

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

May 31, 2011  
Georgetown Visitation School, 35<sup>th</sup> and Volta Place, Heritage Room

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

**Administrative**

***Approval of May 31 Agenda***

The agenda for the May 31, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Commissioner Jones seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

***Approval of April 4 Meeting Minutes***

Approval of minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on May 2, 2011 was deferred until our meeting scheduled for July 5, 2011.

***Public Safety and Police Report***

Commissioner Solomon introduced Lt. Hedgecock from the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District. Lt. Hedgecock reported that property crime in our area, particularly in the form of burglaries, has significantly increased over last year. Another area of concern is that bicycle thefts have also been increasing.

Lt. Hedgecock said that MPD is attempting to combat these issues by increasing deployments on 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Wisconsin Avenue, and Prospect Street. Lt. Hedgecock also asked the community to be vigilant about locking their doors and keeping an eye on what is happening in the neighborhood.

After a question about it, Lt. Hedgecock recounted a recent incident in which a sexual assault happened following an individual impersonating a taxi driver. Lt. Hedgecock proceeded to speak about the recent home invasion in Burleith, saying only that it was fair to say that the incident was targeted.

***Financial Report***

Commissioner Solomon reported that ANC 2E's first quarter allotment for FY2011 was approved and that our checking and savings accounts are both robust.

***Transportation Report***

Commissioner Lewis reported on the District Department of Transportation's decision to grant ANC 2E's request for a reconfiguration of the southern part of Thomas Jefferson, NW. It will begin to be transitioned into a two-way street by mid-June.

DDOT is also considering the left-arrow out of Safeway on the red light that requested. DDOT will inform us within the next month if they are going forward with this project or not.

Commissioner Solomon encouraged neighbors to continue speaking with each other as the rehabilitation of O and P Streets continues. Commissioner Solomon said that the progression from block to block may not seem sensible, but is due to gas line installation.

Commissioner Jones reported that the project is on time and on budget. 36<sup>th</sup> Street is being completely upgraded, while 37<sup>th</sup> Street, 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street are having their gas lines replaced and being repaved.

Commissioner Solomon also asked that community members report water lines that they would like replaced while the streets are already undergoing construction.

### ***Public Works***

Commissioner Jones thanked the Georgetown BID for informing the public about rat abatement. Commissioner Jones also reported that the Department of Public Works is continuing their enforcement on a daily basis in Georgetown and Burleith. He encouraged residents to step-up their efforts to avoid violations.

Commissioner Jones said that on hot days, DPW will be doing trash pick up as early as 6am. Residents can place trash out at 6pm or later the night before. According to Commissioner Jones, DPW will hold monthly meetings about hazardous materials, which can be taken to Fort Totten for drop-off while bulk items can be picked up after a call to 311.

Commissioner Jones finally said that the budget's impact on DPW is still unclear.

### **Community Comment**

Commissioner Lewis reported that Georgetown University's 2010 Campus Plan continues to have its hearings before the Zoning Commission.

Ruth Werner from Councilmember Evans' office reported that the ward redistricting process was winding down and that ANC and SMD redistricting would begin by mid to late summer with the entire process done by the fall. Commissioner Birch asked who would participate in this process and Ms. Werner said that any individual who expressed an interest in the process would be a part of it.

The communications consultant for the O and P Street revamp project presented on their efforts to make the project as amenable to community members as possible. Commissioner Lewis reported that Washington Gas has been more compliant with restrictions on outdoor meters. The Old Georgetown Board is now working with the electricity utility to reach a

similar agreement, restricting their ability to do outdoor metering in the Georgetown Historic District.

## **New Business**

### ***Capital Bikeshare***

Commissioner Lewis introduced a representative from DDOT's Capital Bikeshare program. The representative said that the proposed station at the Hyde School was being reconsidered. The representative said the narrow streets in Georgetown as well as the need for solar energy to charge stations limited the locations where stations could be placed. A community member asked about the possibility of placing a station on the triangular area between M Street and Pennsylvania Ave., NW. The DDOT representative agreed to investigate the possibility of placing a station at this location.

### ***Georgetown Gateway Condominium Petition for a Loading Zone***

Commissioner Eason spoke about a petition that residents of the Gateway Condominium, 2500 Q St NW, have started requesting a loading zone and short-term parking in front of the condominium entrance. A representative for this said that they felt this would make the site safer. Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Resolved, by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, that the petition of residents of the Gateway Georgetown Condominium to establish short-term parking at 2500 Q Street, NW is acknowledged, and the Commission has no objection to establishment of the parking restrictions requested. The Commission encourages the petitioners and DDOT to consider the times during which these restrictions would be in force.

### ***Hardy Farmers Market***

Commissioner Solomon presented on the request of the Hardy Farmers Market to begin set-up half an hour earlier. After discussion, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E was informed by the Hardy Farmers Market that some vendors, but not all, require additional time to set up their booths starting at 7:30 instead of the current 8:00 AM start time. ANC2E has not received complaints about vendors starting at the current 8:00 AM set up time.

Although ANC 2E has no objection to the earlier start time, it is sensitive to residents' concerns about noise especially on Saturday morning.

ANC 2E requests a report from the Hardy Farmers Market by October 31, 2011 listing any complaints about the 7:30 start time and the resolution to the complaint. The start time of 9:00 AM to sell products shall remain the same.

### ***Public Space Permit for flower baskets***

Commissioner Lewis spoke about the Georgetown BID flower boxes and the positive impact that they have had in the community. After discussion, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E supports renewing the public space permit for the flower baskets maintained by the Georgetown Business Improvement District in the Georgetown business district. The flower baskets are well-maintained by the Georgetown BID and they have become a welcome and identifying feature of the Georgetown business streetscape.

### ***Nation's Triathlon***

Commissioner Lewis presented the background on the Nation's Triathlon and the manner in which it has led to traffic difficulties in Georgetown in the past. A representative then spoke on the triathlon and the route that they are proposing for September 11, 2011. The road closures for this year's event would leave M Street and the Key Bridge open to traffic and would also leave westbound Canal Road open to traffic from Key Bridge to Foxhall Road. The timing has also been changed so that cyclists will be off the road by 11:30am. An additional representative spoke on how this triathlon helps raise money for blood cancer research. Commissioners Lewis and Birch and a community member questioned the representatives about how the charitable fundraising for this event functions, ascertaining that it is some of the riders and not the event's sponsor that contribute funds for charity.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E provisionally recommends approval of the route in Georgetown proposed for the Nation's Triathlon on September 11, 2011. We are concerned about this route because last year, the same route caused serious gridlock in West Georgetown. The race ran late last year and traffic control was not as well coordinated as it should have been. As a result, traffic stalled on M Street, NW between Wisconsin Avenue and Key Bridge, causing ripple-effect gridlock throughout West Georgetown.

We cannot afford to let this happen again. Moreover, this event is sponsored by a for-profit organization for its own benefit. While the event encourages participants to support a charitable cause, the charitable support is from the participants, not the event sponsor, and might be transferable to an event in another venue.

We have been assured by the event's sponsor that the event will end and all roads will be open this year by 11:30am, with no exceptions. We have also been assured by MPD/SOD that a better traffic pattern will be in place this year, with the westbound lanes of Canal Road staying open to traffic this year as far as Foxhall Road, and with enhanced planning and traffic-control communication during the race.

Based on those assurances, we are willing to recommend approval this year on a one-time basis. We urge the event's planners to select a different route, one that does not affect the Georgetown area, in the future.

## **Zoning and Planning**

### **1679 35<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, BZA Application No. 18232:**

Commissioner Lewis said that the owner of the property was unable to attend the meeting. He reported that the owner is requesting a special exception to establish an accessory apartment on his second floor. A representative from CAG said that they do not feel as though there is enough information to make a full decision. Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E opposes the application for a zoning exception at this time.

Two exhaustive zoning reviews are under way currently that affect the requested exception. One is a zoning re-write, which we expect will include neighborhood zoning for the Georgetown Historic District that will set out in detail rules tailored to fit the neighborhood for dealing with accessory apartments. This should include, for example, clarification of occupancy limits, rules that recognize the effect on historic buildings, and more detailed consideration of what it means to be “owner occupied,” as well as other factors.

The other current review is under way at the Zoning Commission, where the issues of students living off campus in our community is a major concern. Both ANC 2E and the Office of Planning have concluded that the residential character of the community is in jeopardy from the current level of off-campus student housing. The Zoning Commission has that key point under consideration now.

Until those key issues are resolved, we cannot recommend an exception in the current case that would risk exacerbating a situation that is already very serious now, and in need of remedy, in our community.

## **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, with the exception of 3240 Q Street, NW 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**

### **1700 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-191 (HPA 11-307):**

A representative from Dumbarton Oaks spoke about a proposed rear addition and alterations to property they have purchased at 1700 Wisconsin Avenue. The representative spoke about the manner in which Dumbarton scholars were significantly different from other students. They also spoke about the 13 parking spaces that were

available and their plans to mitigate traffic impacts. They displayed pictures of the sightlines that would result.

After discussion by Commissioners, neighbors, and the representative, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the planned use of 1700 Wisconsin Avenue, NW as presented. We strongly urge the applicant to reach out to its neighbors as this project continues. We have concerns about the massing's affect on the sightlines and access in and out of the parking lot in this congested area.

## **Private Projects**

### **With regard to 1037 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, OG 11-199 (HPA 11-315):**

The applicant spoke about the need to lower the first floor of the storefront to make it wheelchair accessible so that the property can attract a commercial retailer. The applicant presented on the manner in which the entrance design was consistent with the nearby area.

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

ANC 2E appreciates the design presented in concept and the effort to present a design that is compatible with the industrial surroundings. However, we are concerned about the loss of the historic fabric to this area and would encourage alternative designs.

### **With regard to 3229 M Street, NW, OG 11-189 (HPA 11-305):**

A representative from the property spoke about alterations to the property's storefront and sign scheme. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the signage and alterations as proposed.

### **With regard to 3347 M Street, NW, OG 11-178 (HPA 11-293):**

A representative from the property spoke about the current problems with the property and the proposed alterations to the windows, doors, and the roof deck. After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has, based on the project as presented, no objection. We understand that only the residents of the second floor apartment, and not the first floor restaurant will be the only individuals with access to the roof deck.

**With regard to 1059 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW, OG 11-150 (HPA 11-229):**

A representative from the property spoke about their application for a rear addition and alterations. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Birch proposed the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed 5-0:

To the extent that these revised designs have responded to concerns raised, ANC 2E has no objection to the plans as presented.

**With regard to 1258 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-194 (HPA 11-310):**

A representative from the property spoke about their application for a change in signage, awnings, and lettering. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Birch proposed the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the signage, the awning, or the lettering as presented but we object to the presence of a blade signs.

**With regard to 3240 Q Street, NW, OG 11-269 (HPA 11-269):**

A representative from the property spoke about recent changes to their design. A neighbor spoke to how these changes were unacceptable and how the representative has still failed to contact all of their neighbors.

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

ANC 2E is disappointed that the length, height, and bulk appearance of the proposed addition as re-submitted do not appear to reflect the guidance provided by the Old Georgetown Board at last month's meeting or the recommendations of ANC 2E.

The addition remains greatly disproportionate to the size and height of the original house. We continue to recommend that it be made significantly shorter, with a lower roof line. It could also help, even within a shorter addition, to have a still shorter second story that steps down to a one-story addition.

We also continue to oppose a lower deck above ground level, as people on the deck would be able to see over a seven foot fence into the neighbor's yard.

**With regard to 3333 Q Street, NW, OG 11-122 (HPA 11-182):**

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed three-story rear addition and basement garage. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and

Commissioners, Commissioner Birch proposed the following motion (Commissioner Sticka), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E is pleased with the direction in which this project has progressed. It appears that the project has been responsive to the concerns that we and the Old Georgetown Board raised in the last round of review. We encourage the applicant to preserve the open green space to the fullest extent possible.

**At 9:52 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