

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

November 28, 2011
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Starrels, acting Chair, with Commissioners Starrels, Jones, Sticka, and Birch present, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Eason joined at 6:49 p.m.

Administrative

Approval of November 28 Agenda

The agenda for the November 28, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Birch (Commissioner Sticka seconded) by a vote of 4-0.

Approval of October 3 Minutes

The minutes for the October 3, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Birch (Commissioner Jones seconded) by a vote of 4-0.

Approval of November 1 Minutes

The minutes for the November 1, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Birch (Commissioner Sticka seconded) by a vote of 4-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Birch offered a financial report, reporting that the finances of ANC 2E remain secure.

Commissioner Birch made a motion to approve the fourth quarter financial report (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 4-0.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Starrels reported that he had a meeting with a District Department of Transportation representative about the implementation of smart meters for parking in Georgetown.

Commissioner Jones reminded the community of their ability to offer input on the O & P Street rehabilitation project. Commissioner Jones reported that as of November 28th, 2011 the project remains on time and on budget. Commissioner Jones also informed the community that he has reminded project contractors that they should not be using on-street,

residential parking places beyond the agreed-upon limits. Finally, Commissioner Jones reported that the project is considering replacing 45 trees in the area and up to 50 tree boxes.

Public Works

Commissioner Jones reported that the Department of Public Works is currently working on leaf collection. DPW has promised to not skip any areas in Georgetown. Commissioner Jones asked that neighbors do what they can to rake the leaves together. Commissioner Jones also informed the community that SWEEP inspectors are now using iPads to log violations. Last week, the SWEEP inspectors found several serious trash violations in Georgetown.

Community Comment

Commissioner Starrels reported that Prince Café has been using neon signs in their Georgetown locations and that citations should be issued as a result.

New Business

Proposal for change of lanes for Wisconsin Avenue from S Street to Calvert Street

A representative from the District Department of Transportation introduced the project being proposed to narrow Wisconsin Avenue from S Street to Calvert Street to one-lane for north-south traffic, except in the a.m. and p.m. rush periods. DDOT is also planning on adding a median area for pedestrian and left turns and widening sidewalks.

Commissioners from ANC 2E questioned the DDOT representative about impacts that this project could potentially have in Georgetown. Commissioner Starrels asked the representative why this project had not been better communicated to ANC 2E. A commissioner from ANC 3B also gave a presentation on why this project was important to the Glover Park community and why ANC 3B was supporting it.

After this discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation and endorses the initial phase of the Glover Park Improvement project as presented by the District Department of Transportation. This motion in no way is an endorsement of permanent raised medians. At this stage in the project ANC 2E is only endorsing the use of painted medians. ANC 2E does endorse the streetscape improvements, including the widening of the sidewalks.

ABC

1206 Wisconsin Avenue, Big Wing, Inc. t/a Blue Gin, License No ABRA-017458

Commissioner Starrels spoke about the application for a 120-seat summer garden. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes and protests the license for Best Wing Inc. trading as Blue Gin. ANC 2E opposes the addition of the summer garden for concerns regarding peace, order, and quiet. ANC 2E also notes that after proper notice and reception of this notice no representative from the property attended the meeting to discuss this application. ANC 2E also questions whether Big Wing has standing to make these changes in the middle of an existing Voluntary Agreement.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

With regard to 1248 30th Street, NW, OG 12-036 (HPA 12-066):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal to add new windows and doors to a garage on the property. After discussion between Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the plans for alterations on the façade of 1248 30th Street, NW. We prefer option B with carriage doors and look to the opportunity to request closure of the curb cut in the process of this project coming to completion.

With regard to 1249 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 12-027 (HPA 12-055):

Commissioner Birch spoke about the blade sign being proposed for this property. Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes the blade sign proposed for UGG at 1249 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

With regard to 2823 Q Street, NW OG 12-039 (HPA 12-069):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal for rear opening alterations and lighting change. After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

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

With regard to 1669 Wisconsin Avenue, NW OG 12-029 (HPA 12-059):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed alterations of the property's windows, awning, and sign. They also discussed their desire to use the window for the sale of goods. After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the proposed sign, awning, and use of the building façade for sale of goods through the window. ANC 2E is, however, concerned with possible other uses for this window and would want to reexamine the property again should any changes be made to the operation on the property.

With regard to 1738 Wisconsin Avenue, NW OG 12-026 (HPA 12-053):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed 3-story rear addition to a 2-story building. They also discussed modifications to the roof that could constitute a roof deck.

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

ANC 2E, with respect to 1738 Wisconsin Avenue, understands that the proposal is for concept review only. In that context, we have concerns regarding the proposed roof-top deck and the massing of the rear addition. We look forward to the opportunity to have increased input from adjoining neighbors as well as the neighbors on 34th Street prior to the permit stage.

With regard to 1524 34th Street, NW OG 12-044 (HPA 12-074) and OG 12-045 (HPA 12-075):

A representative from the property spoke about their proposal for the relocation of the front door of the property to the side. The representative spoke about their outreach to their neighbors.

After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Jones made the following motion for the Old Georgetown Board (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as proposed. ANC 2E believes the much greater setback of the property compared to adjacent properties and the replacement of the door will mitigate any historical preservation concerns.

Commissioner Jones also made the following motion for the Historic Preservation Review Board (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposal. The rear balcony extension above the bay window is minimal and does not disrupt the historic nature of the area.

With regard to 3254 O Street, NW OG 12-046 (HPA 12-076):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed partial demolition and reconstruction of the garage with an enlarged footprint and second floor.

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

ANC 2E strongly opposes the proposal. The design characteristics result in extensive increase in massing of this property, and damages the current historic character of the alley. The design proposal of the property extends lot to lot on the south side of the property, and removes the historic pathway characteristics on the southwest side of the current garage structure. The design of the trellis/walkway between two buildings on this property further changes the entire historic character of the entire lot, and fragments the current open garden structure. We find the trellis/walkway to be unprecedented and unusual. Also, the overall residential appearance of the current garage is not in keeping with the historic character of the walkway.

Zoning relief is likely to be required for this proposal. This design proposal takes an unusually high number of technical steps to minimally gain zoning relief. ANC 2E requests these technical design factors be considered so possible zoning relief is not mitigated. Under no circumstances should the garage dwelling be used for residential purposes.

With regard to 1432 Wisconsin Avenue, NW OG 12-025 (HPA 12-041):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed sign for DC Jewelry Center and rolling grille.

After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Jones made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E, in the absence of a presentation before our body, objects to the concept as proposed of the rolling grille because it is contrary to the historical nature of the neighborhood.

With regard to 3259 M Street, NW OG 12-038 (HPA 12-068):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed alterations at the rear and raised roof.

After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 4-0:

Neighbors have voiced opposition to the proposed project at 3259 M Street, NW. There is concern that the neighbors have not had proper notice prior to tonight's presentation. Better advance communication is vital for the operations of ANC 2E. Neighboring owners have stated a number of problems that they have with this project but have received no response.

Among these problems are the proposed massive brick and glass wall rising straight up from the property line. This solid wall will severely restrict existing site lines, light, and air flow. This property is located on a very narrow alley. The only entrance has a warning sign indicating that it is 7-feet wide. This is a dead end alley. The extension clearly suggests a commercial use with customer entrances and exits via the alley. This double use will certainly increase the value of the property; however, it would most likely result in diminishing the value and usability of the adjoining properties.

As such, ANC 2E cannot support this project at this time. ANC 2E requests that the Old Georgetown Board explore the concerns relating to the project's sight lines, with issues regarding light and air given particular attention. Exploration of the overall impact that the proposed changes would have on this small, narrow historic alley is also in order. ANC 2E thinks that a site visit may be appropriate.

At 9:07 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Starrels moved (Commissioner Jones 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