

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

April 29, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Lowenstein, Starrels, Birch and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

***Public Safety and Police Report***

Commissioner Lewis reported that plans are being developed for more visible and accessible foot patrols, with details to follow. 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](mailto:2D_mpd@yahoo.com).

***Commendation for MPD Commander Andrew Solberg***

Commissioners recognized Metropolitan Police Department Commander Andrew Solberg, who for the past two years has been in command of the MPD Second District, which includes our community. To honor Commander Solberg's exceptional service to the community as he moves from the Second District to take up a new posting within MPD, Commissioner Lewis proposed adoption of the following resolution (Solomon second), which passed by a vote of 6-0 and was presented to Commander Solberg:

In recognition of his outstanding service to the community, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E gratefully commends Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Commander Andrew Solberg. With dedication, skill and energy, he has provided strong leadership to the Metropolitan Police Department Second District in protecting our community. Commander Solberg has worked effectively, closely and tirelessly with our residents, businesses and university community for the benefit of us all, in the highest traditions of exemplary police work. We hereby acknowledge and express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Andrew Solberg for his outstanding civic service and positive impact on our community.

***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on April 1, 2008 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Lewis second) by a vote of 6-0

***Financial Report***

Commissioner Solomon noted that Commissioner Eason has resigned as Treasurer of ANC 2E because of the press of other business and called upon the Commissioners to elect a successor Treasurer. Commissioner Lewis moved (Starrels second) to designate Jenna Lowenstein to the position of Treasurer of ANC 2E, effective upon passage of the motion, which passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Eason moved to adopt the following resolution (Lewis second), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

That the proper officers of the Commission are authorized and directed to take any and all actions appropriate and/or required to notify the Commission's depositories of the election of a new Treasurer with all such authority as provided in the Commission's existing banking resolutions and are authorized to execute documents to this effect as supplied by such depositories.

That the proper officers of the Commission are authorized and directed to take any and all actions appropriate and/or required to substitute the new Treasurer herein designated for purposes of participation in the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund.

That the Secretary of the Commission provide a certified copy of this resolution to the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor and the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

Commissioner Lowenstein presented and proposed approval (Birch second) of the quarterly financial reports for the period October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, and for the period January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008, and the reports were approved by a vote of 6-0. Copies of these quarterly reports will be filed in the Commission's office.

Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon second) to approve payment of an expense as follows, which was approved by a vote of 6-0:

That payment by the Commission to the United States Treasury in the amount of \$5,191.92 in payment of employment taxes due for Calendar Years 2004 and 2005, be, and hereby is, ratified and approved.

### ***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. Commissioner Starrels announced that the District of Columbia government has decided to retain the Wisconsin Avenue route of the Circulator bus. Commissioners Starrels, Lewis and Solomon noted that the Commission had adopted a resolution in favor of retaining the Wisconsin Avenue route of the Circulator and noted that this result could not have occurred without the strong

communal efforts by key individuals and the residential and business organizations in the community, with special thanks to Councilmember Jack Evans for his timely and effective work in support of this Circulator route.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENT**

***Update on the environmental study for the Georgetown University boathouse..*** Peter May, Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources and Planning, National Park Service - National Capital Region, and Alan Harwood of NPS's consultant, EDAW, updated the community on the environmental impact statement (EIS) that will be prepared on possible locations for a boathouse for Georgetown University. They announced that release of a draft EIS is planned for early July.

***Georgetown University's All Class Procession.*** Bill Reynolds, representing Georgetown University, reported that a university-sponsored All Class Procession will be held on May 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Alumni from all classes will walk from 36<sup>th</sup> and P Streets to the university campus, entering through the Healey Gate at 37<sup>th</sup> and O Streets.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Special Items***

**Evermay BZA hearing.** Harry Belin, who owns the property known as "Evermay" located at 1623 28<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. and who is also an officer of the Evermay Society, accompanied by his attorney, presented a request that the Commission support his application for a zoning exception to permit the Evermay Society, which leases Evermay, to hold numerous functions on-site for which it would charge fees, as a way of supporting the upkeep of this historic property. After discussion by Commissioners, community members, and Mr. Belin and his attorney, Mr. Belin agreed, at the request of several Commissioners, to request that a hearing on the Evermay application be postponed by the Board of Zoning Adjustment so that neighbors, Evermay representatives, and Commissioners could discuss the issues and explore whether there might be some common ground.

**Final plans for Georgetown Waterfront Park phase II/Wisconsin Avenue Plaza.** Peter May from the National Park Service reported on final plans for the Wisconsin Avenue Plaza of the Georgetown Waterfront Park. 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 (Lewis not present):

ANC 2E enthusiastically endorses the plans for Phase II of the Georgetown Waterfront Park, the Wisconsin Avenue Plaza. We hope the project proceeds in a most efficient manner.

**DDOT “Smartbike” bicycle rental program.** Jim Sebastian from the D.C. Department of Transportation reported on a proposal to install a bicycle rack on Wisconsin Avenue south of the Canal for “Smartbike” bicycles, to be available for short-term use by members of the public who pay an annual subscription fee. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E thanks the District of Columbia Department of Transportation for its leading-edge work on this intriguing concept. Based on the following understandings –

the proposed bicycle rack will be located on public space on K Street or on Wisconsin Avenue south of the Canal, the location to be determined in consultation with Commissioners, and will be of a design as shown to the Commission at this meeting, which we understand has had a preliminary favorable review by the staff of the Old Georgetown Board of the Commission on Fine Arts;

there will be no advertising on or in connection with the bicycle rack, other than the possibility of some advertising on the bicycles themselves;

DDOT will stress the importance of wearing a bicycle helmet and will identify on its website locations in the area where riders can obtain helmets;

DDOT and the Commission will consider the program in Georgetown to be a year-long pilot, with periodic reviews during the year; and

DDOT will come back to the Commission if expansion or relocation of the bicycle rack is contemplated or if any additional location or locations for such bicycle racks are contemplated within ANC 2E,

ANC 2E approves the proposal.

**Removal or decommissioning of traffic signals at Wisconsin Avenue and Reservoir Road.** Commissioners and community members began a discussion of the adverse effects on traffic that have been caused by recently installed traffic signals at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Reservoir Road. Further discussion was put over to the June meeting of the Commission to permit additional community input.

**Assigning traffic control officers at key intersections from M and Wisconsin to M and Key Bridge.** Commissioners and community members discussed the congested traffic conditions along M Street from Wisconsin Avenue to Key Bridge and the need for better traffic flow in this corridor. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E urges the District of Columbia Department of Transportation to assign traffic control officers to key intersections along the M Street corridor in Georgetown during morning and evening rush hours and on weekends – from M Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW to M Street and Key Bridge.

Intersections identified by the ANC DDOT Committee and supported by the ongoing DDOT traffic study include: the intersections of M and Wisconsin (evening rush hour and weekend afternoons); 34<sup>th</sup> and M morning and evening rush hours weekdays; and Key Bridge at M morning and evening rush hours and weekend afternoons.

M Street NW from Wisconsin Avenue to Key Bridge is one of the busiest and most congested traffic corridors in the city. It needs and would benefit greatly from traffic control officers – a fact confirmed by DDOT’s own traffic consultants in the recent traffic study. The time is long overdue for this busy Georgetown traffic corridor to be treated on a par with other areas in the city where traffic control officers have been assigned. The TCO’s would make it safer for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

### *ABC Issues*

#### **Moratorium for Prospect Place (aka Georgetown Court)**

Commissioner Starrels reported that the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), as part of its decision on the request by Morton’s to increase its seating capacity, invited the community to request a moratorium on further expansion or addition of ABC establishments in the complex known as Prospect Place or Georgetown Court. Commissioner Starrels reported that he would begin a process of consulting with the community about the possibility of proposing a moratorium.

#### **Paolo’s**

Commissioner Starrels reported that Paolo’s has requested an entertainment endorsement and longer hours in connection with its alcoholic beverage license. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Paolo’s is a fine dining establishment in the heart of Georgetown. Its location fronts on Wisconsin Avenue and wraps around on N Street yards away from residential housing.

Because of the proximity to residential housing and the likelihood of the disturbance of the peace, order and quiet of the residents who border this fine establishment, ANC 2E **protests** the request for the entertainment endorsement and longer hours for Paolo’s.

## **Zoning and Planning**

**No Action:** Commissioners suggested at this point and later in the meeting that the following projects be removed from the agenda and treated as items for which no review is being undertaken by the Commission:

2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, Four Seasons Hotel (covered walkway, O.G 08-175, and alterations to entrance and addition of luggage corridor, O.G. 08-181) (Starrels)

1000 Potomac Street (Starrels)

3017 Dumbarton Street (Birch)

2500 Q Street (Eason)

3321 R Street (Solomon)

3312 N Street (Solomon)

1413 35<sup>th</sup> Street (Birch)

There were no objections and the items were so removed from the agenda.

**Consent Calendar:** Immediately before the end of the meeting, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to place the following item on the consent calendar, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Lowenstein not present):

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:

1234 29<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, O.G. 08-172(H.P. 08-264)

**3700 O Street, NW, Georgetown University – Science Center, O.G. 08-159 (HPA 08-252):**

Permit plans were presented for excavation, foundation and site work for this new building. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has previously supported construction of the Science Center, and so we do not object to the site work, excavation and foundations necessary to construct the building, as long as every effort is made by Georgetown University to fully use the Canal Road entrance for University traffic, including busses. Any closing of Tondorf Road necessary for construction of the Science Center should not be taken as an excuse for not using Canal Road for University traffic. In this

connection, we understand also that the University is retaining a transportation consultant to advise on traffic issues on the University campus, and we urge that the transportation consultant's expertise be taken as an opportunity to make greater use of the Canal Road entrance.

**3255 K Street, NW, Cycle Life USA, O.G. 08-182 (H.P.A. 08-238):**

Permit plans were presented for a sign scheme, including projecting signs and an above-door sign. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the sign scheme as presented as long as the lettering conforms to Georgetown standards, which limit lettering to a size no larger than 12 inches in height.

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

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 (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the evolution of the overall design of the project. ANC 2E still has reservations about the overall height and massing of the project, especially the views from the historic canal and the views from M Street.

**3015 M Street, NW, O.G. 08-169 (H.P.A. 08-261):**

Concept plans and options were presented for storefront alterations, to remove bays, and for a new glass wall. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E opposes the removal of the bays. These are an important contributing feature to the commercial historic district along M Street. We leave to the Old Georgetown Board the decision whether to move the door forward or leave it in its present position.

**3045 N Street, NW, O.G. 08-135 (H.P.A. 08-218):**

Concept plans were presented for replacing windows, a new areaway, raising roofs, skylights and HVAC. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E cannot advise the Old Georgetown Board on the project before us because of design issues that involve concerns of fire and safety, in addition to whatever other design aspects are presented.

**1645 31<sup>st</sup> Street, NW, O.G. 08-179 (H.P.A. 08-267); O.G. 08-180 (H.P.A. 08-268); and O.G. 08-176 (H.P.A. 08-271):**

Permit plans were presented for a new two-car garage; for alterations to a carriage house and garage and reconstructing a garage; and for a perimeter fence and retaining wall and for front steps. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

On review of the applications for permit review in the three cases, ANC 2E expresses concern about a number of issues, including:

(1) the height of the proposed retaining wall/fence on both the north and east sides of the property;

(2) whether a second two-car garage along the south end of this single-dwelling property is appropriate, given the more than adequate garage parking for a single house in existing outbuildings;

(3) the location of the proposed wall/fence on the south side of the property connecting the existing carriage house to the proposed new garage, in that it tends to isolate the carriage house from the property of which it is intended to be supportive; and

(4) the appropriateness of the carriage house as a guest house.

**3259 R Street, NW, O.G. 08-086 (H.P.A. 08-142):**

Revised concept plans were presented for partial demolition of a 1959 addition, side and rear addition, alterations to site, and a swimming pool. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Starrles & Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E acknowledges the revisions made in response to our earlier comments and believes there are still issues with respect to the massing and the amounts of glass that are inconsistent with the historic building. We ask the Old Georgetown Board to review those issues closely.

**3411 Dent Place, NW, O.G. 08-16 (H.P.A. 08-258):**



Concept plans were presented for a 2-story rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Eason and Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E cannot support this proposal because some neighbors were not consulted adequately by the applicant. Should the Old Georgetown Board proceed to consider this project, we believe the addition should be no taller than one story, with no roof deck, because a two-story addition or a roof deck would be clearly visible from 34<sup>th</sup> Street through a large gap between houses on 34<sup>th</sup> Street, where it would enclose and block off what is one of Georgetown's rare long views into the green, open space in the middle of a block. Further, because the proposed addition would also be visible from Dent Place, we urge that it be set back from the plane of the existing eastern wall of the house to minimize its visibility from Dent Place.

**3330 Reservoir Road, NW, O.G. 08-161 (H.P.A. 08-254):**

Permit plans were presented for a two-story rear addition. 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 (Lowenstein not present):

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

**1614 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, America's Granite, O.G. 08-151 (H.P.A. 08-234):**

Permit plans were presented for an existing sign scheme. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E objects to the sign that projects at sidewalk level from this property and urges the Old Georgetown Board to examine the possibility of a different location for this sign or a smaller sign, and to examine also the two other existing signs to determine if they comply with applicable standards.

**3268 P Street, NW, O.G. 08-174 (H.P.A. 08-266):**

Concept plans were presented for a 2-story rear addition and a new garage. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-1 (Lewis opposed, Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed garage for the property at 3268 P Street and no objection to the two-story rear addition with the reservation that the Old Georgetown Board judge whether the mass and design of the addition are compatible with the character of the original building.

*At 10:50 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Starrels 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