

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

November 30, 2009
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Golds, Starrels, and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on public safety matters and recent crimes in the community, noting BID has reauthorized the reimbursable detail for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday to allow regular patrol to focus on patrolling the community; thefts and robberies have spiked recently, and people need to be diligent during the holiday season; and, that there has been an increasing pressure on panhandling. Commissioners and community members asked questions relating to the crime alerts.

Commissioner Birch joined the meeting at this point.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on November 2, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Eason seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances. The 4th Quarter Financial Report has been submitted. ANC 2E is waiting for approval from the auditor on its 3rd Quarter Financial Report and should have the monies soon.

ANC 2E's budget for FY2010 was approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Eason seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community, noting that DDOT will patch the worst spots on O and P streets between Wisconsin and 35th before the hard freeze.

2010 ANC 2E Public Meeting Dates

The public meeting dates for ANC 2E, as laid out below, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Solomon seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Monday, January 11, 2010
Monday, February 1, 2010
Monday, March 1, 2010
Monday, March 29, 2010
Monday, May 3, 2010
Tuesday, June 1, 2010
Monday, June 28, 2010
Monday, August 30, 2010
Monday, October 4, 2010
Monday, November 1, 2010
Monday, November 29, 2010

Community Comment

Community members made comments regarding the street and trolley-tracks rehabilitation work planned for O St. and P St. and the soon-to-be-formed community relations team.

Commissioner Lewis mentioned that a potential Hurt Home developer will hold a public meeting tomorrow evening at Oak Hill Chapel (30th Street, NW and R Street, NW) at 7:00 pm to review plans. He also noted that the Merriment in Georgetown event will take place on Sunday from 3 to 6 pm on Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting at this point.

New Business

Public space permit application by Cloisters West Homeowners Association for streetscape enhancements to the Cloisters' Reservoir Road Entrance

Representatives from the Cloisters West Homeowners Association presented their plans to enhance the Reservoir Road entrance to their project. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

The modifications to public space proposed by the Cloisters West Homeowners Association to the Reservoir Road entrances to the Cloisters West property are relatively modest. We have not received any objections to the proposal from members of the community, and we understand the design of the proposed modifications has been approved by the Commission on Fine Arts. Accordingly, ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed modifications to public space at this location.

Application of the George Town Club for valet parking pick-up and drop-off spaces at 1530 Wisconsin Avenue

No representative from the George Town Club was present to discuss their plans for continued valet parking at the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members concerning some issues with the current valet parking operation brought to the ANC from members of the surrounding community, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion

(Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Commissioner Eason not voting):

ANC 2E acknowledges the benefit that valet parking can provide to the community by reducing congestion and improving safety, but only when properly organized and managed.

However, we note with great concern the instances of poor management that have been reported by neighbors with the existing valet operation and the lack of proper response from the club management.

We note with further disappointment that the applicant did not attend a publicly advertized ANC meeting (and to which they had been specifically invited) to discuss the application, while many affected neighbors did attend.

While we are not necessarily opposed to a valet system at the George Town Club, we emphatically request that the Public Space Committee insist that any valet proposal meet the following conditions:

1. It be conceived and organized in close consultation with the affected neighbors.
2. It be strictly monitored and enforced by the Club and the proper enforcement arms of the city.
3. It be authorized by the Public Space Committee for a trial period of no more than three (3) months, at which point an objective assessment of its effectiveness be done.

ANC 2E implores the applicant to reach out and work with the neighbors to adopt its proposal and refine its current valet management practices.

Hardy School progress and leadership

Commissioner Starrels spoke about Hardy Middle School and its status under Principal Patrick Pope. He noted that the leadership of the school may be changing. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Commissioners Skelsey, Lewis, Eason abstained)

ANC 2E requests Chancellor Michelle Rhee to talk to more past and present parents and students who have worked with Mr. Pope before making any changes. We urge Chancellor Rhee to keep Principal Patrick N. Pope as principal of the Rose L. Hardy Middle School. He deserves the system's full and unwavering support.

Zoning and Planning

Philly Pizza—1211 Potomac Street, NW—Zoning Administrator's determination re: restaurant vs. fast food establishment; Upcoming BZA hearing

Members from the community spoke to the impact the establishment is having on the community and a representative for the establishment stated their case. After discussion by Commissioners

and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-1 (Commissioner Golds dissenting):

ANC 2E strongly supports the determination of the Zoning Commissioner—and independently determines based on extensive observations by neighbors and ANC Commissioners—that Philly Pizza & Grill, Inc. is operating as a fast food establishment, not a restaurant. Examples include:

- Customers sitting on the front stoops of neighbors' houses because there are many more customers taking pizza out to eat than there are seats in the establishment.
- A customer was photographed urinating on the front door of a house across the street from the fast food restaurant.
- Customers in cars double park in front of a neighbor's garage and alley with music blaring
- Metropolitan Police Officers spend a lot of time patrolling the street, and on more than one occasion have had to have a car and officer in front of the establishment in order to maintain some aspect of order.
- Trash cans placed in front of residents' houses across the street and down the block from the establishment.

Because of this fast food establishment, the neighbors' peace, order and quiet has been violated and their basic quality of life has been damaged.

ANC 2E Commissioners Solomon, Starrels, Lewis, Skelsey, Birch, and Eason, or any of them, are authorized to present the report of ANC 2E and to act for ANC 2E on any matters which may come before the Board relative thereto.

Commissioner Eason left the meeting at this point

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Lewis recused himself from the consideration and vote for all of the following items relating to the Old Georgetown Board on the ANC 2E agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Starrels chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

1321 35th St., NW, OG 10-024 (HPA 10-044), Residence:

Representatives from the property presented plans to install solar panels on their roof. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E urges the Old Georgetown Board to consider very carefully the visual impact that such devices will have from all possible points of view.

3015 M St., NW, OG 10-029 (HPA 10-054), Sprinkles:

Representatives from the store presented their sign scheme and alterations to the storefront. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Skelsey seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not support the proposal as presented for the alterations of the façade at 3015 M Street, NW which would require the removal of the two bay windows and the contribution they offer to the historic character of the Georgetown commercial district. We would not support the bench for seating on the exterior nor would we support signage attached to the brick. We encourage the applicant to work with the existing material and improve on the blank slate at the location.

3210 Q St., NW, OG 10-037 (HPA 10-062), Residence:

Representatives from the property presented concept plans for a third floor addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the addition of a third floor at 3210 Q Street, NW. We look to the Old Georgetown Board for special consideration of design issues at this especially visible location.

2623 O St., NW, OG 09-348 (HPA 09-414), Residence:

Revised concept designs were presented for a two-story rear addition with basement and dormers. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E very much appreciates the effort taken by the architect and the applicant to address concerns of neighbors on all sides of this project. ANC 2E has no objection to this project as presented.

3009 Dumbarton St., NW, OG09-339 (HPA 09-405), Residence:

Revised concept plans were presented for a two-story rear addition and the demolition of a rear wing and garden structure. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept of a rear addition at 3009 Dumbarton Street, NW. However, we encourage the Old Georgetown Board to consider a design which has a minimum impact on the adjacent property and to review the proposal's copper cladding with the consideration of its compatibility as a building material in this context. ANC 2E also encourages the maximum retention of historic fabric existing at the rear of the property.

1351 Wisconsin Ave., NW, OG 10-041 (HPA 10-066), Commercial:

Plans were presented for the repair of the neon "Georgetown" sign on the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the

following motion (Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Starrels not voting):

ANC 2E supports the proposal for repair of the iconographic “Georgetown” sign at 1351 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

At 9:15 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Solomon seconded) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Aaron Golds
Secretary, ANC 2E