

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

January 31, 2011
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Jones, Sticka, Starrels, and Birch present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of January 31 Agenda

The agenda for the January 31 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Solomon seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Approval of January 3 Meeting Minutes

Consideration of the minutes of the January 3, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was deferred until the February 28 meeting.

Public Safety and Police Report

Lieutenant Hedgecock reported on public safety matters in the community.

Lt. Hedgecock also informed the community of a new law going into place at 12:01am on February 1st. The new measure reworks the city's disturbing the peace laws to make any noise between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. that is likely to disturb a resident an arrestable offence, punishable by 90 days in jail or a \$500 fine. Lt. Hedgecock said that the measure, which is enforceable both within commercial and residential areas, would be aggressively used in Georgetown to combat its persistent noise problems.

Commissioner Jones clarified with Lt. Hedgecock that this new law is different from 61D citations but similarly relied upon the discretion of the apprehending officer. Commissioner Starrels also reminded the community that there was a new police commander, Commander Reece, in the MPD Second District.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Solomon reported on transportation matters in the community, noting construction on O Street and P Street NW.

Commendation

Commissioner Sticka offered ANC 2E's the following commendation for outgoing Commissioner Aaron Golds, which was adopted by a vote of 6-0:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E commends Aaron Golds for his invaluable service to our community across the last two years. In this time, Aaron has shown himself to be a dedicated and thoughtful public servant. Aaron has always found a way to represent the interests of his constituents strongly while at the same time adhering to the collegial nature of the Commission's work. Equally impressive was the mature and measured way in which he would do so.

We also commend Aaron for his dedicated commitment to our ANC. The duties of ANC secretary are rarely glamorous but Aaron always completed them in an enthusiastic, timely and complete manner. The minutes for the last two years remain some of our most meticulous and we thank Aaron for it.

Golds spoke to the community about his time on ANC 2E, emphasizing how effective ANC 2E was during his tenure and how lucky the community is to have its leadership.

By-law amendment (officers)

Commissioner Lewis proposed an amendment to the by-laws to automatically designate as a Vice Chairperson of ANC 2E any ANC 2E Commissioner who had served previously as Chairperson of ANC 2E. Because amendment of the by-laws requires a two-week delay between proposal and approval, voting on the amendment was put off until ANC 2E's next meeting.

Community Comment

Community comment opened with noting the presence of Ruth Werner from Councilmember Evans' office and Raeisha Williams, Mayor Gray's Ward 2 liaison. Ms. Williams, attending her first ANC 2E meeting, introduced herself to the community. Commissioner Starrels praised her and the Mayor's office for their prompt response to the recent snowstorm.

Beth Solomon from the *Georgetown Dish* announced that her publication, together with the *Current* newspapers, would be hosting a forum for the at-large city council candidates. The forum will be held February 23 at Georgetown's Safeway. A community member asked about potholes near their home and was referred by Commissioner Starrels and Ms. Williams to the city's hotline for such issues. Another community member inquired about installation of bike racks along M Street. Commissioner Birch noted the difficulty of doing so and proposed discussing their installation on nearby side-streets instead.

New Business

Possible left-turn arrow for traffic exiting to Wisconsin Ave., NW from the south driveway at Safeway:

Commissioner Lewis spoke about possibility of adding a left-turn arrow out of the south driveway of Safeway. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E recommends that the District Department of Transportation consider two possible improvements to traffic and pedestrian flow at the traffic signals at 1835 Wisconsin Avenue NW at the south driveway of the Georgetown Safeway:

1. Consider the feasibility of a leading left-turn arrow for traffic exiting the driveway and turning south onto Wisconsin Avenue. The left-turn arrow would be on when the “walk” sign is on for the crosswalk to the north of the driveway.
2. Consider the feasibility of a longer “walk” signal for pedestrians on the Wisconsin Avenue sidewalk (east side) that crosses the Safeway south driveway. Currently the “walk signal is very short.

ANC 2E also requests that DDOT examine traffic congestion at this intersection during rush hours to determine if anything can be done to relieve the congestion.

Proposal to allow 2-way traffic on Thomas Jefferson St., NW between K St. and Colonial garage:

Commissioners Lewis, Starrels, and community members discussed the feasibility of 2-way traffic on a short stretch at the southern end of Thomas Jefferson Street north of K Street. 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, on behalf of its constituents, requests that when Thomas Jefferson St., NW is reopened following completion of the bridge over the C & O Canal, DDOT make the lower section of Thomas Jefferson Street, NW available for two-way traffic. The specific area is from the Colonial Parking Garage located at 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW to the southern end of Thomas Jefferson Street at K Street, NW. ANC 2E is aware that one or more parking spaces on the west side of Thomas Jefferson Street, NW may need to be eliminated to accommodate this traffic plan.

Rose Park foot path:

Commissioners Lewis and Birch and representatives from Friends of Rose Park spoke about Rose Park’s footpaths. Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E commends the community for its dedication to improving facilities at Rose Park, including a much needed renovation of the Rose Park footpaths.

Be it resolved that ANC 2E supports the Friends of Rose Park’s efforts and desire for maintenance of the pedestrian footpaths in their existing location and at their existing width; ANC 2E supports the rehabilitation of the Rose Park pedestrian footpaths; and ANC 2E strongly objects to the widening of the footpaths or any change in their location.

DC government agencies' collegial approach to guidance from the Commission of Fine Arts:

Commissioner Lewis and community members discussed the importance of collegial relations between agencies of the District of Columbia government and the Commission of Fine Arts. Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 6-0:

The District Department of Transportation and other DC government agencies have a long history of sensitivity to design input from the Commission of Fine Arts with regard to the Georgetown Historic District. This collegial approach has accommodated and preserved such key elements in Georgetown as the distinctive brick sidewalks and the “Washington globe” streetlights, and it has contributed greatly to Georgetown’s historic appearance. We strongly endorse such receptivity by the D.C. government agencies to input from the Commission of Fine Arts, and we commend DDOT’s recent decision to follow this important collegial tradition by approving the design of tree-square fences in the Historic District as recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts.

Department of Transportation

Application to Public Space Committee for valet parking drop-off/pick-up spaces on Friday and Saturday nights:

Commissioner Starrels, Commissioner Solomon, a representative from Mate, and community members discussed Mate’s application a valet parking drop-off/pick-up spaces on Friday and Saturday nights. Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC2E does not approve of the valet parking plan as presented because the garage earmarked on Thomas Jefferson Street does not work logistically speaking due to current one-way traffic patterns and resulting congestion concerns. Our concern would be alleviated if the applicant secures garage space on K Street within a block of its 3101 K Street NW location.

ABC Issues

Third Edition, Voluntary Agreement:

Commissioner Starrels presented an amendment to Third Edition’s previously agreed upon voluntary agreement. After discussion of each piece of the voluntary agreement and discussion of Third Edition’s identification policy, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E adopts the voluntary agreement relating to Third Edition as presented, with amendment.

Smith Point, Voluntary Agreement:

Commissioner Starrels presented an amendment to Smith Point’s previously agreed upon voluntary agreement. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E adopts the voluntary agreement amendment relating to Smith Point as presented.

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

Large-Scale and Public Projects

1215 31st Street NW, OG 11-043 (HPA 11-063), Georgetown Post Office, Concept:

Representatives from the property spoke about the addition of a new building at the rear of the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E is particularly mindful of the impact of the proposed addition behind the Old Post Office Building to the neighbor in the house to the north. Recognizing the concerns this neighbor has about the privacy and enjoyment of their property, ANC2E recommends to the maximum extent possible that the addition be shifted southward along the lines of what has been presented in the current drawings. We also suggest that OGB review the use of glass on the north façade of the addition in view of the ways in which the privacy concerns could be improved by decreasing the glass surfaces on that wall. In sum, ANC2E is pleased to see the work that has gone into the architecturally appealing and indeed attractive addition to the Old Post Office and thank the developer for continuing to work with the community and ANC2E on this issue.

Private Projects

With regard to 1415 34th Street, NW, OG 11-088 (HPA 11-127):

Representatives from the property spoke about small modifications to their home. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Jones made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as proposed.

With regard to 1412 35th Street, NW, OG 11-088 (HPA 11-134):

Representatives from the property spoke about several substantial additions to their home, including the addition of a pool house. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Jones made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0 (recommendation for the Historic Preservation Review Board):

ANC 2E objects to the character and location of the pool house but has no objection to the overall concept as presented.

With regard to 1071-73 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-018 (HPA 11-022):

Representatives from the business spoke about the addition of new window signs to their business due to the change of their business' name. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the replacement window signs for the permitting.

With regard to 3127 P Street, NW, OG 11-087 (HPA 11-132):

Representatives from the property spoke about the additions to their home, including the addition of a third story. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Birch proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the work around the garage door, to the replacement of the front stairs, or to the proposed rear-addition. ANC 2E does object to the proposal to the addition story of the house as it is not in line with the rhythm of this streetscape and compromises the historical nature of this block of P St.

With regard to 1403 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-047 (HPA 11-072):

Representatives from CVS spoke about proposed new signage. After discussion from Commissioners on the importance of the historical nature of Georgetown, Commissioner Birch proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the design and lighting of the sign but we would prefer the use of bronze as a material.

At 9:49 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Birch 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