

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

April 1, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Lowenstein, Starrels, Birch and Eason present, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting during the discussion of the Circulator and Metro busses in the New Business agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Lewis reported on the crime statistics for PSA 206 for the 30-day period February 23 through March 24, noting that crime was up for most categories compared with the same period in 2007. He then called upon MPD Sgt. Lennox Antoine, who gave an overview of recent crimes in our area and responded to questions from the community. Statistics on recent public safety incidents are available at <http://crimemap.dc.gov/presentation/query.asp> There is also a Second District web site including crime information at 2D_mpd@yahoo.com.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on March 4, 2008 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Birch (Solomon second) by a vote of 6-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Eason, Treasurer of the Commission, noted that a financial report will be presented at the Commission's next meeting.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Starrels reminded the community that the ANC Transportation Committee, chaired by Commissioners Starrels and Lewis, meets and confers regularly with the District Department of Transportation and other District government officials about transportation-related issues of interest within ANC 2E and that community input and suggestions are welcome and encouraged. Commissioners Starrels reported that DDOT would soon schedule a public meeting, set tentatively now for April 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. John's Church, to consider various preliminary findings and recommendations in its ongoing Georgetown Transportation Study.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Update on street trees from DDOT representative Liz Tylander. Liz Tylander, Community Outreach Coordinator from the Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Administration, updated the community on 112 trees planted recently in ANC 2E by Casey Trees and DDOT. She reported that an improved form of watering newly planted trees, using “ooze tubes,” will be available from Casey Trees and DDOT.

Georgetown University’s Relay for Life. Linda Greenan, representing Georgetown University, reported that the university-sponsored Relay for Life will be held on campus beginning Friday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. and ending Saturday, April 19, at 7:00 a.m. Volunteers will walk on Harbin Field throughout the night, raising funds for the American Cancer Society. Ms. Greenan said the university is taking steps to see that the all-night event will not disrupt or adversely affect the surrounding community. Ms. Greenan also reported that university students will be participating in neighborhood clean-ups in Georgetown during the coming weekend and in Burleith the following weekend.

Other. Brenda Moorman from the Citizens Association of Georgetown reported on plans for the upcoming Georgetown cleanup and on hazardous waste pickup on April 26th.

Mark Bjorge from the Mayor’s community outreach office and Ruth Werner from Councilmember Evans’ office were recognized and their availability noted to help residents with neighborhood issues.

Commissioners Solomon and Eason reported on their recent testimony about ANC 2E before a District of Columbia Council oversight committee on ANC’s chaired by District Council Chairman Gray.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Items

Nation’s Triathlon. A representative of the Nation’s Triathlon, which is scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 14, described the Georgetown portion of the triathlon and requested the Commission’s support. The proposed route will run over the Whitehurst Freeway from 6 am until noon. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E lends its qualified support for this year’s Nation’s Triathlon with the express stipulation that by our June meeting we have in place firm plans on traffic mitigation and police coverage.

ABRA matters and budget. Maria Dulaney, Executive Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Agency, reported that the number of show cause cases is increasing

and that ABRA's undercover investigators are very active, with a greatly increased caseload. She reported that support staff is needed in order to prepare these cases for the ABC Board. She reported also that the computer system is outdated and that ABRA needs additional online capabilities. After discussion by Commissioners and community members at the conclusion of Director Dulaney's report, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E asks that Council of the District of Columbia approve the funding for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration necessary to set up the computer system enhancements requested in ABRA's proposed budget.

The Circulator bus and the proposal for a new "31" Metro bus route. Jim Hamry, Long-range Planning Coordinator from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, reported that DDOT is considering ending the Wisconsin Avenue portion of the Circulator route and that WMATA is considering starting a new "31" bus along Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown, which would run every 30 minutes except during weekday rush hours, when it would run every 15 minutes. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E is opposed to the elimination of Circulator service on Wisconsin Avenue. We are opposed to the 31 bus as proposed. We are most concerned about the lack of frequency of the proposed 31 bus, including during rush hours and on weekends, as well as the number of stops. The need for bus service in Georgetown on weekends is just as great as during weekday rush hours, but the proposed 31 bus would provide only infrequent service. We are also concerned that the 31 bus will not be a specialized vehicle. We urge WMATA and DDOT to keep Circulator service on Wisconsin Avenue.

ABC Issues

Rhino Bar and Pumphouse Protest

Commissioner Starrels reported that a proposed voluntary agreement has been negotiated with Rhino Bar and Pumphouse. A representative of the licensee described the proposed voluntary agreement. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E by signing the voluntary agreement amendment with Rhino Bar and Pumphouse agrees to withdraw the protest in this matter when all parties have signed the amendment.

Zoning and Planning

No Action: Commissioners suggested at this point and later in the meeting that the following projects be removed from the agenda and treated as items for which no review is being undertaken by the Commission:

1669 Wisconsin Avenue (Lewis);

1078 Wisconsin Avenue (Starrels);

2903 Q Street, 1669 32nd Street and 1619 30th Street (Eason);

3526 P Street and 3240 O Street (Skelsey); and

3237 M Street (Birch).

There were no objections and the items were so removed from the agenda.

Consent Calendar: Immediately before the end of the meeting, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to place the following item on the consent calendar, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

The following item is considered to be on ANC 2E's Consent Calendar and will be sent to the Old Georgetown Board and other agencies without objection:

3425 Prospect Street, NW, O.G. 08-129 (H.P. 08-212)

3000 K Street, NW, Washington Harbor, O.G. 08-138 (H.P.A. 08-221):

Concept plans were presented for a rooftop mechanical enclosure. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the design element but has concerns about noise because the proposed chillers are not completely enclosed. ANC 2E encourages the applicant to enter into discussions with the condominium representatives about the noise and the possible effects on neighboring residences.

3034 M Street, NW, O.G. 08-127 (H.P.A. 08-210):

Concept plans were presented for a rooftop railing and modification to location. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Eason not present):

ANC 2E objects to the concept as proposed for the following reasons: we believe it would become essentially a rooftop terrace; it would violate the historic nature of the M Street corridor; and we are concerned about the setback and the visibility of the

railing from areas on M Street. We would be in favor instead a railing alongside the walkway sufficient to prevent access to the green roof, even if this would mean a higher railing.

3304 M Street, NW, Jannus et Cie, O.G. 08-137 (H.P.A. 08-220) :

Concept plans were presented for signage. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Eason not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as proposed.

3251 Prospect Street, NW, Morton's, O.G. 08-145 (H.P.A. 08-228):

Permit plans were presented for an outdoor café. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-2 (Skelsey and Eason opposed, Lewis abstaining):

ANC 2E has some concerns about the design. We hope the Old Georgetown Board takes into consideration the sightlines from Prospect Street; the narrowing of the entrance to the restaurant; handicap accessibility; and the relationship of the common space to the neighboring building. We also have possible concern about the size of umbrellas used in the outdoor dining area and the relation to the proportions of the area and the sidewalk. We also object to the number of signs as shown in the drawings and we see no need for additional signage.

3325 Prospect Street, NW, O.G. 08-143, (H.P.A. 08-226):

Concept plans were presented for a pedestrian gate at historic Wormley School. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the gate as proposed.

3526 P Street, NW, O.G. 06-043 (H.P.A. 06-054):

Revised permit plans were presented for a new basement entry. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Starrels not present)

ANC 2E is not able to take any position on this proposal because we were not made aware of the plans.

1616 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Easel Hair Studio / Vicky Nails, O.G. 08-126 (H.P.A. 08-209):

Permit plans were presented for existing awning signs and an existing blade sign. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E objects to the awning signs on the second story and to the neon signs in the second story windows. We do not object in concept to a blade sign at the first floor level and urge the Old Georgetown Board to review the proposed sign carefully.

1717 34th Street, NW, O.G. 08-102 (H.P.A. 08-171):

Permit and concept plans were presented for a third floor addition at the rear, in progress. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E cannot support this project because of concerns by neighbors and the lack of a presentation to the ANC.

2500 Q Street, NW, Gateway Georgetown Condominiums, O.G. 08-146 (H.P.A. 08-229):

Concept plans were presented for antenna replacement and new roof equipment. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Solomon not present):

ANC 2 E has no comment other than that the design of the new antennas should make them as inconspicuous as possible.

3058 R Street, NW, O.G. 08-142 (H.P.A. 08-225):

Concept plans were presented for a one-story side addition, and window and door alterations. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Solomon not present):

We are unable to take a position with regard to this project because we have not received plans nor was there anyone at the ANC meeting to present this project.

3259 R Street, NW, O.G. 08-086 (H.P.A. 08-142):

Concept plans were presented for partial demolition of a 1959 addition and a side and rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Commissioner Skelsey recused himself and did not participate in the discussion or vote on this project):

We appreciate progress made in response to the earlier comments by ANC 2E and the Old Georgetown Board but we continue to have significant concerns about the overall size and massing and we have some reservations as well about the amount of glass in the new addition.

3045 N Street, NW, O.G. 08-135 (H.P.A. 08-218):

Concept plans were presented to replace windows, enlarge an existing areaway, and replace roof skylights and HVAC equipment, in progress. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E appreciates that the applicant at our request agrees to remove the proposal from the April agenda of the Old Georgetown Board and to stop work on the project while the neighbors and the applicant discuss the issues intensively over the next two weeks in the hope of resolving outstanding concerns.

ANC 2E requests the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to immediately conduct an inspection at this site to advise the ANC, the applicant and the neighbors concerning issues of fire safety, structural stability, and permit compliance on the total project. We request DCRA to notify ANC 2E of the time or times of its inspection and to coordinate the inspection and appropriate information with the ANC and the community.

If after two weeks the issues between the applicant and the neighbors remain substantially unresolved, ANC 2E resolves to request DCRA to immediately stop all work on the site pending resolution of the issues.

At 10:30 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Ron Lewis
Secretary, ANC 2E