

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

July 5, 2011
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Starrels, Jones, Sticka, Birch, and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of July 5 Agenda

The agenda for the July 5, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 7-0.

Approval of May 2 and May 31 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the May 2, 2011 and the May 31, 2011 meetings were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Eason seconded), by a vote of 7-0.

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Solomon gave the public safety report, noting that the Metropolitan Police Department is concerned about the increase in thefts and robberies in the business corridor. MPD has responded to these problems with additional patrols around M Street. The Georgetown BID is also still reimbursing extra police officers in the area. Police have also begun patrolling the alley areas. Commissioner Starrels expressed concern about panhandlers and musicians using public space.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported that the savings and checking accounts for ANC 2E remain at normal levels.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Lewis reported on the District Department of Transportation's decision to add a left-turn arrow out of Safeway on the red light, as requested by ANC 2E and Councilmember Jack Evans.

Commissioner Starrels reported that he is working with Councilmember Tommy Wells' office to do bike safety programming on Water Street and K Street, NW.

Commissioner Solomon reported that the rehabilitation of O and P Streets is still on time and on budget.

Commissioner Jones reported that brick has begun being placed on the sidewalks along 36th Street, NW with old Georgetown brick being primarily used.

Public Works

Commissioner Jones reported that Public Works violations have dropped off in the last month. After inquiries from Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Jones noted that this drop off coincided with the end of Georgetown University's academic year.

Commissioner Jones also said he is planning on holding a meeting with Georgetown's community associations and Department of Public Works regarding the implementation of their new budget.

Community Comment

Commissioner Starrels reported that the District Department of Transportation has installed new, large parking signs throughout Georgetown. Commissioner Starrels encouraged community members to let ANC 2E and the Georgetown BID know their feelings on these signs, which according to Commissioner Starrels are too large and too numerous. Commissioner Starrels also said that they contribute to sign clutter.

Commissioner Birch reported on the proposed M and L Street bike lanes and the District Department of Transportation's decision to postpone their construction. Commissioner Birch spoke about the manner in which they would be useful to the Georgetown community.

Commissioner Solomon reported that he had asked DDOT to consider a loading zone outside Café Divan.

Ruth Werner from Councilmember Evans' office reported that ANC and SMD redistricting was beginning and that the first organizational meeting would occur on July 13th at the Wilson Building.

New Business

DC Water Internal Joint Repairs Project

Two representatives from DC Water spoke about rehabilitating major water lines in the Georgetown area. The process will be a two-phase rehabilitation focused around Canal Road NW and M Street NW. DC Water reported that these repairs are essential and that construction would occur from July 2011 to March 2012, with work occurring between 9:30pm and 4:00am.

Commissioner Lewis also asked for the phone number of a project manager for this rehabilitation so that the community had a contact person. DC Water agreed to provide this information.

Pepco Smart Meter presentation and Georgetown Historic District rules regarding exterior meters

A representative from Pepco presented on the District's move toward a smart grid. Old meters began to be replaced by smart meters beginning in April 2010. Thus far, 100,000 of these new meters have been installed. The representative then spoke about the ease of the new installation process.

Commissioner Lewis questioned the representative about Pepco's openness to an agreement to not install exterior meters in the Georgetown Historic District. The representative agreed to instruct their construction workers to not to install outdoor meters when it is possible to do so inside. Commissioner Lewis also asked about if the smart meters would look the same as old ones. The representative said they would look the same.

DC Road Runners 10K

A representative from the DC Road Runners Club presented on the race that they are proposing, which would use the south side of K Street in Georgetown between Wisconsin and 33rd Street, on Saturday October 1, 2011 between 5:00am and 11:00am. The representative noted that residents in the Washington Harbor complex would be boxed in without an exit for approximately half an hour.

Commissioner Starrels and Commissioner Solomon raised concerns about the race's effect on the business community and what would occur in the case of thunderstorms. Commissioner Lewis asked about if this was a for-profit event. The representative said that the entirety of the funds went to the chosen charity.

After discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the race as presented, with stipulations. Among these are that the race begin no later than 8:00am and that K Street be reopened by 10:00am. We also give this support with assurance that the race will not be postponed due to any weather conditions and that parking signage be posted 72 hours before the race. We have also been assured that the northbound lanes of K Street will be kept open for the entirety of the race except for the first five minutes of the race. If any changes are made to the race's course, ANC 2E requests that it be notified immediately.

Best buddies bicycle event

A representative spoke about the Best Buddies International's request for use of the Whitehurst Freeway and M Street, NW/Canal Road west of the Whitehurst Freeway. This request is for October 22, 2011. Commissioner Birch noted that this makes October a very busy month for Georgetown. Commissioner Lewis also expressed concern about approving so many events for one month and the precedent that this could potentially set. Commissioners Lewis, Starrels, and Birch also had procedural questions about the event's execution.

After discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed 7-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the October 22, 2011 Best Buddies bicycle event as presented, but does have concerns about the number of events using streets within our community and the inconvenience that they present to residents, businesses, and visitors. We do not object to this event, especially in light of its charitable component, with the following stipulations in place. ANC 2E has been assured that the race will begin promptly; at the times as presented, and that it will not be delayed or postponed for any reason. Additionally, ANC 2E urges the applicant to find an alternative route for this race in subsequent years.

ABC Issues

1734 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Shanghai Lounge, ABRA 0087348

A representative from Shanghai Lounge spoke about the conditions under which they would provide alcohol in their restaurant. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to ABRA application no. 0087348 and appreciates the application.

Zoning and Planning

1679 35th Street, NW, BZA Application No. 18232:

A representative from the property spoke about the manner in which its current use was compatible with the expansion being considered. After discussion, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the application for area variance relief from the non-residential Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limit in order to permit an increase in the maximum permitting non-residential FAR from 1.5 FAR to 1.67 FAR with no increase in the current total FAR of 1.67 in the existing building, noting that other buildings in the area have used space similarly and that all but 300 square feet of the second floor is already used for non-commercial purposes.

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, in which Mr. Lewis did participate. Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Large-Scale and Public Projects

With regard to 1700 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-191 (HPA 11-307):

A representative from Dumbarton Oaks spoke about their proposed rear addition and recently made alterations. The representative displayed pictures of the sightlines that would result from the project and discussed the materials being used for its construction.

After discussion by Commissioners, neighbors, and the representative, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the progress that has been made with regards to this plan. We commend the applicant for reaching out to their neighbors, and encourage them to continue to work with the neighbors, especially as it relates to the building's massing. With regards to the materials for the addition, ANC2E requests that the applicant use materials that are compatible with the existing structure in order to eliminate the appearance of an "add on" structure. We encourage a design on the west façade that is compatible with the scale and residential character of the adjacent neighborhood.

With regard to 1644 31st Street, NW, OG 11-189 (HPA 11-305):

A representative from the property spoke about alterations to the property and their attempts to engage with the immediate community. After discussion by members of the community and Commissioners, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the efforts of Tudor Place to preserve the property for the future enjoyment of the neighborhood, city, and nation. We also commend the Old Georgetown Board for its thoughtful consideration of the plan. We urge the OGB to consider again their comments in light of what is being presented now. We recognize that Tudor Place is about to engage in architectural services and the suggestions that have been made in the process of this review by the community might inform the consideration of such design elements. We urge the applicant to consider an opinion from the Board of Zoning Adjustment about what sort of guidance they can offer. We finally commend the applicant for working with the neighbors on this plan.

Private Projects

With regard to 2908 Dumbarton Street, NW, OG 11-235 (HPA 11-388):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed 3-story rear addition. The representative spoke about how their changing life situation has motivated their proposed changes. Community members spoke about the manner in which this project would affect their way of life.

After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E recognizes that there is considerable objection and concern by neighbors in adjoining properties to 2908 Dumbarton Street, NW with objections to the proposed rear addition and to a new third floor. These changes would block light, principally to the neighbors to the east, but also have some impact to neighbors to the north across Dumbarton Street. ANC 2E encourages the Old Georgetown Board to look at ways in which unused volumes of space within the current structure could be employed to suit the needs of the owner and applicant of the property. ANC 2E also has serious reservations about the use of contemporary materials like glass and metal on a house that has the character of a brick structure that is very compatible with the neighboring structures. Finally, ANC 2E calls OBG attention to the flowering cherry trees at the property to the east bordering the garden and how new construction might endanger those trees.

With regard to 3315 N Street, NW, OG 11-210 (HPA 11-362):

A representative from the property spoke about their application for a parking pad and replacement fence.

After discussion, Commissioner Jones proposed the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as proposed but would call the attention of the Old Georgetown Board the proposal of the board on board fence style in determining if it meets the historical character of the neighborhood.

With regard to 1328-1336 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-221 (HPA 11-373): HPRB

A representative from the property spoke about their application for 1-story rear additions with basement.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbor and Commissioners, Commissioner Jones proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as proposed. However, ANC 2E calls to the attention to the Historic Preservation Review Board the proposed increase in density and massing of the building.

With regard to 1037 33rd Street, NW, OG 11-199 (HPA 11-315):

A representative from the property spoke about recent changes to their design following their meeting with the Old Georgetown Board. The plan has now been revised to include a ramp for disabled access.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Birch proposed the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the effort that has gone into redesigning the front façade of this structure and encourages the Old Georgetown Board to assess the ways in which the Americans with Disability Act requirements need to be or are being addressed. Further, we have no objection to the proposed addition to the rear.

With regard to 3111 K Street, NW, OG 11-217 (HPA 11-369):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed new signage. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E prefers Option 1, which has the IMAX sign below the Loews sign. ANC 2E acknowledges that the signage is slightly higher than the one foot that we generally request but in this case an exception seems to make sense.

With regard to 3222 M Street, NW, OG 11-223 (HPA 11-376):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed changes to the Georgetown Park Mall, which will include alterations to storefronts, a new cooling tower, and new windows.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the design and concept of the Georgetown Park property at 3222 M Street, NW. We would like the Old Georgetown Board to pay special attention to the door of the loading deck: ANC 2E objects to the proposed metal roll-down door. ANC 2E also has concerns about the proposed amount of glazing on the western end of the M Street façade. ANC 2E does not believe it is compatible with the rest of the façade and the overall nature of the commercial district in historic Georgetown. We do not, however, object to the new entrance area below the glazing proposed for the second floor. On the south side of the building, ANC 2E wants Old Georgetown Board to consider the relationship of the changes to the C&O Canal. On the western façade, ANC 2E has no objection but wants to ensure that the changes are compatible with the neighboring properties.

With regard to 3288 M Street, NW, OG 11-215 (HPA 11-367):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed storefront and sign scheme for Pinkberry. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Sticka), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation, does not like Option 2 and prefers Option 1.

With regard to 3248 N Street, NW, OG 11-227 (HPA 11-380):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed demolition of a rear apartment wing.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E enthusiastically endorses this concept and appreciates the concepts and plans.

At 10:47 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