

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Skelsey, Golds, Starrels, Birch, 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. Sergeant Hackley reported that Lieutenant Milam is back. She also reported that thefts from automobiles continue to be a problem and remain a focus; no 61D noise violations have been issued since issuance was reauthorized several weeks ago. She answered questions about dog issues in Duke Ellington Park which she said would be handled by park police (though Shannon Cleary from the U.S. Park Service reported that this is not their property and clarification is needed); the “Georgetown Cuddler”; an assault on an officer in Burleith; the destruction of property at Georgetown University; the crime alert system (www.72hours.dc.gov); Book Hill Park curfew; and calls regarding noisy parties (36th St. and O St. on Saturday night).

Commissioner Skelsey left the meeting at this point.

Approval of February 2 Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E’s finances. He mentioned that ANC 2E has over \$12,000 in the bank, and that Fiscal Year Quarter 1 ANC allotment has been received and finances are up to date.

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) to give ANC 2E Executive Director Melanie Gisler a raise, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E approves effective as of March 1, 2009 a salary for Ms. Melanie Gisler, Executive Director of the Commission, a half-time position of at-will employment, of \$1,100 per month payable monthly in arrears, and a maximum of \$13,200 for such salary payments in any twelve-year period.

The line item for Salary of Executive Director in the budget for the ANC 2E 2009 fiscal year is amended accordingly and the line item for Payroll Taxes is amended to read \$1,250.

Commissioner Skelsey rejoined the meeting at this point.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community. The Commission hopes that a legal left turn will be added at the intersection of M St. and Wisconsin Ave. The committee reported that a pair of traffic control officers has been working somewhat more frequently on M St. during rush hours. Commissioner Lewis introduced Patrick Clawson who reported on his lamppost project to help the community select which lampposts are in most need of rehabilitation. He also reported that WASA is not yet ready to present on its planned Q Street construction west of Rock Creek Park but expects to attend the May 4 ANC meeting; that WMATA has reported that the D2 bus route will not be extended beyond DuPont Circle; and that DDOT has established a “pothole palooza”, where residents can report potholes so that they may be repaired. Commissioner Solomon reported that discussions are taking place about modifying or removing the no left turn sign for northbound traffic on Wisconsin Avenue at 34th St. and that parking will be restored on the east side of the 1800 block of 34th Street now that Hardy School construction is finished.

Community Comment

Community members made comments regarding the rats in certain areas and fines for improper trash removal; the community clean-up on April 18th (9 am at Volta Park) and a possible clean-up on the eastside; sandwich boards on the sidewalk; and the Relay for Life event at Georgetown University. Commissioner Starrels reported on recent graffiti visible along the Canal path near 31st Street. Former Councilmember Vincent Orange, representing Pepco, requested to be on the agenda for May 4 to update the community on Pepco’s work to shift from 4kv to 13kv power transmission in Georgetown. Commissioner Golds reminded the community of the upcoming Run for Rigby event. The Commission recognized Ruth Warner from Councilmember Evans’ office and mentioned the new Ward 2 representatives from Mayor Fenty’s office. Commissioner Birch reported on the upcoming sale of Scheele’s Market and ongoing efforts by the newly formed community group to save the market. A representative from the group, Malcolm Peabody, was present to answer questions. He mentioned that Mt. Zion Methodist Church has joined the group.

New Business

“French Market” Event sponsored by Georgetown BID

Representatives from the Georgetown Business Improvement District presented plans for their sixth annual French Market event. Commissioners and community members discussed the plans.

Georgetown University Alumni Event

Representatives from Georgetown University presented plans for their upcoming second annual class procession during their reunion weekend on May 30. Commissioners and community members weighed the issues from last year's event and possible changes to this year's event. Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E understands and shares the community concerns from last year's event and designates Commissioner Skelsey and Commissioner Golds to work with the University and community toward an event that minimizes the use of public space to the satisfaction of Commissioners Skelsey and Golds.

Farmer's Market at Hardy School

Representatives from the farmer's market spoke about their plans for their event at the Hardy School. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the effort of all contributors in bringing a Farmers Market to the Hardy Middle School. This Farmers Market will start its first season June 2009 and end on October 3, 2009. The organizers have agreed to sign an agreement to mitigate any impact on the neighborhood. The signatories to this agreement include the Burleith Citizens Association, ANC 2E and the Citizens Association of Georgetown.

This agreement includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Hours 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays
2. Set up by Farmers at 8 am
3. Farmers vehicles to be parked on school grounds
4. Location of market in Hardy School parking lot
5. Area to be cleaned after use

ANC 2E strongly supports this initiative.

ABC Issues

Zoning and Planning

Request for variance – curb cut – 32nd and S Streets, NW

No presenters attended the meeting. Commissioners discussed the property and the parking situation in the area, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E opposes the application for a curb cut by the owner of the property at 3200 S Street because the proposed curb cut would permanently remove two or three parking spaces in a residential neighborhood that are frequently used, particularly by visitors to Dumbarton Oaks.

Request for special exception for a side porch—3103 P Street, NW

Representatives from the residence presented plans for porch addition to their home. After discussion by Commissioners and community members focusing on the open nature of the porch, special configuration of the lot, and the openness of the property, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the request for the special exception that is proposed at 3103 P Street.

Old Georgetown Board

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

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

1650 30th Street, NW, OG 09-204 (HPA 09-167), Residence:

No representatives from the residence were present. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E is unable to support this project based on lack of plans and applicant's absence at our meeting.

1608 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 09-192 (HPA 09-154), Veena & Vikram Railan, Basil Thai Restaurant:

No representatives from the restaurant were present. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E objects to the blade sign as proposed for Basil Thai Restaurant at 1608 Wisconsin Avenue because it does not keep with the established rules for signs for street level businesses.

1405 34th Street, NW, OG 09-201 (HPA 09-164), Residence:

This project was moved to no review.

1415 34th Street, NW, OG 09-200 (HPA 090-163), Residence:

This project was moved to no review.

3116-3118 M Street, NW, OG 09-193 (HPA 09-155), Jean Paul Amsellem, sign for “Bodega”:

No representatives from the restaurant were present. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E objects to the projecting sign at Bodega and urges its removal for the reason that it is neither on a side street off M Street or Wisconsin Avenue nor advertising a second floor business.

1063 31st Street, NW, OGB 09-195 (HPA 09-158), Valerio Tremiterra:

Plans were presented for new windows, doors, awning and sign at the restaurant, with a focus on the new awnings. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E welcomes the restaurant to the neighborhood. We give qualified support to the awnings, but we ask that color, lettering, and fabric of the awning as well as the frequency of the logo on the awning keep with neighborhood standards.

1419-B Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 09-189 (HPA 09-149), 1419 Wisconsin LLC, Signs for “Yiro”:

No representatives were present. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

In the absence of any presentation, ANC 2E is unable to take a position.

1419-A Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 09-190 (HPA 09-150), J Cohen LTD – retail, Sign and projecting sign for “Jan’s”:

No representative was present. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E objects to the blade sign at 1419-A for Jan’s. it duplicates the signage in place at the building and is against our standards for proper positioning for blade signs.

1425 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 09-194 (HPA 09-157), Essam Chalf:

No presenter was present. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the projecting sign at 1425 Wisconsin Avenue, but we suggest the removal of the banner.

3030 O Street, NW, OG 09-203 (HPA 09-166), Residence:

A representative from the residence presented plans to alter their second floor porch. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection in concept to a partial closing in of the rear porch at 3030 O St., but we hope that the Old Georgetown Board will pay close attention to the design aspects such as the windows and railings. We look forward to some evidence of consent from the neighbors.

At 8:34 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Golds 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