

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

October 3, 2011
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Starrels, Jones, Sticka, and Birch present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of October 3 Agenda

The agenda for the October 3, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Birch seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Approval of August 29 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 29, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Birch seconded), by a vote of 6-0.

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Solomon introduced Lieutenant Hedgecock, who gave a public safety report. According to Lgt. Hedgecock, violent crime is down in Georgetown. However, property crimes, especially residential burglaries, continue to be on the rise. Lgt. Hedgecock encouraged the community to work with the Metropolitan Police Department on issues of public safety.

Commissioner Birch thanked Lgt. Hedgecock for the Metropolitan Police Department's response to an incident of personal theft in Commissioner's Birch district. Following a question from a community member, Lgt. Hedgecock spoke about the protocols in place that allow MPD to coordinate their efforts with Georgetown University's on-campus police.

Financial Report

Commissioner Lewis introduced the budget that ANC 2E is proposing. This budget will run a \$600 budget deficit, requiring ANC 2E to use funds from its reserves.

Commissioner Solomon moved to adopt the FY2012 Budget (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0.

Separately, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote 6-0:

ANC 2E approves effective as of October 1, 2011 a salary for Ms. Melanie Gisler, Executive Director of the Commission, a half-time position of at-will employment, of \$1,270.83 per month payable monthly in arrears, and a maximum of \$15,250 for such salary payments in any twelve-month period.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Lewis reported on the removal of several Circulator stops along Wisconsin Ave. Commissioner Lewis asked the community to be observant of the affects of this change and report those they find problematic to ANC 2E. A representative from the District Department of Transportation spoke about the need for additional capital funds to make Circulator expansion possible.

Commissioner Jones updated the community on O & P Street rehabilitation project. A representative from DDOT reported on its new initiative to reserve parking for residents and communicate to residents where available parking is from day to day. The contractor from the project said that the project remains generally on-time.

Commissioner Starrels updated the community on several projects that DDOT has been completing in Georgetown.

Public Works

Commissioner Jones reported that the Department of Public Works held a meeting to present on the impact that the city's budgets cuts were having on the agency.

Community Comment

The Georgetown BID presented on its upcoming event, "Taste of Georgetown." Commissioner Starrels emphasized the importance of signage for road closures.

Upon the arrival of Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Commission Chair Lewis thanked Mayor Gray for his strong support of the Commission's and community's position on the Georgetown University 2010-2020 campus plan. Councilmember Jack Evans introduced Mayor Gray and Mayor Gray addressed the community. Community members engaged in a discussion with Mayor Gray on a number of topics. Among those covered were voting representation for D.C. residents, the proposed cycle tracks on L and M Streets, the ANC redistricting process, community safety, mayoral engagement with students, a statement of support by the Mayor for university enrollment caps, the O and P Street rehabilitation project, and the importance of high-quality public and charter middle schools.

New Business

3050 R Street, NW, Hurt Home

Commissioner Lewis described a the proposal for the widening of the curb cut for Hurt Home. After discussion with residents, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to widening the curb cut at 3050 R Street, NW as proposed by the developer. ANC 2E urges the District Department of Transportation to, in connection with any widening, take the following actions: a) use materials consistent with the historic fabric of the area but nevertheless different enough in color or texture from existing materials to indicate the sidewalk across the curb cut; and b) consider the possibility of adding a stop sign across from the curb cut.

1645 31st Street, NW, Friendly-Williams-Addison property

Commissioner Lewis described the history of this development, noting that the tax-status as “vacant” property, which carried a higher tax rate, was given to the property in light of delays and objectionable conditions occurring when a different developer owned it. After discussion with residents and a representative from the property, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E supports returning the real property tax status of 1645 31st Street, NW to residential status rather than vacant status in light of the new ownership and the fact that the property is now actively on the market for sale.

Rose Park Phase II Master Plan

Commissioner Birch spoke on the plan currently being proposed for Rose Park. Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E supports Phase II of the Rose Park Master Plan and commends the Friends of Rose Park for developing a plan to improve the park’s amenities and improve the safety of the park for the enjoyment of all individuals in the community.

Proposed adjustments to G2 and D2 Metrobus schedules

Commissioners Lewis and Sticka spoke on Metrobus’ proposal to cut late-night service to the G2 and D2 buses. After discussion, Commissioner Sticka made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E opposes the cutting of late-night service to the G2 and D2 Metrobus schedules. We are concerned about the manner in which these changes will affect transportation in and out of the community as well as the affect that these changes will have on the employees of the Georgetown Hospital.

3029 Q Street, NW request for emergency hearing for application for a curb cut

A representative spoke on the need for an emergency curb cut. After discussion about process, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E does not object to a curb cut at 3029 Q Street, NW considering the extraordinary circumstances presented as long as the curb cut is provided on a temporary basis. We give this approval under the condition that if and when the circumstances for the need for this curb cut change, the owner will restore the curb cut to its original position.

Farmers Market at Hardy School – agreement on hours of operation

Commissioner Solomon spoke about the positive impact that the Hardy’s Farmers Market has had on the community. He said that some vendors are now requesting an earlier opening time to allow for additional set-up time. After discussion, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E recognizes the positive impact that the Farmers’ Market at the Hardy School has had on the communities of Burleith and Georgetown. ANC 2E supports these changes to the existing Voluntary Agreement: 1) Vendors may begin set-up at 7:00am, 2) During market hours acoustic music may be played within the market’s grounds.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Lewis rescued 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

Large-Scale and Public Projects

With regard to 3000 K Street, NW, OG 11-252 (HPA 11-433):

A representative from Washington Harbour spoke about how their proposal has changed since their last meeting with the Old Georgetown Board. Among the changes are modifications to the property’s tower, the lighting system, and the location of the bars.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the evolution of the design of Washington Harbour as presented. It seems to reflect the concerns of the Old Georgetown Board. ANC 2E approves of the continued evolution of the project.

Private Projects

With regard to 3254 O Street, NW, OG 11-162 (HPA 11-255):

The applicant spoke about the changes made to the proposal since last month. After discussion by neighbors and the representative, Commissioner Jones made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to the concept as proposed. The proposed massing is too large and the style of the two-story structure creates a residential design appearance, which is incompatible with the historic character of the service buildings along this alley.

With regard to 1050 31st Street, NW, OG 11-294 (HPA 11-503):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal to convert an office building to a hotel. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the project as presented for 1050 31st Street, NW. ANC 2E would like the Old Georgetown Board to pay particular attention to the following areas: 1) The northern area just above the canal and how this area blends in with the historic C&O Canal; 2) The overall height of the areas surrounding the cooling tower and the materials used. The extra three feet in height should not be objectionable and we need to make sure the views from M Street are not adversely affected; 3) The open area located in the penthouse structure and how this looks from the south; 4) The area off the alley on the south and how the storage areas for trash will be designed; 5) The drop-off and entrance areas for the hotel and the garage on the east; 6) The positioning of the pool and the deck area. We are not objecting to the pool and surrounding areas, but want to make sure that the positioning will have limited impact on surrounding residents including those from the condominium to the east. ANC 2E approves of the concept as present, with these limited concerns.

With regard to 2934 M Street, NW OG 11-263 (HPA 11-444):

A representative from the property spoke about the alternations to openings that they are proposing. The representative also spoke about their desire to add a new conservatory at the rear of the third floor.

After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

In an effort to abide by historic preservation standards, ANC 2E cannot support the permit application for the awning at 2934 M Street, NW. We would prefer an awning that exposes the architectural details of this building and that fits into the window frame or door frame as the standards require. We would also apply Historic Preservation Office standards to the signage on the awning, which would limit the lettering.

At 9:52 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Starrels seconded) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Jake Sticka
Secretary, ANC 2E