

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Golds, Starrels, and Birch present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Lieutenant Hedgecock reported on public safety matters and recent crimes in the community, noting that Halloween weekend was successful with a massive police presence, rainy weather, manageable crowds and few incidents (two arrests). He mentioned that crime is up in Georgetown, particularly property crimes (theft from automobiles); the East Village has seen a rise in crime recently; and asks the community to contact him for specific statistics and maps. Commissioner Solomon and Lieutenant Hedgecock responded to questions from Commissioners and community members about recent alleged hate crimes near Georgetown University (no active criminal investigation, victims have declined interviews with MPD).

Approval of September 29 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on August 31, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Starrels (Commissioner Birch seconded) by a vote of 5-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances.

The fourth quarter FY2009 financial report was approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 5-0.

ANC 2E's revised budget has been placed on ANC 2E's website for public review. It will be voted on at the December 2009 meeting.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Starrels and Lewis reported on transportation matters in the community, noting that the refurbishing of street light poles has been delayed during a contract negotiation, but will continue and that bike lanes will be painted on 33rd and 34th Streets (parking will be maintained on both sides).

Commissioner Skelsey and Commissioner Eason joined the meeting at this point.

Community Comment

A representative (Linda Greenan) from Georgetown University made a presentation regarding the upcoming meetings about the University's draft ten-year campus plan, noting the meeting dates, topics and locations.

A representative (Barbara Downs) from CAG spoke about the upcoming Georgetown ARTS 2009, an art show featuring Georgetown artists. The opening will be on Thursday, November 19 at the former Smith-Hawken site.

A representative from Hyde-Addison spoke about the school's upcoming auction at the Swedish embassy on November 13.

A representative from TD Bank told the community about their grand opening celebration on November 7.

Commissioner Starrels updated the community on the Philadelphia Pizza and Grill situation, noting that DCRA is investigating the store's zoning, and has found some possible violations.

Community members made comments regarding the fall West Georgetown clean-up on November 14 from 9 am to 12 pm at Volta Park.

Commissioner Lewis noted that ANC 2E's January 2010 meeting will be held the night of January 11, 2010.

New Business

DDOT Discussion of DDOT/Federal Highway Administration proposal for the O Street and P Street Trolley Tracks

Representatives from DDOT presented plans to restore the cobblestones and trolley tracks on O Street, NW and P Street, NW. Construction should begin in mid-2010 and should be completed by the end of 2012, but some temporary asphalt patching for improved safety will begin this fall before the first hard freeze. Discussion by the Commissioners and community members focused on community impact and responding to anticipated neighborhood concerns during the long construction period. Commissioner Solomon suggested establishing a Community Relations Team similar to what was done during the Georgetown Project, to help manage the project and deal with issues related to the project as they arise. The Commission reminded DDOT to ensure safety and, in response to a question from Commissioner Lewis, the DDOT representatives assured the community that upon completion of the work and for the long term, the cobblestones and tracks would be on the same grade and would be safe.

DDOT Proposal to Install All-Way Stop Signs at the Intersections of 28th Street and P Street and 30th Street and P Street, Replacing the Current Traffic Signals

DDOT has sent a letter to ANC 2E detailing their plans to remove traffic signals along P Street, NW and install all-way stop signs and requesting a recommendation from ANC 2E.

After discussion by commissioner and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the proposal by the District Department of Transportation to install all-way stop signs at the intersections of 28th and P Streets, N.W., and 30th and P Streets, N.W. and to remove the traffic signals currently at those intersections.

Installing stop signs at these intersections would be consistent with traffic controls at all other intersections in the residential areas of Georgetown east of Wisconsin Avenue, including the intersections of 28th and Q Streets, N.W., and 30th and Q Streets, N.W., where stop signs replaced traffic signals some years ago.

Proposal by Friends of Volta Park to Explore with the Department of Parks and Recreation Options for Revitalizing the Tot Lot at Volta Park

A representative from Friends of Volta Park discussed their plans to work with DPR to revitalize the tot lot at the park. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the effort by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Friends of Volta Park to enhance our community by entering into discussions exploring the revitalization of the Volta Park playground. As these discussions progress, we encourage DPR and the Friends of Volta Park to bring any specific proposals to the community and ANC 2E.

Hurt Home, 3050 R Street, NW—Presentation by Argo/NV Commercial regarding the possible conversion of the property to condominiums

Representatives from Argo/NV Commercial presented preliminary concept plans to build an addition onto the Hurt Home and convert the property into condominiums, should the D.C. government choose their company to purchase and renovate the property. The Commission and community members discussed the plans, but as the concept was at a very early stage and the presentation was meant only to be informational at this time, no resolution regarding this project was proposed.

Georgetown Post Office, 1215 31st Street, NW—Presentation by Eastbanc regarding the possible development of condominiums and row houses on the property

Representatives from EastBanc (Anthony Lanier and Mary Mottershead) presented preliminary concept plans to convert a portion of the Georgetown Post Office property to condominiums and row houses, should the federal government sell the property to their company. The Commission and community members discussed the plans, but as the concept was at a very early stage and the presentation was meant only to be informational at this time, no resolution regarding this project was proposed.

Zoning and Planning

37th Street and O Street, NW, Application by Georgetown University to extend the expiration date of a Zoning Commission order by two years (until November 23, 2011) permitting construction of a science center, multisport facility and athletic training facility

Representatives from Georgetown University presented their plans for these facilities and their reasoning for seeking the extension. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Golds made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

The plans for the Georgetown University Science Center and Athletic Training Facility, along with plans for modification of the Multi-Sports Facility, have previously received final approval from the Zoning Commission. Solely because of that, we are not objecting to an extension of the prior approval. ANC 2E also notes that the University has said that the recent economic downturn has hurt the financing of the projects and thus has played a part in delaying construction.

However, we are very close to the end of the current Georgetown University 10-year campus plan, and the university will be filing a new 10-year campus plan imminently. The current requested extension would move a significant part of the approval period for these major facilities into the new 10-year plan period. It could well be better to consider these facilities as part of the upcoming 10-year plan, and we would have no objection if the Zoning Commission wishes to do that.

1618 32nd Street, NW, Application of Jane V. Saunders for a special exception to allow a one-story rear addition to an existing one-family row dwelling, not meeting the occupancy requirements, side yard requirements and court requirements

A representative from the property presented their plans for a one-story rear addition, to fill in the dogleg on the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Commissioners Skelsey and Starrels abstained):

ANC 2E has no objection to the application with respect to zoning requirements, based on the information provided to us.

3302 Prospect Street, NW, Application of Samia El-Baroudy for variances from the lot occupancy requirements, rear yard requirements, and non-conforming structure requirements to allow an addition to an existing one-family row dwelling

Representatives from the property presented plans for an addition to the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0):

ANC 2E opposes any additions to the property, noting that the property is already eight square feet beyond zoning requirements and does not want to see any further building in that area. We also note that this addition will have a negative impact on the adjoining property's light, air and view.

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

3136-3138 P Street, NW, OG 10-011 (HPA 10-015), Residences:

Without objection, this project was moved to no review.

3009 Dumbarton Street, NW, OG 09-339 (HPA 09-405), Residence:

Representatives from the residence presented plans for a two-story rear addition and demolition of a rear wing and garden structure. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E regrets the absence of the applicant and the presentation of plans at our November 2, 2009 meeting, but we nonetheless call the attention of the OGB to issues that concern the mass and scale of the proposed addition particularly with an eye to an addition that will have a minimal impact on the neighboring houses.

3268 P Street, NW, OG 10-012 (HPA 10-016), Residence:

Without objection, this project was moved to no review.

3273 M Street, NW, OG 09-350 (HPA 09-419), Retail:

Plans for the store's (Lucky Brand Jeans) sign scheme, including one projecting signs, were presented. 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 opposes the projecting sign as presented as it is a first floor retail establishment and there is plenty of other signage on the building.

1071 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 10-007 (HPA 10-011), Commercial:

Concept plans were presented for a new sign, projecting sign, awnings and window. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E objects to the projecting sign and has reservations about the awnings, but will leave final determination to the OGB. There is no objection to the windows.

1206 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 10-006 (HPA 10-010), Commercial:

Concept plans were presented for an alteration to the property's façade, including a bay window on the side. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E overall endorses the concept as presented with possible reservations about the lanterns and the effect they may have on the adjacent properties.

1238 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 09-338 (HPA 09-404), Mixed Use Commercial/Office:

Concept plans were presented for a two-story rear addition to replace an existing one-story structure. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E objects to the project due to the absence of any presentation of the property and the preliminary look at the plans.

At 9:04 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