 by DDOT that plans a loading zone that is 120 feet, and eliminates the present loading zone east on Prospect St, NW near Wisconsin Avenue. This is the same proposal that is also the choice of the Citizens Association of Georgetown.**

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

### ***West Heating Plant Historic Landmark Designation***

Rebecca Miller of the DC Preservation League said that the DC Preservation League has nominated the West Heating Plant for Landmark Designation and what this entails is explained. Various opinions in support and opposition are voiced from the floor including from Pam Moore and Victoria Rixey of CAG, which does not support landmark status and Emily Eig, a consultant representing the owner who states that landmark status is redundant in a historic district. Neil Mulholland the former President of the National Park Service Foundation recommends not landmarking unless "you are sure" as he says it

is very difficult to work with the NPS on landmarked properties. All 77 owners on James Place (closest residents) oppose landmarking.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion:

**ANC 2E supports registering the exterior of the West Heating Plant building at 1051 29th Street NW in Washington, DC in the National Register of Historic Places (the National Register).**

**GSA, before offering the building for sale, determined that the West Heating Plant (WHP) building is eligible for listing in the National Register, and rightly so. GSA informed all potential bidders of this eligibility.**

**The design of the WHP building, which was reviewed and approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts prior to construction, strongly exhibits the form, details and materials characteristic of the post-Art-Deco style “Moderne,” and as such, is a pure representative of this distinctive architectural period.**

**The WHP building has maintained its design integrity over the years: the exterior of the building is essentially unchanged from its original construction.**

**The WHP building is of historic significance also, as an important example of the District of Columbia’s early- to mid-20th century industrial architecture and patterns of industrialization.**

**We believe these characteristics, separately or together, strongly support including the WHP in the National Register.**

**We are aware that the current owner of the WHP would like to demolish most of the building. That, however, is an entirely separate matter from the merits of including the building in the National Register. The owner’s claims, e.g., of structural or environmental issues, and the necessary independent expert reviews of such issues, will be under consideration if and as appropriate in other proceedings, including application of federal preservation standards contained in a deed-covenant that controls future use of the property. We hope and will encourage that such future proceedings are conducted expeditiously. At this time, the exterior of the building is eligible for listing and should be listed in the National Register.**

The motion is seconded. The motion does not carry by a vote of 2-6.

### ***Old Georgetown Board***

Commissioner Birch chaired the OGB portion of the agenda.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

**Regarding 1513 Wisconsin Avenue, OG 15-153 and HPA 15-275:**

ANC 2E continues to have concern for the negative impacts this design proposal would create upon the historic character of this property and also the damage it would create in context with the surrounding properties in a uniquely fragile block due to its massing and height. Concerns also include the setback not being sufficient, which is short of the average setback for the block. In addition, the proposed setback may result in an unfortunate precedent for reducing the setback among other properties in this already dense area. The third story continues to draw concerns and results in a massing and stark contrast to the current historic relationships with this and surrounding buildings.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

**With regard to 3255-3259 Prospect Street, NW, OG 15-120:**

ANC2e continues to have concerns with the project as presented. We have concerns regarding the massing and height. The concerns include a negative impact on the historic context with the surrounding properties, including the views from Potomac Street. We continue to find there is a

lack of transition between the proposed building and the residential buildings that are directly west and south. ANC2e has concerns that the proposed rooftop penthouse is not used for entertainment purposes. We would prefer that there be no construction on Lot #103, which is an “L” shape that also fronts on Potomac Street.

The motion is seconded and carries 8-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

**With regard to 3347 M St., NW, OG 15-132:**

ANC 2E supports only one sign on this building on the M Street facade. We do not support any signage on 34th St. That the overall height of the letters be 12” with slightly larger on the letter “C” and that halo lighting be used. We ask that OGB insist that the gas meter recently installed be moved to an unobtrusive location, preferably inside the building.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

**With regard to 3044 N St., NW, OG 15-108:**

ANC 2E objects to the railings and planters in being first, out of character with the historic district and second, the roof deck on the garage interferes with the neighbors' private right to the enjoyment of their property.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

**With regard to 1212 28th St., NW, OG 15-135:**

ANC 2E has no objection to this project but we do have reservations as to the size of the roof deck and whether it is appropriate to this property.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Roaché made the following motion:

**With regard to 2523 Q St., NW OG 15-017:**

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed resident alterations.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Roaché made the following motion:

**With regard to 1624 29th St., NW, OG 15-122:**

ANC 2E has no objection to rear excavation with new garage and garden terrace.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

At 10:32 with no further business on the agenda Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Maysak  
ANC 2E