

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

May 30, 2006

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM by the Chair, Commissioner Solomon, with Commissioners Starrels, Skelsey, Eason, and Clements present, constituting a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes: The minutes of the May, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously as distributed by Commissioner Clements.

ANC Special Election for SMD 06: Bonnie Hardy announced that a special election would likely be held at the June 27th ANC meeting. Four candidates filed the necessary papers to be included on the ballot. The challenge period for signatures would run until June 1st.

Change of Venue for June 27th Meeting: The ANC meeting for June 27th would be moved to Christ Church at 31st and O Streets to provide space for the special election.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Police Report: Lt. Felicia Lucas of the Metropolitan Police Department appeared to give the brief police report for the previous month. She announced a slight increase in robberies for the month, as compared to 2005. There were nine robberies in PSA 206 for the month of May. She also announced an increase in thefts from auto to eleven. Commissioner Starrels commented that the restaurants and bars at Washington Harbour had been increasingly rowdy on weekends and requested increased diligence during the warmer summer months.

Volta Park Day, June 11 at 12:00 PM: Commissioners Skelsey and Lever announced the date for Volta Park Day and invited all to attend. A fundraiser for the park would be held at Georgetown Visitation the night before the event.

Update on Hardy Middle School Renovation: Commissioner Solomon introduced Michael Darling, the project manager for the construction, and Tyrone Jackson, the manager of public space for DDOT. Commissioner Solomon stated that most concerns centered on truck traffic and the plan to remove debris from the site. Many neighbors were also concerned about noise and vibrations during the renovation. Mr. Darling stated that the basement and other internal work would commence as soon as school was out for the summer.

Introduction of Candidates for SMD 06: The following candidates made statements at the meeting: David Halley, Sean Howard, Carol Joynt, and Robert Radin (written statement read by Commissioner Solomon).

Update on WASA Issues: Commissioner Eason noted that the WASA sinkhole study was ongoing. Commissioner Starrels commented on problems with the coordination between DDOT and WASA concerning the lead service line replacement project.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Items

ANC 2E Response to the NPS Environmental Assessment for the proposed Georgetown University Boathouse: Linda Greenan of Georgetown University appeared to comment on the revised design plans for the boathouse. She said that the University embraced the Plan C design suggested in the NPS Environmental Assessment. Commissioners Starrels and Clements moved for the following which passed by a vote of 5-0:

WHEREAS, ANC 2E, whose boundaries include the future boathouse site, enthusiastically supports the proposed Georgetown University Boathouse at the site north of Key Bridge; and,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E has voted four times in support of the boathouse. These dates include:

- June 3, 2003
- October 3, 2001
- September 4, 2001
- October 10, 1995

WHEREAS, Tonight's vote is vote #5.

Since the last vote there are some changes to the overall size.

WHEREAS, The reduced height strikes the right balance and minimizes the visual impact of the proposed building from the towpath; and,

WHEREAS, The facility according to the University will accommodate the training and coaching needs of the Georgetown University Crew program; and,

WHEREAS, the University has willingly accepted the "reduced height boathouse", Alternative C under the National Park Service Environmental Assessment, in the spirit of compromise; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed location of the boathouse has historic precedent in that its location was an area of waterfront-related activities as old photographs have borne out; and,

WHEREAS, moving the location of the boathouse would negatively impacts residents of ANC 2E whereas the present location of the proposed boathouse has no such impact;

It is therefore RESOLVED that ANC 2E enthusiastically supports the design as well as the proposed location of the boathouse.

NPS Upkeep of St. Mary's Park at 37th and Prospect Streets: Commissioner Starrels noted that the brush and grass was quite overgrown in St. Mary's Park. Commissioner Clements stated that Georgetown University had assisted the National Park Service in cleaning the area before since it could possibly present a safety hazard for students. John Parson of the NPS said that he visited the location before the meeting and noticed that it was in poor condition. Commissioner Starrels moved (Clements Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E requests the National Park Service to cleanup and maintain what is known as St Mary's Park located on the south side of Prospect Street at 37th Street in Georgetown. If accomplished, both the ANC and the community will appreciate your efforts.

DCRA Inspections of Rental Properties: Commissioner Starrels said that the joint effort between DCRA and the Georgetown University Office of Off-Campus Student Life resulted in the inspection of twenty-three rental properties during the last week of May. They could not gain access to all twenty-nine properties attempted, due mostly to the fact that some residents were not home at the time. Commissioner Eason stated that he had been working on a resolution regarding rental accommodations, with some help from Commissioner Clements, and that he would delay presenting it for a month so that interested parties could submit comments.

Zoning and Planning

3407 R Street (OGB 06-192): Commissioner Solomon announced that the applicant, Mr. Audeh, had requested a postponement for his project. Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Skelsey absent):

The agent for 3407 R Street requested a postponement for this project since the neighbors of this ongoing project had not been notified of the proposed plans. We assume they requested an OGB postponement as well. If this is not the case, ANC 2E requests that the OGB not review this project until the ANC has an opportunity to do so.

Commissioner Lever arrived at this time.

3100 Dumbarton Street (OGB 06-123): Revised plans were presented for the enclosure of the porch on the first level. Commissioner Solomon inquired as to whether the initial plans for the property included the enclosure. Tom Birch, former Chair of ANC 2E,

stated that the enclosure idea was new. The applicant provided two different design options which differed in the type of windows. Commissioner Lever worried that after the current exterior wall was converted to an interior wall it could then be demolished. Several neighbors appeared to oppose the project. Commissioner Eason moved (Starrels Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Skelsey abstaining):

ANC 2E strongly opposes the plans proposed to enclose a porch on the back of 3100 Dumbarton Street, the "Philip Berry House." The enclosure would be seriously out of character with the house's Federal history and architecture and the balance characteristic of that historic period, and would do great damage to the view of the house from 31st Street, which is immediately adjacent to it.

Consent Calendar: Commissioner Clements moved (Lever Second) to approve the consent calendar, which passed by a vote of 6-0. The consent calendar included the following projects:

OGB 06-170, 1691 34th Street

3255 Prospect Street (OGB 06-010): Eric Morrison appeared to present the third version of plans for 3255 Prospect Street. The new plans now had a height of 32 feet on the west end of the building. The square footage of the plan, 15,870, remained the same. Commissioner Skelsey noted that the massing of the building would negatively affect both Potomac and Prospects Streets. He also expressed concern over the parking density in the area, particularly during rush hour. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Eason Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E continues to strongly oppose the proposed project for 3255 Prospect Street. Very few building sites in Georgetown are built to their maximum allowed density. While a FAR of 6.5 is allowed on this site as a matter of right, the resulting six-story mass would result in serious damage to the historic small-scale residential character of Prospect and Potomac Streets.

The scale of this building is commercial by its very size, although it is directly adjacent to 19th Century two-story residential buildings. This kind of precedent – setting maximum density development, if allowed here, will inevitably head to other massive redevelopment in this area, destroying the remaining small-scale neighborhood.

We further note that the owners of the property have steadfastly declined to meet personally with representatives of the neighborhood, including this ANC.

3315 N Street (OGB 06-176): Christian Zapatka presented plans for a one story rear addition that included the infill of a side courtyard. The house to the west was under construction at the time. The side court would now include an atrium structure. The door and window designs would return to those seen in historic photographs of the home. The

project would use 50% of the allowed 60% lot coverage. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Eason Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E is not opposed to the proposed addition on the rear but is not supportive of the side fill- in of the courtyard in light of the lack of input from the staff of the Historic Preservation Review Office.

2459 P Street (OGB 06-193): Plans were presented for a fifteen foot garage at the rear of the property. The applicant stated that the space would be used for a car as well as storage. The location of the property is near the Sheridan garage and is not visible from P Street. Commissioner Lever asked the owner if the garage would ever be used as a rental unit. The owner responded that it would not. Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E is not opposed to the proposed new garage off the rear alley. We did question the owner to make sure that the proposed garage would not ever be used for residential purposes. We appreciate the owner's commitment and his willingness to go through the proper process.

2455 P Street (OGB 06-188): Plans were presented for a two-story rear addition which extended eleven and a half feet from the rear of the existing structure. The brick addition would be slightly lower than the house of the neighbor and would not cover and windows. Commissioner Skelsey noted that the plans would reduce the size of the courtyard. Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the project as presented for a two-story addition at 2455 P Street.

At 8:54 PM, with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Clements moved (Starrels Second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Submitted for the Approval of ANC 2E,

Brett F. Clements
Secretary, ANC 2E