

Minutes for the Meeting of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

December 1, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair.
Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Jones, Cassey, Starrels, Birch, Quinn and Steury were present, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Cassey left at 8:53 p.m. Commissioner Quinn left at 9:32 p.m.

Administrative

Approval of December 1, 2014, ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the agenda of the September 29, 2014, ANC 2E public meeting. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Approval of November 3, 2014 meeting minutes

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2014 ANC 2E meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Approval of ANC 2E FY 2014 Fourth Quarter financial report

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the FY 2014 Fourth Quarter financial report. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Public Safety Report

Lt. Knutson of MPD reported that he was taking over for Lt. Hedgecock beginning in July 2014. Detective Sgt. Mabel reported that there were two arrests this month for break-ins and that MPD is making progress on burglaries and vehicle break-ins in the neighborhood. They are also working on street robberies. Commissioner Birch asked for more police presence in residential areas. Commissioner Solomon asked about protests near businesses and Mabel stated that MPD takes a "hands-off" approach to any demonstrators to protect first amendment rights unless destruction of property is involved. Commissioner Starrels asked that tow trucks on K St. should be regularly ticketed as they cause a visibility issue near the movie theater and ice rink areas. Commissioner Quinn noted that there have also been a rash of muggings in the university area early in the evening. Lt. Knutson reminded everyone to lock doors of homes and cars.

DPW Report

Commissioner Jones reminds that this is the final round of leaf collection. Several fire hydrants were reported inoperative and were quickly repaired. Washington gas meters or regulators may not be placed on public space, the community is urged to report this if it happens. Also bricks must be replaced with original bricks by utilities. If it is not done in a timely fashion, it should be reported to 311.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Lewis reported that with regard to the Pennsylvania Ave. bridge project, the engineers are zeroing in on a proposal and possibly speeding up the process but have not made a decision yet.

Department of Public Works Report

Commissioner Birch reported on the DDOT meeting regarding dumpsters. A pilot program is being considered and they are looking at how many spaces is appropriate. Also looking at a daily charge instead of monthly similar to Old Town Alexandria's program.

Commissioner Lewis announced that ANC 2E 2015 meeting dates will be adopted

provisionally and reviewed in January.

Commissioner Lewis announced that the two new ANC 2E Commissioners are Kendyl Lawson (SMD 04) and Reed Howard (SMD 08)

Community Comment

Ruth Warner from Councilman Jack Evans' office announced that Jack is available to swear in new commissioners who cannot make the inauguration.

A representative of BID promoted the "GLOW" event.

The British School of Washington presented their proposal to renovate and expand the Jelleff Center.

New Business

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to daytime valet parking at Fiola Mare restaurant ANC 2E supports the application for daytime valet on 31st St.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

ABC

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

ANC 2E has no objection to the application for a stipulated licence for Via Umbria at 1525 Wisconsin Avenue, NW with the understanding that the operations and tastings under the license would be restricted to the interior of the first floor.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following motion:

ANC 2E withholds action on the underlying Class A license applied for by Via Umbria dependent upon the successful negotiation of a settlement agreement with the applicant pursuant to the commitment of the applicant to secure extension of ANC 2E's protest date of January 12, 2015.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion:

ANC 2E supports amending the settlement agreement of Epicurean on the Georgetown campus to provide that hours of service of alcohol on Friday and Saturday and permits restaurant to stay open 24 hours a day if they so choose to do so.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to J.Paul's restaurant ANC 2E supports the agreement as amended and removes the protest.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

BZA

Commissioner Jones made the following motion with regard to BZA 18884:

ANC 2E opposes the applicant's request for a zoning exception and variance to allow for the construction of an addition between the main building and the accessory building, and opposes the use of the accessory building as a residence.

The rear of the subject lot extends into an already tight residential area. We are concerned about filling that all-too-rare open space in this residential area. The space has the potential to become an attractive garden and there are considerable environmental and community advantages to maintaining it as open space. Our concern extends as well to possible harm the proposed addition may do to the current mature trees on or near this property.

We also do not favor changing the use of the accessory building into a residential building. In this already-tight residential area, a new residence would risk creating objectionable impacts so close to the existing residences.

We also note that the applicant's filing in this case has not characterized our position accurately. ANC2e has never indicated support for the zoning exceptions/variance the applicant is requesting. The applicant's filing incorrectly refers to our work on design elements of the proposal as including comments on zoning issues. However, when we review design proposals for consideration by the Old Georgetown Board, as we did for this property, we assume zoning and focus only on design, as does the OGB. The inquiry there, for both our ANC and the OGB, is often: If this were zoned to permit it, what should the project look like? That in no way implies approval for zoning exceptions or variances. We always take those up separately, as we are doing here. Please note, the ANC received strong opposition by the surrounding neighbors to the application for Zoning Relief.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

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Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Birch chaired the Old Georgetown Board portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to Hyde-Addison elementary school, 3219 O St, NW:
ANC2e supports the design plans as presented. We continue to find the massing and location of the addition as a positive contribution to maintaining the historic character among the surrounding buildings and streetscape. ANC2e does not object to the contemporary design, because the current empty lot provides an opportunity to explore design options that are most appropriate for the current time period and will help distinguish this building from the surrounding historic buildings. However, we realize a contemporary design can result in a much wider range of styles, structures and other elements than traditional designs. Therefore, we ask the Board to apply its technical expertise in determining appropriate contemporary design elements to ensure a harmonious relationship with the adjacent historic buildings and streetscape. Some of these elements may include determining the appropriate fenestration, application of cornices, verticality and other modern design considerations. ANC2e encourages the applicant to continue its strong efforts in working with the Old Georgetown Board so as to obtain final design approval as soon as possible.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to C & O Canal National Historical Park:
ANC 2E enthusiastically endorses the concept of the dock located at the 34th St., NW pedestrian bridge and C & O Canal.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 3206 N St., NW (OG 15-025):
ANC 2E has no objections to the design proposal as presented. However, we would appreciate if the applicant would consider removing the doors on the west side of the

coffee shop and add enhanced landscaping on the adjacent wall.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 1351 Wisconsin Avenue, NW (OG 15-054):
ANC 2E has objections to the proposed sunken gardens, because of the perceived damage to the specimen tree on the property and without further information we have reservations about the changes being proposed.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 1513 Wisconsin Avenue, NW (OG 14-321):
ANC 2E is disappointed the applicant has not fully responded to ANC, community and most recently Board requests. We have and continue to refer the applicant to the Old Georgetown Board Policy on Additions and Site Alterations to Structures in Georgetown; however, there has been strong reluctance on the applicant's part to comply. This can be evidenced by the following:

The strong consensus that no rooftop addition should be viewable from Wisconsin Avenue or P Street. However, the applicant continues to propose rooftop additions, which are viewable from Wisconsin Avenue and P Street.

The negative impact a rear addition would have on the surrounding residences. There was a request by the Board that the setback proposed for any rear additions should not exceed the average setback for the block. The average setback calculations obtained, indicate an average that is approximately 40 feet, yet the applicant proposes setbacks of 15 feet for the first floor, 25 feet for the second floor and 30 feet for the third floor. It is unfortunate the applicant continues to ignore necessary setbacks after multiple design presentations.

Concerns for preserving the mature tree.

ANC2e continues to oppose the design plans as proposed for this building in that they will negatively impact the historic character of this building, the streetscape, and the surrounding neighboring properties.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 1525 Wisconsin Avenue, NW (OG 15-048):
ANC2e has no objections to the proposal as presented; however, we ask the Board to consider if the increase in glazing and the repetitive logos on the west façade are appropriate.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 1529 Wisconsin Avenue, NW (OG 15-040):
In the absence of a presentation by the applicant, ANC 2E is aware of existing signage and other elements which give us concern and which we oppose.

The motion was seconded and carried 7-0

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to 1132 29th St., NW (OG 15-052):
ANC 2E appreciates the concept and believes it adds a nice dimension to the street and has no objections.

The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to 1065 Thomas Jefferson St, NW (OG 14-346):

ANC 2E continues to oppose the third floor additions and feels strongly that the street facade needs to be preserved, which includes the variations in roof lines.

The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion:

With regard to 3333 M St., NW (OG 15-042):

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation and has a preference for the perforated option.

The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

At 10:27 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn the public meeting session of ANC 2E. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Maysak
Executive Director
for
Ron Lewis, SMD 02
Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E