

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

October 4, 2005

Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM by the Chair, Commissioner Solomon, with Commissioners Eason, Lever, Moore, Starrels, Skelsey, and Clements present, constituting a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes: The minutes of the August 30, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed by Commissioner Clements.

Financial Quarterly Report: The financial quarterly report for April, May, and June of 2005 was presented by the Treasurer, Commissioner Lever. Commissioner Lever noted that ANC 2E received two allotments from the District and that a third was in the mail. Commissioner Clements moved (Solomon Second) to accept the revised fiscal year 2004 financial report, which passed by a vote of 7-0. Commissioner Clements moved (Eason Second) to accept the financial quarterly report as distributed, which passed by a vote of 7-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Police Report: Officer Hannibal of MPD presented the September crime statistics. Overall crime was up 62% from the same month in 2004. Year-to-date crime had increased 4% YTD. The following crimes were reported: 0 homicides, 0 rapes, 4 robberies, 1 assault, 17 burglaries, 18 thefts from auto, 45 thefts, 4 stolen autos. Officers were issuing orange crime alert cards in areas that were being hardest hit. The Halloween plan was currently in the works. Commissioner Lever noted that there had been occurrences of vandalism on the 1600 blocks of 34th and 35th Streets. He stressed the importance of reporting these incidents to MPD.

WASA Report on Sinkholes in the East Village: Charlie Kylie of WASA reported that a study of the sinkholes had begun. Although findings were not complete, some of the holes were found to be a sewer related problem, while others were not. Contractors had been using video cameras to survey damage below the street. Some temporary repairs were in progress, but the bulk of the work would be done when the sinkhole study of the District, as a whole, is completed. In addition to the sewer, sinkholes are often caused by water run-off.

DDOT Updates on Traffic Projects: Karyn Leblanc of DDOT reported the following:
-The signal at Wisconsin Avenue and Reservoir Road was in the final design stages and installation would be completed by the end of October.
-DDOT would look into missing signage due to the Georgetown project.

- Striping at 33rd and Q Streets would be completed by the week of October 17th.
- Ms. Leblanc would look into the schedule for the completion of Bank Street.

Announcements by the Chair:

- Community groups were continuing to meet regarding the driveway parking plan.
- The Taste of Georgetown event would now allow traffic to go south on Wisconsin below M Street.
- The Community would make a greater effort to inform residents of fireworks displays in the future.
- Community members would begin to meet on Monday to discuss evacuation plans for Georgetown in the event of an emergency.
- ANC2E has a new website design. The address is still www.anc2e.com.

Project Form: Commissioner Moore unveiled the new Zoning and Planning Form for ANC2E. The form is meant to make the process more user friendly and ensure that neighbors are informed about projects in their area.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Items

DOT Public Space Request for 901 30th Street: Plans were presented for additional security measures at the Swedish Embassy. This included traffic bollards and two flag poles. The street is already designated for pedestrians and the proposal would not change traffic patterns. The architects were in discussion with MPD and DC Fire to discuss procedures if emergency vehicles needed to get through. Commissioner Starrels moved (Moore Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the request for the installation of bollards and flag poles in public space at 901 30th Street, NW.

Zoning and Planning

Georgetown University Projects (OGB-05-303, BZA Case No. 05-31): Plans were presented for a lighted marquee for the Royden B. Davis Performing Arts Center, third phase of the Multi-Sport Facility, and McDonough School of Business Building. Commissioner Clements noted that the lighted marquee was visible from the street and did not fit the historic nature of the front of campus. In terms of the other two projects, questions were raised regarding where the parking would be removed to install spaces in the Business School. Also, some were concerned about construction traffic. The University Architect guaranteed that all traffic would be routed through Canal Road. Commissioner Clements moved (Moore Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

WHEREAS, the President and Directors of Georgetown College propose a new McDonough School of Business facility and a new Multi-Sport Facility in

accordance with the existing BZA Corrected Order on Remand (BZA Order No. 16566-F) issued June 7, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, Georgetown University proposes to remain at the current cap of 4,080 parking spaces and commission a parking and traffic study in the near future; and,

WHEREAS, Georgetown University continues to abide by the existing moratorium on 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM start times for all events on Harbin Field and the new Multi-Sport Facility with anticipated attendance of more than 100 visitors as established in the original 2000-2010 Campus Plan (BZA Application No. 16566); and,

WHEREAS, Georgetown University attempts to assuage traffic concerns by requiring all construction traffic to enter via the Canal Road entrance; and,

WHEREAS, Georgetown University is currently preparing a more extensive description of the Off-Campus Student Life program per the request of the BZA; and,

WHEREAS, Georgetown University may increase faculty and staff by 3% with the expansion of the new Business School facility in accordance with the approved Campus Plan (p. 10, #2 of the original BZA order);and,

BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 2E supports the proposal by the President and Directors of Georgetown College in their application for special exception approval of a further processing application of the approved campus plan (BZA Order No. 16566-F) for the construction of a new McDonough School of Business facility and a new Multi-Sports Facility and appreciates the applicant's diligence in presenting the plans two months prior to the Zoning Commission hearing.

Commissioner Clements moved (Eason Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

WHEREAS, the President and Directors of Georgetown College propose a large lighted Marquee for the entrance to the new Royden B. Davis Center for the Performing Arts; and,

WHEREAS, the Marquee will be clearly visible from 37th street and the front gates, between Healy Hall and Copley Hall, the historic centerpieces of the front of campus; and,

WHEREAS, no other building on campus has lighted signage of any sort or lettering near the size of the proposed Marquee; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 2E vigorously opposes the proposal by the President and Directors of Georgetown College for the lighted Marquee for the Performing Arts Center in light of its utter disregard for the historic sensibility, charm and architectural style of the Georgetown University campus enjoyed by students, faculty, staff, and the community at large.

1521 32nd Street (OGB 05-301): Plans were presented for the addition of a two story residence as well as a curb cut for parking. The garden on this site would be maintained by the owners of the new house. Victoria Rixey, CAG President, said that the project would set a precedent for over-building in Georgetown. Commissioner Moore moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the proposed residence at 1531 32nd Street based on the fact that it follows the agreement signed on April 29, 2005 by the applicant, the neighbors, Council member Jack Evans and ANC 2E as represented by Tom Birch.

1065 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 05-293): Plans were presented for changes to this retail space to accommodate a Ralph Lauren Rugby store with a café. Some Commissioners were concerned that the windows were lowered to street level and that the outdoor seating would be problematic for pedestrians in the area. Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the alterations to 1065 Wisconsin Avenue but has concerns of the department store style windows and of the proposed outdoor café in that location.

3325 Prospect Street, Wormley School (OGB 05-283): Plans were presented to develop the current site of the Wormley School. The project would include six row houses on the eastern portion of the property and six to eight condominiums inside the school. Many residents commented on the property. One group had been working closely with the developer, while others felt they had not been adequately included in the process. Some of the main concerns were space, the structural integrity of adjoining structures, loss of green space, and traffic. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Clements Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

Given the magnitude of the Wormley School project at 3325 Prospect Street and the lack of consensus amongst the neighborhood groups, we ask that the Old Georgetown Board delay any action until next month offering more time to the community to hopefully work out their differences.

Consent Calendar for the Old Georgetown Board: Commissioner Clements moved (Moore Second) to accept the consent calendar which passed by a vote of 7-0. The consent calendar contained the following projects:

OGB 05-277, 3500 O St
OGB 05-280, 3233 M St
OGB 05-281, 1426 33rd St
OGB 05-288, 1617 29th St
OGB 05-289, 1246 27th St
OGB 05-290, 1248 31st St
OGB 05-294, 3141 P St

3030 K Street (OGB 05-299): Plans were presented to enclose a penthouse terrace at Washington Harbour. The interior of the property is currently being renovated. No Neighbors were in attendance to oppose the project. Commissioner Starrels moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Skelsey Absent):

ANC 2E does not object to the proposed alterations as presented for penthouse #107 in the Washington Harbor complex as long as the Washington Harbor Condominium Association is in agreement.

3278 Prospect Street (OGB 05-283): Plans were presented for a large townhouse on the site currently containing a garden. The project is adjacent to the Eton Court condominium complex. Fourteen neighbors signed a letter vigorously opposing the project. The project was going before the OGB for concept. Commissioner Starrels moved (Moore Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E strongly objects to the proposed new residence at 3278 Prospect Street as it would eliminate the light and views of the residents in Eaton Court and the abutters on 33rd Street and take away an open space that is cherished by the residents in this complex.

3221 Reservoir Road (OGB 05-248): Plans were presented for a one story rear addition. The property was purchased by the current owner in 2001 and the project is up for review by the OGB because the rear of the house is visible from a public alley. The neighbor is concerned about her windows that are right next to the current fence. Commissioner Eason moved (Starrels Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Lever Abstaining):

ANC 2E does not take a position but encourages the applicant to work with the immediate neighbor to the east to work out their differences.

1642 29th Street (OGB 05-282): Plans were presented for a small first floor addition and a second floor deck. Commissioner Eason moved (Skelsey Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Clements and Moore Abstaining):

ANC 2E does not oppose the plans as presented.

2620 P Street (OGB 05-286): Plans were presented for changes to the front of the law firm at 2620 P Street. Currently, the building is set back 46 feet from the street. The plans called for a new building at the front of the property to allow space for a library and conference rooms. A courtyard would remain between the two buildings. The applicant noted that no major trees would be lost in the construction. Commissioner Skelsey said that the project would still reduce green space on the block. Commissioner Moore moved (Skelsey Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-1 (Clements opposing and Solomon abstaining):

ANC 2E cannot support this project, as we do not know the concerns of the neighbors.

2721 O Street (OGB 05-295): Plans were presented for new dormers on the highest portion of the house. This would add more space on the top floor to allow for more living space, including a bathroom. Commissioner Moore noted that neighbors were in support of the project. Commissioner Moore moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the single pediment dormer plans as presented for 2721 O Street.

3526 P Street (OGB 05-296): Plans were presented for changes to the third floor of the addition and façade alterations. Thirty inches would be added to the peak of the roof. This would allow room for three “proper” dormers. The daughter of the neighbors at 3524 P Street said that her parents were worried about the overall appearance of the block as well as the structural integrity of their home. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Eason Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Clements Abstaining):

ANC 2E opposes the project as presented due to the negative impact a third story will have on the scale of P Street and the surrounding two-story west village neighborhood. We further oppose the creation of an additional exterior entry on the front façade.

1426 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 05-304): The architect for the project presented plans for a retail/residential mix-use building. An addition would be added to the rear of the third floor. The rear of the third floor is visible from Addison and Hyde schools. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E does not oppose the third floor addition to 1426 Wisconsin Avenue to increase the number of units in the building. We ask that the current and future DCRA building permits be displayed on the front of the building at all times.

At 11:14 PM, with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Clements moved (Lever Second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Submitted for the Approval of ANC 2E,

Brett F. Clements
Secretary, ANC 2E