

Minutes for the Public Session of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

February 1, 2005

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by the Chair, Commissioner Solomon, with Commissioners Starrels, Lever, Clements, Moore, Skelsey, and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes: The minutes of the January 4, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed by Commissioner Clements.

Quarterly Financial Report: Commissioner Lever, Treasurer, informed ANC 2E that two open items still needed to be reconciled with the city and that we would move the report to the March 1 public session.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Georgetown Project Update: Len Levine informed ANC 2E that work was on schedule and barring any unforeseen circumstances would be completed by July of 2005. At the time of the meeting, work was being done by WASA on the water main and its connections north of Q Street. Streetscape work would not continue until warmer weather allowed it. A question was asked regarding the height of the metal plates covering temporary holes on Wisconsin Avenue. John Deatruck of DDOT said that weather prevented better installation of the plates, but that efforts would be made in the future to ensure a better fit of such plates. On Q Street, the plates were double stacked and overlapped because of the large amount of bus traffic on the road. Also, the "No Parking" signs were removed south of P Street.

Police Report: Noting that MPD was present at this time, the Chair moved down the agenda to the police report. Lt. Carter of MPD gave the report for the month of January. Overall crime was up 8%. There were three or four robberies the prior weekend and the perpetrators were arrested by MPD in a different part of DC based on descriptions given in the Georgetown incidents. Assault was up, but the Lt. felt these were isolated incidents. Two arrests were made in the assault cases. Burglaries for January were down with eight total reports (compared to fifteen in January 2004). A problem spot in the neighborhood has been the Urban Outfitters at 3111 M Street. There were several cases of shoplifting in the past month and MPD was helping the store owners with instituting further security measures. In regards to 1324 35th Street and the car vandalism at that location, MPD said that the investigation was ongoing and a warrant could be issued in the next week. Lt. Carter relayed how Lt. Felicia Lucas was injured in the line of duty during inaugural weekend. Commissioner Starrels sent his best wishes to Lt. Lucas on behalf of the commission.

Announcement of ALL meeting at Georgetown University: Commissioner Clements informed ANC 2E and those present that the Alliance for Local Living, a workgroup of residents, University administrators, students, and others would hold its monthly meeting in the Leavey Program Room on the Georgetown University Campus on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 PM. Anyone is welcome. It was asked from the floor whether or not press was able to attend. Chuck Vansant, Director of Off-Campus Student Life for Georgetown University, stated that when the group was founded, it was agreed that press would not be allowed.

DC Office of Emergency Preparedness: Commissioner Solomon informed the Commission that DCEMA would have a meeting at Eckels Auditorium on the Mt. Vernon Campus of The George Washington University on February 26, 2005 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Update on Traffic Signage at 37th & P Streets to Protect Pedestrians: Haamid “Happy” Johnson, a student at Georgetown University, came to ANC 2E to present a petition of over 500 signatures asking the Commission to request a stop sign at the intersection from the District Department of Transportation. Commissioner Clements noted that in August, former Commissioner Glick had proposed such a resolution and that DDOT replied to the request by stating that the definition of a stop sign prevented one at said location. They installed a curve warning sign and a 15 mph limit sign. He then noted that the location was still unsafe. Residents attested to the danger at the intersection. Commissioner Clements moved (Eason second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E is still concerned about the safety of pedestrians at the intersection of 37th and P Streets and asks the Department of Transportation to reconsider a crosswalk or another type of calming device to slow vehicles down and make them aware of pedestrians in the intersection.

Community Commendations for Past Commissioners:

Commissioner Solomon Commended Len Levine
Commissioner Clements Commended Michael Glick
Commissioner Moore Commended Tom Birch
Commissioner Eason Commended Mark Ryan

NEW BUSINESS

Special Items

Resurfacing of Blue Alley: John Deatrack and Ardeshir Nafici of DDOT informed ANC 2E of plans to pave Blues Alley with a gray textured concrete in approximately a month. Cost, durability, and maintenance were the factors going into the decision. This plan met with much opposition from attendees. Many wished that DDOT would pay close

attention to the historic material of the Blues Alley. When asked about the possibility of paving brick similar to that recently completed on Bank Street, Mr. Deatruck estimated that brick would be \$200,000 more expensive than the concrete. After much discussion, Mr. Deatruck agreed to wait on the project and involve neighborhood leaders in further discussions about the proposed material.

ABC Matters

Leopold's Kafé Konditorei: Owner and proprietor Anthony Lanier, with his attorney, presented the plans for a new restaurant at 3315 Cady's Alley. He requested approval for a stipulated license. The hours of the establishment would be 7:00 AM until Midnight. Mr. Lanier envisions contemporary minimalist décor and a menu in the style of an Austrian coffeehouse, specializing in pastries. There will be 70 seats indoors and 50 seats in the courtyard. There will be music in the courtyard. Valet parking will be available and there are 400 spaces within one block of the site. Cady's Alley also has an underground trash disposal room that is emptied daily. Commissioner Starrels moved (Lever second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses a new restaurant named Leopold's Kafe Konditore at 3315 Cady's Alley and supports their request for a stipulated license.

Georgetown Bar and Billiards: Commissioner Starrels informed ANC 2E that a Voluntary Agreement had been accepted by the owner, his attorney, the Citizens' Association of Georgetown, and the ANC 2E ABC committee. Commissioner Starrels moved (Skelsey second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E will lift its protest of the changes to the ABC license of Georgetown Bar and Billiards and enter into a Voluntary Agreement (attached) with the establishment.

Sequoia Restaurant: The attorney for Sequoia Restaurant introduced a proposal for live outdoor music on the patio area during the summer season. Commissioner Starrels, Chair of ABC committee, had negotiated an agreement with the establishment, as a change to the current Voluntary Agreement between ANC 2E and Sequoia. The approval by ANC 2E would be for one night a week and on a trial basis only. Noise is not to exceed city noise ordinance limits and three failed tests would result in an end to the agreement. The band would play in a location 500 feet from the closest current resident. Questions were raised as to which party would pay for sound testing. Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E lifts its protest of the proposed changes for Sequoia restaurant and enters into a revised Voluntary Agreement (attached) with the stipulation that all sound testing will be paid for by the proprietors.

Zoning and Planning

Harvard University, 3100 Whitehaven Street (BZA Case No. 04-32): Attorney Dennis Hughes, representing the Trustees of Harvard University, presented the proposed Campus Plan for the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies for 2004-2014. The University has maintained the Center for 41 years. The site includes a library, housing structures, and meeting facilities for the approximately 10-12 mid-career scholars. The special exception hearing was to be held on February 10, 2005 at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Eason moved (Moore second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Commissioner Lever absent):

ANC 2E has no opposition to the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies application to the Board of Zoning for a special exception for a campus plan at 3100 Whitehaven Parkway, NW.

2509 P Street (OGB 05-080): The architect for changes to the White residence presented plans for the reconstruction and expansion of the existing front porch and the addition of a new basement entrance. The new entrance would be used to facilitate easier access to the basement with the family's young children. It would not be for a basement apartment. There was no opposition voiced by residents. Commissioner Eason moved (Moore second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E does not oppose the changes to the White residence at 2509 P Street.

At this time Commissioner Lever announced that 3345 Reservoir Road (OGB 05-073), the Gupta residence, had withdrawn its request for consideration this evening.

3033-3035 M Street (OGB 05-083): The architect and owner, Anthony Lanier, presented plans for proposed additions to the recently acquired property and changes to the façade. The existing structure was originally built in 1808 and a completely new façade was constructed in 1887. Changes were subsequently made in 1910 and in the mid-1970s. The new use for the property would be retail on the first floor and basement with apartments on the top two floors. Access to the apartments would be from the rear alley, which would subsequently require a shared easement with neighboring properties. There was no written agreement between EastBanc Properties and the neighbor at the time of this meeting. Commissioners acknowledged that the current façade of the building was not historically accurate, however, questions were raised as to the appropriateness of the proposed two story glass and metal changes. Commissioner Moore moved (Eason second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC2E supports the general use concept of the property, however, we cannot support the project because there is no easement agreement with the neighbor and the two story entrance does not respect the existing cornice or historic integrity of the 3000 block of M Street, as a whole.

3618 Prospect Street (OGB 04-274): The architect for the project presented the proposal for rooftop changes to the property including the addition of a roof deck. The home was built in the 1940s and renovated by the presenting architect in the late 1990s for a previous owner. Access to the roof deck would be from an interior pull down stairwell. Outdoor mechanical fixtures would also be removed in the project. The architect acknowledged that while ANC 2E does not normally approve roof decks, the unique location of the property would not infringe upon anyone else's privacy, except that of other roof decks. The ANC noted that emails supporting the roof deck were received from both adjacent neighbors. With the addition of the 15' by 18' roof deck, the home would be the tallest structure on the block. Commissioner Starrels moved (Clements second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-2 (Eason and Lever dissenting):

ANC 2E does not oppose the project as presented, but the view from the Key Bridge should be taken into consideration when the proposal is heard before the Old Georgetown Board.

1000 Potomac Street (OGB 05-084): The architects for the changes to the Flour Mill building presented ANC 2E with a proposal for new landscaping and changes to signage on the façade. The new façade would include a washed out vertical "Flour Mill" painted in white directly onto the building. Pictures of similar signs in Washington, DC were presented. The lettering would be 28'' tall, more than twice the 12'' allowed. In addition, a three-dimensional logo would be installed on the lower portion of the façade. Commissioner Starrels moved (Lever second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E does not oppose the alterations to the landscaping, but does not support the signage as it is too large and is not in keeping with current regulations.

1042 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 05-053): The proprietor of the Prince Café presented ANC 2E with plans for a sidewalk eating area with a post and chain barrier. Questions were raised regarding the necessity of tables on both sides of the restaurant entrance, the walking room left with light posts and BID waste receptacles, and whether or not smoking of hookahs would be allowed in the outdoor area. Commissioner Starrels moved (Clements second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E opposes the concept due to the dynamics of the changes as well as the lack of knowledge of the material of the barrier and other important details.

3246 P Street (OGB 05-079): The architect for the project presented plans for connecting Addison Elementary and the Hyde School (DCPS). Additional parking, window replacement, a new roof, and a handicapped ramp, would also be a part of the project. The cost of the project was estimated at \$500,000. Construction would commence in January of 2006. Questions were raised about new traffic patterns for parents dropping off students and their effects on P Street during the morning rush hour. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Lever second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the plan as presented.

3240 P Street (OGB 05-092): Jean-Luc Vivier proposed changes to his hair salon. The changes included alterations for rear demolition of the current addition, installation of a new shed, and the addition of a new cornice. It was noted that many of the changes would require use of the Addison School parking lot and driveway. Commissioner Skelsey moved (Clements second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the plan as long as all portions of the project are communicated to DCPS, as well as the principals of Addison Elementary and the Hyde School, and these parties do not oppose the changes either.

At 10:06 PM, with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lever moved (Starrels second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Submitted for the Approval of ANC 2E,

Brett F. Clements
Secretary, ANC 2E