

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

March 4, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair. Commissioners Solomon, Jones, Starrels, Birch, and Steury (late arrival), were present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of March 4, 2014, ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the agenda of the March 4, 2014 ANC 2E public meeting. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Approval of February 3, 2014, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2014 ANC 2E public meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Public Safety Report

Commissioner Solomon reported that there were high visibility assaults on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue. We will see more uniform police officers in the area. He will meet with CAG and BID to see how to get more police presence. More thefts on Wisconsin Avenue and M Streets. Lt. Hedgecock requested that Commissioner Solomon remind that people breaking into cars are testing door handles. Also keep valuables out of sight. Officer Adkins will check your house while you are away for some time.

Financial Report

Commissioner Jones reported that the ANC recently received DC allotment. ANC finances are secure.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Lewis reported that DC has a good track record repairing potholes when reported on 311. DDOT approved the changes on 35th St. between Whitehaven and Wisconsin, which will become 2-way in March, weather permitting. There will be a new light at Holiday Inn. May decommission the southern light on Wisconsin. May revise 2 crosswalks, northern one at light and may remove southern crosswalk.

Department of Public Works Report

Commissioner Jones requested the public's patience with DPW's pick up of trash during the inclement weather. If trash and recycling are not picked up, please bring it back in until next pick up date. Recycling is not a priority during bad weather.

New trash cans and recycling bins were delivered to Burleith this week. Georgetown will receive new bins in the spring. Sticker provided to put on old or new cans for pick up. Need additional stickers for properties with multiple cans. Regarding bins, DPW says lids will close in warmer weather. Public may keep old bins, just put new bins out for pick up with yellow stickers.

141 year record of snow and ice events for Baltimore Washington area which has been a drain on resources and systems. Whole neighborhoods need to support DPW keeping streets and sidewalks clean.

Environment and landlord programs are in place. If residence has 4 or more tenants, need special business license to rent.

Community Comment

James Bolger from the Mayor's office announced Pothole Poluzza. Call 311 and report potholes and they will usually be fixed within 24 to 48 hours. The State of the District Address will take place at Kelly Middle School next Tues. at 7 p.m.

Commissioner Jones reported that the OGB did not approve the plans for Hyde-Addison School. Need to provide scheme more above ground, preserve existing parking and maintain play space. Possibly have concept by April meeting. They will pursue 2 tracks for permit, one for interior work and one for exterior.

New Business

Commissioner Lewis summarized water run off and sewer situation and explained the huge underground tunnel.

Mr. Carlton, Director of DC Waterfronts Project, discussed changes from the original plan. There would be 1 much smaller tunnel down river. The middle section of the waterfront will have several outflows, the farthest west outlets will be downriver from Key Bridge. They will build green infrastructure in Georgetown which will have to go through the OGB process. This is a 20 year plan, projected to finish in 2025.

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Councilmember Jack Evans arrived at 7:16 pm. The ANC meeting was paused for his comments.

Councilmember Evans reported that the DC budget will be presented April 2 by the Mayor. City is doing great. The bond rating is in the best shape all year. 17th year with a balanced budget. 1.75 billion in savings. Triple A rating today. Is concerned that police lost arbitration with the city for pay raise and will work on this issue. Opened the floor to questions.

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The ANC meeting resumed with DC Water stating that DC needs to reduce overflow volume sooner than 2025 which will be done with green infrastructure, 2015 in Rock Creek and 2016 in the Potomac. DC Water needs public support and comments. March 14 is the end of the public comment period.

Nicole Condon of DC Water discussed fracking in the national forest. It is a form of oil and gas recovery. Water and sand pressure is used along with chemicals to break rock and release natural gas. DC Water is concerned about the surface water supply. The Potomac is threatened by fracking in the George Washington National Forest. DC Water needs support to ban fracking in GW National Forest. Fracking will have negative impact on drinking water. The 1 million acre forest will impact source water quality. The chemicals benzene and radium, among others are protected by trade secret laws. Ms. Condon was invited to the next ANC public meeting, March 31, to further discuss the consequences of fracking and to get support from the ANC.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

Whereas:

ANC 2E supports green policies and appreciates the efforts of DC Water to use still-evolving green technology to reduce pollutants flowing into the area's rivers and is mindful of the need to harmonize such technology with historic streetscape considerations in the Georgetown Historic District;

ANC 2E appreciates DC Water's commitment to engage extensively in community outreach and to work with community groups and residents toward minimizing any disruption of both green and gray construction; and

ANC 2E appreciates the increasing awareness and concern by DC Water for protecting both the Georgetown waterfront and the historic streets of Georgetown.

Therefore, it is RESOLVED THAT

ANC 2E strongly supports the concept of viable alternatives to construction and disruption in the Georgetown waterfront area caused by the original plan for a storage tunnel at the Georgetown waterfront;

ANC 2E believes it is important to avoid destructive excavation along the Georgetown waterfront and to avoid destruction of historic fabric in the Georgetown Historic District;

ANC 2E supports the concepts of DC Water's Proposal to Modify the Long-Term Control Plan of the Clean Rivers Project by using green technology where feasible;

ANC 2E appreciates and believes it would be productive to explore further the implications of DC Water's new proposal to construct parallel sewer lines in a relatively small area of Georgetown between the C & O Canal and K Street NW; and

ANC 2E looks forward to working with DC Water in a timely and collegial effort that involves the community and all of the stake holders in refining a plan that minimizes disruption for both the Georgetown waterfront and the public spaces and streetscape in the Georgetown Historic District.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion regarding the Marine Corps Marathon scheduled for October 26, 2014, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

ANC 2E supports the Marine Corps Marathon for 2014. We feel the MCM is the most important of the all the races we review. ANC 2E endorses the MCM and greatly encourages the Park Service to allow the MCM to use Rock Creek as it would result in the MCM being completed 1 hour earlier in Georgetown.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion regarding the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure scheduled for September 27, 2014, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

ANC 2E has no problem with the 13 mile planned ride using the Whitehurst Freeway.

As for the 33 mile and 50 mile planned rides, while ANC 2E does not object to the outbound route, ANC 2E strongly objects to the proposed inbound route, which would travel through the residential streets of Burleith and Georgetown. It is our practice not to approve bicycle routes through the residential streets of our community. These streets are crowded with pedestrians and vehicles, and many of the intersections have stop signs that bicyclists can tend to ignore. We therefore urge that the 33 mile and the 50 mile proposed routes inbound through Burleith and Georgetown be rejected.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion regarding picnics in Volta Park by the West Side Club on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day 2014, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

ANC 2E supports the request by the West Side Club to have picnics in Volta Park on Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day 2014.

ABC Issues

The Commissioners endorsed the substantial change in Settlement Agreement for 1063 31st Street, NW, ABRA License No. 83707, Il Canale in the paragraph as distributed to the parties.

Zoning

With regard to 2803 Dumbarton Street, NW, BZA Application No. 18739, Application for special exception for a two story rear addition to a one-family row dwelling not meeting the court requirements:

Commissioner Birch made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Steury. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

ANC 2E has no objection to the application for special exception as presented. We are aware of no negative impact on the adjacent properties and no objections from the immediately affected neighbor. We are also pleased that significant efforts have been made to retain the historic fabric of the residence.

CFA/HPRB

With regard to 1680 35th Street, NW, Duke Ellington School of the Arts remodeling

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

ANC 2E affirms its earlier comments on file with the [Board] [Commission] on the renovation of the Duke Ellington School. With regard specifically to the design aspects of the updated proposal:

The Front Lawn. We urge the [Board] [Commission] to instruct the applicant not to provide parking on the front lawn. The lawn is a defining element visually and historically, and parked cars should not mar its sweep and grade. A parking lot on the lawn would be visually jarring from both 35th Street and from R Street. Moreover, to provide a parking lot on grade with R Street, some 4 or 5 feet of earth would have to be excavated, requiring a substantial retaining wall and disrupting the visual sweep of the lawn. The applicant can and should work with DDOT and the community on off-site parking alternatives.

We also urge that any scoop-out from the center of the lawn to add a below-grade entrance, if permitted at all, be made as small as possible.

The Portico. We urge the [Board] [Commission] not to approve the proposed glazing behind the columns, in what should remain an open space where the classic architecture of the building is at its strongest.

Rooftop Issues. The stage “fly” should be lowered. We question the need for elevators on the roof but if any are provided, they should be located so as not to be visible from the ground. We affirm our earlier comments regarding the inappropriateness of a rooftop performance space and deck.

Materials, Colors, and Massing. The revised palette is an improvement. Our questions remain about appropriateness of the materials proposed for the new construction and the massive appearance of the additions at the sides and rear of the building.

Landscaping and Lighting. Landscaping and lighting will be important issues on which we expect to comment as plans are developed.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for the discussion of Old Georgetown Board items.

With regard to 3601 – 3607 M Street, NW, OG 14-113 (HPA 14-220)

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

ANC 2E does not endorse the concept as presented. The overall massing of the proposed design including a roof top swimming pool is not changed much from the 2011 presentation.

As we pointed out previously, this area is significant. It represents one of the major sightlines and gateways to Georgetown. It’s location on M Street and below the residential and University areas, is also of note.

The industrial/modern design is not in keeping with the use of brick on commercial and residential structures in this part of Georgetown. It seems appropriate to keep the brick/stone character of buildings

above and to the east and west of this site.

The building itself is monolithic – more tiered design would seem more appropriate to this site and would help with the issues associated with the residences to the north and to the west, the historic “Exorcist” steps, and the stone wall to the east. This would help with the overall aesthetics of the design.

ANC 2E would like to reiterate our preference for a 40’ height limit, or have a tiered design which would be no higher than 40’ in a great portion of the design.

ANC 2E is also concerned about possible stability problems and the effects that reducing or taking away light will have on the hillside to the north, which supports the houses on the south side of Prospect Street. Special consultation is needed to address the engineering concerns of the neighbors on Prospect Street.

ANC 2E also has objections to the rooftop amenities at this location.

The site deserves a design that is less boxy and blends better with this area of Georgetown. Our Georgetown constituents as well as the millions who use Key Bridge and the nearby streets and sidewalks deserve a building that better represents the uniqueness of our village.

(Commissioner Ron Lewis did not participate in the discussion of this project and the subsequent vote on the resolution.)

With regard to 1337 27th Street, NW, OG 14-108 (HPA 14-213), 1339 27th Street, NW, OG 14-107 (HPA 14-212), 1341 27th Street, NW, OG 14-105 (HPA 14-210) and 1343 27th Street, NW, OG 14-106 (HPA 14-211)

Commissioner Birch made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E recognizes the appeal of the new design but we object to it as a replacement for the original wall. We support the historic aspect of rebuilding the wall as it stood and appreciate not only the aesthetic qualities but the measure of privacy and security it affords to properties on either side of the wall.

With regard to 3238 P Street, NW, OG 14-103 (HPA 14-206)

Commissioner Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Starrels. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E opposes the proposal as presented for the following reasons: The addition should be subservient to the original building. The scale and massing is of concern in conjunction with the adjacent streetscape. The third floor addition is inappropriate. We oppose the roof deck as proposed.

With regard to 1357 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 14-084 (HPA 14-158)

Commissioner Birch made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E has no objection to moving the addition forward toward Wisconsin Avenue but we do object to the additional mass to the rooftop addition which continues to override the property at 3160 O Street, NW.

With regard to 3314 M Street, NW, OG 14-111 (HPA 14-217)

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E enthusiastically endorses this proposal as presented.

At 10:53 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn the public

meeting session of ANC 2E. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. With a vote of 6-0, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Gisler
Executive Director
for
Peter Prindiville, SMD 08
Secretary, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E
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