

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

March 4, 2008
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Starrels, and Birch present, constituting a quorum. Before the first vote in the New Business agenda was taken, Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Lewis reported on the crime statistics for PSA 206 for the period January 1 through February 14, 2008, noting that crime was down for most categories compared with the same period in 2007. He then called upon MPD Sgt. Lennox Antoine, who gave an overview of recent crimes in our area and responded to questions from the community. Statistics on recent public safety incidents are available at <http://crimemap.dc.gov/presentation/query.asp> There is also a Second District web site including crime information at 2D_mpd@yahoo.com.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on February 5, 2008 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Birch (Solomon second) by a vote of 4-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Eason, Treasurer of the Commission, was unable to attend this meeting and will give the financial report for October through December 2007 at the April meeting of the Commission.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Starrels reminded the community that the ANC Transportation Committee, chaired by Commissioners Starrels and Lewis, meets and confers regularly with the District Department of Transportation and other District government officials about transportation-related issues of interest within ANC 2E and that community input and suggestions are welcome and encouraged. Commissioners Starrels and Lewis reported on the deteriorating condition of many of the streets in ANC 2E and the apparent DDOT budget constraints that are hindering efforts to begin a more active resurfacing program for these streets. They reported that they have spoken with Councilmember Evans and his staff about the possibility of assistance in seeking more funding for resurfacing the local streets.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Georgetown Visitation School Transportation Plan Update. Daniel Kerns, Head of School of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, reported on progress during the first year of the Transportation Plan that was negotiated by the school and the community last year. Mr. Kerns described the steps taken by the school to promote car pooling and other traffic-reducing measures and reported that a recent traffic count showed that traffic in and out of the school's main gate during the key morning peak period has decreased significantly.

Morton's Update. Commissioner Starrels reported on the decision by the ABC Board to permit Morton's to establish an outdoor seating area and increase total capacity by 34 seats, as Morton's had requested. In the same decision, the ABC Board encouraged the community to apply for a capacity moratorium for the Prospect Place complex of which Morton's is a part. Commissioner Starrels solicited comments from the community on the possibility of a moratorium at the Prospect Place complex. Karen Cruse, speaking on behalf of the Citizens Association of Georgetown, announced that CAG will proceed to request a moratorium and requested the ANC to consider supporting and joining in that request.

Walgreens Update. Commissioner Solomon reported that the owner of the property at 1700 Wisconsin Avenue has withdrawn a proposal for zoning variances that would allow the building to be occupied by a Walgreens drug store. The owner's attorney has indicated that current plans are to use the building as an office building.

Other. Betsy Emes, representing Trees for Georgetown, reported that Trees for Georgetown is about two-thirds of the way through spring planting, which should be completed by the end of March. The organization will be putting up 55 tree-box fences as well as planting trees. Information on the fences for anyone who would like to install one, as well as permit information, is available through the Citizens Association of Georgetown, 202-337-7313. An example of the type of fence being installed is visible in front of 3226 N Street.

Bill Birdseye, executive director of Dumbarton House, announced his retirement from that position at the end of March. His successor will be Karen Daly, currently the director of education at Dumbarton House. Commissioner Solomon commended Mr. Birdseye for his contributions to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Items

Marine Corps Marathon. A representative of the Marine Corp Marathon, which is scheduled to be run Sunday, October 26, 2008, described the Georgetown portion of the marathon and requested the Commission's support. The proposed route includes closing

Key Bridge, Canal Road west of Key Bridge, and M Street from Key Bridge to Wisconsin Avenue for approximately three hours on the morning of the race. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E supports the Marine Corps Marathon as we always have annually. We do have concerns about the latest route and how it will impact residents and others including churchgoers. ANC 2E would like to meet with Marine Corps Marathon organizers well before the race to ease the impact on the community.

WASA Report on Area Construction. Deidre Saunders, representing the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Agency, reported on plans to re-line sewer pipes under 29th Street and 31st Street in Georgetown and stated the work is necessary to address the problem of sinkholes caused by deteriorating sewers. She reported that for the most part, WASA is planning to do this work from existing manholes along these routes, in the hope that it will not be necessary to dig long trenches. Excavation will be needed, however, in any place where the re-lining cannot be installed successfully. The work will begin this spring and will continue for around one year. A construction manager will stay in touch with the community. Betsy Emes noted a concern for tree roots during construction and was reassured that to the extent the work can be done from existing manholes, the trees should be safe.

ABC Issues

Rhino Bar and Pumphouse Protest

Commissioner Starrels reported that ANC 2E has protested the applicant's requested entertainment endorsement and that the participants are working toward a voluntary agreement with protective provisions dealing with noise and prohibiting the use of promoters. Karen Cruse, representing the Citizens Association of Georgetown, requested more time to consider the proposed voluntary agreement and Commissioner Starrels suggested that ANC 2E defer considering a resolution on a proposed voluntary agreement until the April meeting.

Zoning and Planning

No Action: Commissioner Lewis suggested that two items listed for discussion on the agenda – 1552 33rd Street NW (O.G. 08-094) and 1695 35th Street NW (O.G. 08-110) – be removed from the agenda and treated as items for which no review is being undertaken by the Commission. Commissioner Skelsey suggested that 3306 O Street NW (O.G. 08-103) be removed from the agenda and treated as an item for which no review is being undertaken by the Commission. There was no objection and the items were so removed from the agenda. Commissioner Solomon reported that 1717 34th Street NW (O.G. 08-102) would not be on the Old Georgetown Board agenda for this month

and so should be removed from the ANC 2E agenda, and Commissioner Skelsey reported similarly for 3405 N Street NW (O.G. 08-179). Without objection, both items were removed from the agenda. Later in the meeting, 3265 P Street, NW (O.G. 08-114) was similarly removed from the agenda at Commissioner Skelsey's request, without objection.

Consent Calendar: Commissioner Birch moved (Lewis second) to place the following item on the consent calendar, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

The following item is considered to be on ANC 2E's Consent Calendar and will be sent to the Old Georgetown Board and other agencies without objection:

1346 28th Street, NW, O.G. 08-05 (H.P.A. 08-072)

2819 M Street, NW, CVS Pharmacy, O.G. 08-115 (H.P.A. 08-185):

Permit plans were presented for alterations to a storefront, replacement windows, new signs and awnings. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has objections to elements of the proposed storefront renovation at the CVS Pharmacy at 2819 M Street NW: (1) we object to the awning proposed over the service entrance door as unnecessary and an addition which could create a public nuisance; (2) we object to the size and placement of the two CVS signs as proposed and suggest one sign of 12 inch letter height over the entrance bay. We have no objection to the use of tinted glass on the mezzanine level windows nor do we object to replacing window frames with wood frames. However, we do object to any plan for restoration of the show window scheme that would eliminate or alter the bay and the existing decorative molding.

3025 M Street, NW, American Apparel, O.G. 08-106 (H.P.A. 08-176):

Permit plans were presented for a sign scheme of aluminum panel and lettering on glass. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the signage proposed, with the caution that the aluminum sign board not cover architectural detail on the façade.

3014 P Street, NW, Residence – DC Design House, O.G. 08-118 (H.P.A. 08-188):

Permit plans were presented for a garage door, rear deck, front walkway and railing, and temporary banner. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Skelsey not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the elements of the plans proposed, with the proviso that the sign dimensions meet the rules of the Old Georgetown Board.

2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Four Seasons Hotel, O.G. 08-100 (H.P.A. 08-169):

Concept plans were presented for alterations to the entrance and addition of a luggage corridor. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Skelsey not present):

:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept presented for the alterations proposed in O.G. 08-100.

2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Four Seasons Hotel, O.G. 08-113 (H.P.A. 08-183):

Concept plans were presented for the addition of a brick chimney. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Skelsey not present)

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as presented for the brick chimney described in O.G. 08-113.

2810-12 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Four Seasons Hotel – Eno Wine Bar, O.G. 08-092 (H.P.A. 08-148):

Revised permit plans were presented for a rear addition with basement, partial demolition, elevator at rear, window replacements, signs and awnings. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Skelsey not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as presented. However, we would urge the Old Georgetown Board from its vantage point to look closely at the location of the mechanical equipment at the back of the building. We do not approve at this time and have not voted upon outdoor seating at this location.

901 30th Street, NW, Harbourside Project, Revisions to permit – in progress, Permit, O.G. 08-108 (H.P.A. 08-178):

Concept plans were presented for new window openings at a penthouse and alterations to a roof terrace for pool deck railing on the North Building. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the permit for the project as submitted.

901 30th Street, NW, Harbourside Project, O.G. 08-112 (H.P.A. 08-182):

Revisions to a permit were requested for glazing, a deck and other work on a penthouse.. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the plans as presented.

3270 M Street, NW, Georgetown Park, O.G. 08-011 (H.P.A. 08-094):

Revised concept plans were presented for alterations and additions for a mixed-use residential/retail building. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does appreciate the evolution of the design compared to the previous presentation. Specifically, we appreciate the downsizing of the massing of the western and southern façades compared with the previous presentation. We do, however, have reservations concerning the overall height of the condominium portion of the building. We are concerned also about the uncharacteristic scale of the entry and glazing on M Street and how this relates to other retail establishments in Georgetown. We are concerned also about the planar, unrelieved façade above the entry on M Street. We also urge the Old Georgetown Board to look carefully at access to the pedestrian bridge over the Canal as well as the existing stone terrace along the Canal retaining wall.

1208 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Abercrombie & Fitch, O.G. 08-104 (H.P.A. 08-173):

Permit plans were presented for alterations to a storefront for new aluminum louvers. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E finds that the proposed aluminum louvers do not in any way fit in with the historic nature of Georgetown and therefore we strenuously object to the proposed project.

1616 33rd Street, NW, O.G. 08-096 (H.P.A. 08-152):

Permit plans were presented to raise the roof and for a rear dormer addition and alterations to window and door openings on the side and rear facades. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to raising the height of the roof, which would change the proportions of the front of the house. We object also that the proposed dormers on the front would look as large as the windows below, which is not typical for dormers on Georgetown houses. We urge the Old Georgetown Board to examine particularly closely the aspects of the proposal that would be visible on the front of the house.

3219 Volta Place, NW, O.G. 08-107 (H.P.A. 08-177):

Permit plans were presented for alterations for new window openings at the rear and side facades; for a rear addition and a parking pad and fence; and for relocations of meters to the front façade. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

Unfortunately, the neighbors have not been notified adequately about this project, and so ANC 2E does not support it at this time. If the Old Georgetown Board proceeds to consider the project at this time, we particularly urge the Board to give careful consideration to the two new windows proposed on the western façade, which would be highly visible from the public street and sidewalk. We also note and express concern that the proposed new parking pad space would call for the removal of a mature magnolia tree.

At 9:45 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Ron Lewis
Secretary, ANC 2E

