

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

October 1, 2012

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 Starrels, Solomon, Jones, Sticka, and Birch present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of October 1st, 2012 Agenda

The agenda for the October 1st, 2012 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Starrels (Commissioner Sticka seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Approval of the July 2nd, 2012 Minutes

The minutes for the July 2nd, 2012 ANC 2E public meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Starrels (Commissioner Birch seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported that ANC 2E's savings and checking accounts remain secure.

The FY 2012 budget was approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Jones seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion regarding staff pay (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E approves effective as of October 1, 2012 a salary for Ms. Melanie Gisler, Executive Director of the Commission, a half-time position of at-will employment, of \$1,270.83 per month payable monthly in arrears, and a maximum of \$15,250 for such salary payments in any twelve-month period.

Public Safety Report

Commissioner Solomon introduced Lieutenant Hedgecock, who offered a public safety report. Lt. Hedgecock reported a decline in violent and property crimes but did mention that retail shoplifting continues to be an issue in Georgetown. Pickpocketing is becoming more common and Lt. Hedgecock encouraged community members to take measures to prevent such crimes. After a question by Commissioner Solomon, Lt. Hedgecock said that the Metropolitan Police Department has begun planning their police details for Halloween and the Presidential Inauguration.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Lewis reported that the O & P Street rehabilitation project ribbon-cutting took place in the last month and that feedback regarding it has been very positive. Commissioner Sticka reported that the G-2 bus is not being restored to these streets until December, a change from previous reports on the bus' return. Commissioner Lewis reported on on-going discussion regarding the loss of several parking spaces near the intersection of 35th Street and Reservoir Road and DDOT's agreement to add several parking spaces in the 3400 block of Dent Place. Commissioner Jones reported that over a dozen sidewalk spots were repaired by DDOT in the last month and that repairs to storm-damaged areas will continue this month.

Department of Public Works Report

Commissioner Jones reported that areas of the community have been experiencing DPW not picking up trash. Commissioner Jones encouraged those experiencing these issues to call 311 and contact their single-member district commissioner. Commissioner Jones also reported that Urban Forestry is planting new trees throughout the community through April.

Commendation

ANC 2E honored the Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School by unanimously adopting the following commendation:

In recognition of sustained and generous community engagement, ANC 2E commends Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School. For many years, the School has been an active partner with the adjacent community, working together creatively to ensure a harmonious relationship. The School has shared its facilities and resources in an open and welcoming way, including regularly hosting the community's ANC meetings. The School, in its own words, strives for a spirit "marked by gentleness, kindness, optimism and thoughtful concern for others," and it is evident in the way the School interacts with the community that the School is truly guided by those aspirations. We hereby acknowledge and express our appreciation and gratitude to Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School for its outstanding service and positive impact on our community.

Community Comment

Commissioner Lewis introduced Craig Cassey, Jr. a first-time candidate for ANC 2E, in single-member district 4. He introduced himself to the community and explained why he was running to be a part of ANC 2E.

The Dumbarton Park Conservatory updated the community on current beautification and restoration efforts.

Commissioner Lewis reported that the Office of Planning has informed GSA on how they will recommend that the West Heating Plant will be zoned once it is sold to developer. This zoning recommendation is that the Comprehensive Plan be followed on this parcel, allowing rehabilitation of the existing building for commercial development and reserving other parts of the site for parkland. Ruth Werner from Councilmember Jack Evans' office reported that the city government will be closed for Columbus Day. She also reported that there are upcoming hearings on various issues this fall and encouraged community members to keep themselves abreast of these hearings.

A community member also reported on an upcoming forum with the at-large City Councilmember candidates.

New Business

3050 R Street NW, Jackson Arts Center

Commissioner Birch discussed the recent interest of a developer purchasing the Jackson Arts Center. A community member from the Center discussed why she believed it was important that it remain a community arts center. Several other community members, including a representative from CAG, spoke in support of this use.

Commissioner Birch made the following resolution (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed on a vote of 5-0 (Commissioner Lewis recused):

Whereas, the Jackson School, built in 1890 at the corner of what is now R Street, NW and Avon Lane, NW, and currently designated as 3050 R Street, NW, is owned by the Government of the District of Columbia and at present administered by the Office of General Services and is a designated Landmark under historic preservation law; and

Whereas, the Jackson School was closed in 1971, and by 1980 was being used for arts education and artist's studios, such use continuing to the present under the umbrella of the Jackson Arts Center, a non-profit organization, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), which relates to charitable and educational organizations to which contributions are tax-deductible; and

Whereas, the Jackson Arts Center has been occupying the building for almost 15 years under a lease from the District of Columbia which expires in July of 2013; and

Whereas, the Jackson Arts Center has been in negotiations with the District of Columbia to extend its lease for five years, only to have recently been offered a three-year extension, with the suggestion that the District of Columbia may wish to dispose of the property for commercial development thereafter; and

Whereas, the community is highly supportive of continuing the present use of the Jackson School for arts education and particularly artists' studios.

It is now therefore, by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E,

Resolved, that the Commission urges the appropriate City Officials and Agencies to extend the lease for the Jackson School to the Jackson Arts Center for a period of not less than five years; and, further

Resolved, that should the District of Columbia conclude that it should dispose of the Jackson School, that it insist that the future use of the building be in the furtherance of arts education and artist studios and impose those conditions on any disposition, and that priority be given to the Jackson Arts Center in any such process; and, further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Council Chair Phil Mendelson, Councilmember Jack Evans and the other members of the City Council.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Historic Preservation – Raze Permit Application

3324 Dent Place, NW, OG 12-348 (HPA 12-583)

A representative from the property presented on their proposal to raze a residential building. An engineer presented by the representative said that he believed it needed to be razed because the current state of the home was dangerous to anyone living within it. Community members also spoke about the immense damage present at this site and spoke in support of the permit for razing.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

In the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this property, ANC 2E recommends that approval be granted to raze the existing house. Even before a fallen tree demolished much of the second floor of this home, the house had fallen into neglect for so many years that it would have required significant efforts to restore it. The demolition caused by the tree compounded the demolition by neglect in progress at that point to the extent that we do not believe it would be appropriate to attempt to restore this structure.

At the same time, this has been a building of historic merit in terms of its size and location on the property. We urge the Old Georgetown Board to signal to the owner that as and when plans for a replacement house are presented, the Board articulate that they will move for a similarly-sized building with similarly-sized rear- and side-yard setbacks and similarly-sized height. We would also like to see the replacement house incorporate any exterior historic siding to the fullest extent possible. We do not suggest that the raze permit be conditioned on presentation of plans but that the Board articulate its expectation as to what it is looking for in way of a replacement home.

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

With regard to 3321 N Street, NW, OG 12-358 (HPA 12-593)

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal for one- and two-story rear additions and the addition of a new window well on the front façade. A neighbor spoke about her objections to these modifications on the basis of the existing easement. Another neighbor spoke about his lack of contact with the neighbor and his objections to the proposed terrace.

Commissioner Jones made the following resolution (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes the one- and two-story additions as proposed for the following reasons. The 3325 N Street easement access would also be removed as state in its current language, by creating a below grade tunnel. This tunnel would also remove the current view from the street into the existing backyard.

The proposed addition would greatly diminish the light, air, and space at 3325 N Street. The proposed would also significantly cover the semi-circle east facade located at 3325 N Street, which built in 1891 is historically unique and would overall adversely impact this important historical property. It would also completely block views from the six windows that are currently in place at 3325 N Street.

The proposed addition brings concerns to much massing to the already existing 5,400 square foot building. The window additions to the west side of the 3321 N Street brings privacy concerns as well as changes in its overall historical fabric.

The elevated grade of the proposed terrace would bring privacy concerns and a possible "pit" effect to the 3325 N Street and 3319 N Street. If the side brick fences were raised to reduce the privacy concern, this would only increase the pit effects to both 3319 and 3325 N Street.

The northeast rear door addition with porch may reduce the privacy of the residents at 3319 N Street.

It should also be noted that the adjacent neighbors to 3321 N Street have also reported significant concerns with the project.

With regard to 3222 M Street, NW, OG 12-294 (HPA 12-482):

A representative from the property spoke about their updated sign scheme proposal for Georgetown Park. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates and has no objections to the concept as presented. The scheme appears to be more effective at demarcating the entrance to Georgetown Park. We also do not object to the use of limestone.

With regard to 3029 M Street, NW, OG 12-351 (HPA 12-586):

A representative from the property presented two possible sign schemes for “Scotch & Soda.” Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to option 1 with lettering on the face of the building as presented.

With regard to 3100 P Street, NW, OG 12-363 (HPA 12-600):

A representative from the property presented their proposed 2-story rear addition. Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposal as presented.

With regard to 1645 31st Street NW, OG 12-356 (HPA 12-591):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal for the addition of an underground parking garage to the Williams-Addison House, also known as the Friendly Estate.

After discussion, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes the proposal for underground parking at this property finding it unnecessary for the single-family home that exists. ANC 2E, in keeping with previous resolutions taken by this Commission, remains concerned about the change in character that this would bring to historical property and neighborhood.

With regard to 2523 P Street, NW OG 12-349 (HPA 12-584):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal to the Historic Preservation Review Board for a rear addition to the sunroom.

After discussion, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

Absent any objections known from neighbors, ANC 2E has no objection to the proposal as presented.

With regard to 3247 R Street, NW OG 12-357 (HPA 12-582):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal for razing an existing structure at rear and a new one-story building with basement at rear.

After discussion, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

With an understanding that the existing structure at the rear is not a contributing building to the historic architecture of Georgetown, ANC 2E has no objection to the razing of this structure and replacing it with a similar-sized structure.

At 9:19 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Sticka 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

1