

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

March 2, 2009
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 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. Commander Klein is now the permanent commander for District 2. Reports have indicated that overall crime has gone down, and extra resources have been placed in the Georgetown area temporarily to combat recent robberies.

Approval of February 2 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on February 2, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Commissioner Solomon seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances. He mentioned that we have been in contact with the auditor and are waiting for our 3rd quarter and 4th quarter FY2008 payments. The 1st quarter FY2009 report has been submitted. ANC 2E is in good financial shape.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community. He noted that traffic control officers will be placed at 34th St. and M St during morning rush hours. Commissioner Eason spoke about WASA construction plans for Q St. (west of Rock Creek Bridge) in order to update and improve the sewers, fire hydrants and water main. He mentioned three possible timeline alternatives (close Q St. for 6 months; keep 2-way, alternating traffic; or, make road 1-way at all times) and stated that WASA will be present at ANC 2E's April meeting in order to discuss these plans and timeline options.

Community Comment

Commissioner Starrels stated that there will be a hearing chaired by Councilmember Jim Graham March 10th regarding bus service in the District of Columbia.

New Business

Marine Corps Marathon

A representative from the Marine Corps Marathon presented plans, including a route map, for their 2009 event, which is to be held on Sunday, October 25th. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the Marine Corps Marathon, appreciates their interest to best accommodate the needs of the constituents and expects Ms. Faram, the marathon's community relations coordinator, to communicate responsibly to the people living in the affected area. ANC 2E also expects Ms. Faram to communicate with MPD to allow for common sense street crossing during the marathon. With these considerations, ANC 2E supports the route as proposed.

Safeway new store construction timetable and transportation plan

Representatives from Safeway presented plans for their upcoming construction, including a possible timetable and a transportation plan. They mentioned that they are seeking a building permit that would allow some construction to take place at night, but noted that these nighttime periods will be intermittent, mostly designed to avoid disrupting traffic. This would shorten construction to about 11 months. Phase 1, which begins in April, will allow the store to remain open. Phase 2, which will begin about the 3rd week of April, will consist of major construction, forcing the store to close. Construction workers will keep noise and disruptions to a minimum. Safeway representatives will hold public meetings to cover alternative options while the store is closed, including free delivery from Safeway.com for orders over \$50. Dates and construction updates will appear at www.socialsafeway.com.

Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting at this point.

After discussion by commissioners and community members weighing the merits of the accelerated construction schedule and the safety issues associated with this schedule, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded and before a vote was taken, Safeway representatives present at the meeting agreed to the conditions stated in the motion), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the construction schedule proposed by Safeway at the ANC 2E public meeting held on March 2, 2009, for the new store in Georgetown. The Safeway store is the only full-service grocery store in ANC 2E, and allowing some construction for the new store to occur during extended hours beyond the normal permitted hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. will permit a faster re-opening, which benefits both the community and Safeway. Our approval is conditioned on the following:

- 1) The community will be provided with a telephone number for a Safeway representative that will be answered around the clock, to report immediate construction issues, and an e-mail address for reporting less time-sensitive issues;
- 2) Safeway will keep and make available a log of all construction concerns expressed from the community, and there will be regular meetings of

Safeway construction managers and community representatives during construction to address concerns that may arise;

- 3) All construction traffic will travel only on Wisconsin Avenue or M Street NW within ANC 2E, with flaggers used for safety at the construction site;
- 4) All construction traffic and equipment will be located on-site rather than in public space, except when construction work is actually taking place in the public streets;
- 5) Construction workers will not be permitted to park on-street;
- 6) Best practices and best available technology for reducing construction noise will be used during construction
- 7) The construction schedule will be adjusted away from nighttime construction if the noise becomes objectionable to the community and ANC 2E so requests;
- 8) A safe pedestrian sidewalk on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue will be open at all times except during some nighttime construction; and
- 9) During construction, customers in ANC 2E may order groceries to be delivered free for orders of \$50 or more through Safeway.com.

In addition, Safeway has committed that, and our approval of the construction schedule, above, is conditioned upon, all deliveries to the new store after it is open will travel only on Wisconsin Avenue or M Street NW within ANC 2E.

DC Water and Sewer Authority discussion of fire hydrants

Representatives from DCWASA spoke about recent fire hydrant repairs in Georgetown and the report that the Commission received detailing these repairs. DCWASA is continuing to go through the neighborhood in order to identify and repair broken hydrants. Of the 55 hydrants originally identified as broken, all 55 are now usable. Nineteen hydrants should be replaced, but are still usable, and will be replaced beginning this month. The representatives answered questions from Commissioners.

D2 Metrobus route – WMATA proposal to extend the route eastbound from DuPont Circle

Commissioners and community members spoke about proposed changes to the D2 bus line, which includes extending the route east of DuPont Circle into the downtown area, creating an increased possibility of delays. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports leaving the current D2 Metro bus route in place as is, because we are concerned that lengthening the route to extend eastward beyond DuPont Circle would decrease the reliability that now benefits riders in our community.

ABC Issues

Dixie Liquor request for exception

Commissioner Starrels spoke about the request from Dixie Liquor for an exception to the single-serve ban. Karen Cruise (CAG ABC Committee) spoke about CAG's opinion on this exception, mentioning that CAG has not taken an official position. Commissioner Starrels suggested that the Council should address some minutia in the legislation. Commissioner Birch mentioned that this ANC should consider blanket waivers, rather than spend time handling these exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

ANC 2E with the help of CAG, Councilmember Evans' office, ABRA and the ABC Board will form a group to come up with criteria in order to avoid having to go store-by-store to formulate a blanket waiver, with the goal being that responsible businesses can receive this exception if they so choose.

Zoning and Planning

Request for variance – curb cut – 1724 35th Street, NW

The property owner and his architect presented a proposal for a curb cut on S Street NW, at the side of this corner property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has been consistent in its opposition to new curb cuts in Georgetown and Burleith. This community is severely impacted by lack of parking and taking a public parking space away from the community only adds to the burden of finding a legal parking space. Therefore, ANC 2E opposes a new curb cut at 1724 35th St. NW.

Commissioner Solomon left the meeting at this point.

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

1229 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, O.G. 08-225 (H.P.A. 08-343), Apple:

A representative from Apple presented revised concept designs. 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 reacts favorably to the design and has no objection with the concept as presented.

3333 M Street, NW, O.G. 09-081 (HPA 09-133), The North Face:

Representatives from The North Face presented concept designs for their storefront sign. 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 we do have objections to the vertical expanse as it is very tall and red. ANC 2E has no objection to the sign, lighting and lettering, but asks that the store look at using just the logo and sign, eliminating the 2-story red expanse.

1203 Potomac Street, NW, O.G. 09-065 (H.P.A. 09-105), Vivvy's Nails:

No representative was present at the meeting.

Commissioner Solomon rejoined the meeting at this point.

1211 Potomac Street, NW, O.G. 09-043 (H.P.A. 09-065), Philly Pizza & Grill:

Representatives from Philly Pizza & Grill presented revised designs for alterations to their storefront and rooftop mechanical equipment. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E is concerned and will remain concerned that this establishment will continue to clash with the nearby residential neighborhood. ANC 2E has no objection to the first floor window and sees the new mechanical equipment as a slight improvement, but still has concerns over the visible exhaust fan. Also, ANC 2E remains on the record regarding concerns about the nature of the establishment as a carryout and delivery business. In addition, ANC 2E expresses no opinion about the use of the property and its current condition as concerns zoning issues.

At 8:47 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Eason 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