

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

November 1, 2005
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by the Chair, Commissioner Solomon, with Commissioners Eason, Lever, Moore, Starrels, Skelsey, and Clements present, constituting a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes: The minutes of the October 4, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed by Commissioner Clements.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Police Report: Lt. Lucas of MPD gave the police report. Crime increased in PSA 206 for the month of October, compared to 2004. This was part of a city-wide trend. Reports in Georgetown included several armed robberies with a gun. One of assailants later used a stolen cell phone, which was being tracked. MPD was in the process of obtaining a warrant for the arrest of this “career criminal.” Lt. Lucas wanted to emphasize that reports of sexual assaults from the University area were not part of a larger trend. With the coming holiday season, crime generally increases. Lt. Lucas noted that people should travel in groups and be careful after dark. She also said that Georgetown is not well lit in certain areas and she had been working on this issue. The Halloween detail made four arrests over the weekend: two POCA, one urinating in public, and one unregistered auto. Commissioner Solomon noted that he was particularly pleased with the success of the Halloween detail. Commissioner Clements complimented Lt. Lucas on her officers when he went for a “ride along” with Commissioner Eason earlier in the month. Commissioner Eason moved (Clements Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

Resolved, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E salutes the Georgetown Business Improvement District, Georgetown Merchants and Residents, the District of Columbia Government, including the Metropolitan Police Department, Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Works for their joint efforts to make “Halloween in Georgetown 2005” an outstanding success; and, further

Resolved, that the ANC especially commends the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly Lt. Felicia Lucas and the entire 2nd District for their professionalism and planning for this major event which was enjoyed by all; and, further

Resolved, that a certified copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Chief of Police, the Commander of the 2nd District with our thanks and our request that it be forwarded as appropriate.

DMV Service Center in Georgetown Park: Commissioner Starrels announced the reopening of the DMV location in Georgetown Park Mall. Commissioner Starrels said he was pleased that after two years of work that Georgetown now had a full service location thanks to the Director Anne Witt and help from Gregory McCarthy of the Mayor's office. Patrick Clausen asked that continued effort be made to have the DMV open on Saturdays and closed on Mondays.

DDOT Updates: Ramona Burns of DDOT announced three open house style events in November for community discussion of the Whitehurst Freeway deconstruction. The Georgetown area meeting would be held on November 16th at the Bank of Georgetown. This was a change from St. John's Church. Commissioner Solomon requested that this information be posted on the ANC website, www.anc2e.com. Commissioners Solomon and Lever asked if Ms. Burns knew the status of any of the projects mentioned to Karyn Leblanc at the previous ANC meeting. She asked that a list of projects be sent to her. Commissioner Eason commented that lead service line replacement in East Georgetown had not been followed by prompt repair of the streets. Commissioner Moore commented that the pedestrian light to cross M Street/Pennsylvania Ave. at 28th Street did not provide enough time to cross the street. Ms. Burns stated that she would look into both matters.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC Issues

ABC Renewals: Commissioner Starrels noted that two licenses were up for renewal: Dean & Deluca and Le Petite Corner Store. He stated that both businesses were good businesses and were in good standing with ABRA. There were no objections or discussion from the audience or the commissioners.

Zoning and Planning

3325 Prospect Street (OGB 05-283): This served as an update to the presentation at the previous ANC meeting. As requested, the date of the BZA hearing had been moved up from February to January. Meetings between neighbors and the developer had continued. The new plan contained the same number of row houses (six) on the eastern portion of the property. The row houses had been moved back (north) by four feet. Additionally, the parking entrance had been moved back to match. Two large trees near the front of the property would be preserved. Commissioner Lever expressed concerns over the height of the row houses, in comparison to the houses across Prospect Street. The developer replied that it would not be prudent to excavate any further to reduce the height. The leader of large group of residents said that some issues remained, but that he was somewhat confident an agreement could be reached. One of the main issues remaining was the enforceability of such an agreement. Commissioner Starrels moved (Moore Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-2 (Lever and Clements in opposition):

ANC 2E recognizes that the Wormley School building and site are unique historic resources in Georgetown and provide important open space along Prospect Street. The site, while large, is at the center of a densely settled block and within easy view of many private households. Few projects in Georgetown will ever be as large or as visible. The impact of this project, both positive and negative, on the immediate neighbors and the larger village will be, without question, enormous. We do not underestimate this magnitude.

ANC 2E encourages that the developer will make good on their pledge to achieve the following with regard to neighbors concerns:

1. A Neighborhood Cooperation Agreement, to be negotiated in good faith with the affected neighbors to address issues of allowable times of construction and noise, site access, dumpsters, excavation, sheeting and shoring, parking of construction vehicles, etc., as well as a plan to make good on any damage to neighboring properties including bonding and insurance.
2. Modifications to the design of the project, including: avoiding the use of the alley for project access either during construction or after completion, the minimization of exterior raised terraces or roof decks and the creation of fences and major evergreen plantings at the perimeter of the project to block views and reduce noise.
3. Continued review from ANC 2E, making good on the developers promise to return to our public meeting to seek our input during the finalization of the project concept and subsequent schematic design.
4. The Condominium Association by-laws for the project will be drafted with input from neighbors in such a way as to promote long-term stable tenants that respect the peace and privacy of all neighbors.

ANC 2E does not oppose the presented concept design for the project as long as the developer has a fully executed Neighborhood Cooperative Agreement by the next ANC 2E meeting scheduled for November 29th. ANC 2E appreciates the interaction between all the parties.

3526 P Street (OGB 05-296): Revised plans were presented for the project. These were in response to OGB requests for a lower roof and lower dormers. The height was reduced by a total of eight inches from the previous design. The neighbors at 3524 P Street voiced concerns about the height of the project. They noted that the entire block consisted of two-story homes. Commissioner Clements said that he had concerns about the additional, basement-level entrance on the front of the house and its possibility for an apartment. Noting the house's proximity to Georgetown University and the overall lack of compliance with DCRA rental regulations, he said that he could not support the project.

Commissioner Skelsey stated that he still had concerns about the height of the house and that an eight inch reduction was not enough. He said that this is a unique and important block in Georgetown, consisting entirely of two-story houses. He hoped that the OGB would make a site visit to look at the plans in terms of the larger context of the area. No new motion was made for this project.

3255 Prospect Street: Plans were presented for a five floor building with an underground parking garage on the current site of Dominos Pizza. The roof would contain a deck and a swimming pool. The applicant stated that a zoning variance was not needed since the property was currently zoned C-2A, allowing 150 feet in height from curb to roof. The residential (upper) portion of the design would include seven living units, accounting for nine parking spaces. The applicant stated that the neighbors had not been notified. Commissioner Eason expressed concerns at the addition of 16,500 feet of space. A resident and the property manager of a nearby house raised concerns about the added traffic on Prospect for the parking garage. They were also concerned about the size of the building in comparison to nearby property. Commissioner Skelsey stated concerns about the zoning of the property and also the process. The applicant stated that he would be happy to meet with the neighbors and would pull the project from the OGB agenda. Commissioner Starrels urged that the developer not go to the OGB and pull the project from that month's schedule in the interests of the constituents of ANC2E. The developer agreed.

1218 28th Street (OGB 05-309): The applicant presented plans for a five-foot addition in the rear to add kitchen space on the first floor and a bathroom on the second floor. The addition would extend as far as the current enclosed porch. The applicant noted that the home was not in good shape and needed painting and rewiring. Commissioner Moore moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Skelsey absent):

ANC 2E supports the plans as presented for the 2-story rear addition at 1218 28th Street.

1248 31st Street (OGB 05-302): Plans were presented to add a trellis on top of a car port. The trellis would be covered with vines so that the cars would not be visible from the second floor. There was confusion as to why OGB would see the project since the trellis would be behind the front wall of the car port and not visible from the street. Commissioner Moore moved (Solomon Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Skelsey absent):

ANC 2E supports the applicant's request for a trellis for the purpose of growing vines.

3030 M Street (OGB 06-009): Plans were presented for a new glass façade in front of the existing part of the building. Commissioner Starrels voiced concerns that the glass front would extend to the street-level creating a department store style that ought to be avoided in Georgetown. Commissioner Starrels moved (Moore Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E cannot support the plans as presented for 3030 M Street as it is not keeping with the historic nature of Georgetown nor is it in keeping with the scale of the immediate buildings. We would appreciate a different scheme.

1030 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 06-005): Plans were presented for a new awning at the Prada Gallery. The property was located in a courtyard and the owner wished to make the store more identifiable. The awning would be black with nine-inch white lettering. Commissioner Starrels moved (Clements Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Lever abstaining):

ANC 2E does not object to the awning and lettering proposed for 1030 Wisconsin Avenue.

3263 M Street (OGB 06-015): Revised plans were presented for signage and store front changes at the Levi Store. The owners were concerned that the blue lettering previously proposed would be lost on the blue brick building. The new proposal called for white lettering. In addition, the white lettering would be on a red logo near the entry. Commissioner Starrels moved (Lever Second) for the following which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Skelsey abstaining, Eason absent):

ANC 2E does not object to the additional signage for 3263 M Street.

At 8:52 PM, with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Starrels Second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Submitted for the Approval of ANC 2E,

Brett F. Clements
Secretary, ANC 2E