

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

September 4, 2007
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Lowenstein, Starrels and Eason present, constituting a quorum. Before the first vote was taken, Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Police Report

Sergeant Lane and Officer Foster from the Metropolitan Police Department presented the police report for recent incidents, including thefts from autos. Statistics are available at <http://crimemap.dc.gov/presentation/query.asp> There is also a Second District web site including crime information at 2D_mpd@yahoo.com. Officer Foster advised that it is helpful to register bicycles at the Second District Station to protect against theft and facilitate return to the owner if stolen and recovered. Sergeant Lane announced that former MPD Third District PSA 308 has now joined the Second District as new PSA 208.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on July 3, 2007 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Solomon second) by a vote of 5-0.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Eason, ANC 2E's Treasurer, presented a financial report for the period ending August 31, 2007, showing cash on hand of \$12,425 and reporting on other financial matters. The report will be placed in the Commission's files.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Parking Space Treasure Hunt

Commissioner Lewis announced that the ANC Transportation Committee is sponsoring a "Parking Space Treasure Hunt." Residents and businesses are encouraged to look for on-street spaces now labeled "No Parking" or limited parking that might be re-evaluated, with a goal of creating more parking spaces where feasible. Suggestions should be submitted to anc2e@erols.com for the attention of Ron Lewis and Bill Starrels, co-chairs of the ANC 2E Transportation Committee, for further evaluation.

Update on the new K Street route for the Circulator bus

Commissioner Starrels reported that there will be an additional Circulator Bus route running along K Street from Farragut Square to the terminus of K Street at Key Bridge. These busses will alternate with busses now operating on the current M Street-Wisconsin Avenue route. Juanita Crabb, Executive Director of the Georgetown BID, reported that there is a contemplated start date of October 1 for the new K Street route.

Hyde School update

Dana Nuremburg, principal of Hyde School, announced that renovations will begin soon and will ultimately allow the school to increase its enrolment by around 70 students. She announced also that the school will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

GU's new alcohol policy

Bonnie Hardy described a new alcohol policy adopted by Georgetown University without community consultation. The new policy is anticipated to result in encouraging students to have off-campus rather than on-campus parties, with an adverse effect on Burleith and Georgetown. Commissioner Lowenstein further described the University's new policy. ANC members indicated an interest in considering this matter at the October ANC meeting.

Welcome Mark Bjorge, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Upon his arrival later in the meeting, the Commission welcomed and introduced to the community Mark Bjorge from the Mayor's office of community relations and services.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC Matters

ABC Board proposed rulemaking that would allow certain hearings to be heard by staff

Commissioner Starrels described a new proposal from the ABC board to allow certain hearings to be heard by staff and reported that he would be in contact with the ABC Board to clarify the intent and scope of the proposal.

Update on the Royalty Bar and Grill, 3277 M Street

Commissioner Starrels updated the community on activities at the Royalty Bar and Grill (formerly Fettoosh). An ANC 2E protest of this establishment's license is pending. Information has come to light that this establishment is advertising music and other entertainment, even though the establishment is not licensed to offer entertainment. A hearing is scheduled for early October, at which time ANC 2E expects to pursue the protest vigorously.

Special Items

Café Milano explanation of a new seating proposal on the 2nd floor

A representative of Café Milano described proposed revisions to its second floor, to provide seating on a new terrace area. Commissioner Starrels suggested that the ANC defer considering the design and ABC aspects of the proposal until the proposal is on the OGB and ABRA calendars.

Lawyers Have Heart Race, June 14, 2008

A representative of the Lawyers Have Heart Race, proposed for June 14, 2008, described the route through part of Georgetown and requested the ANC's support. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the Lawyers Have a Heart 10K Race. We appreciate your cooperation and wish you all the best for a successful event.

American Kidney Fund Walk, September 30, 2007

A representative of the American Kidney Fund requested approval for a walk on September 30 in the Canal area. No street closures are requested. Set-up will be at 7:30 a.m. and break-down will be by around noon. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the scheduled American Kidney Fund Walk scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2007, with wishes of success for the event.

New stop signs for 38th Street at R Street

The ANC considered a request by the Burleith Citizens Association for new all-way stop signs at the intersection of 38th Street and R Street NW, for traffic and pedestrian safety. After discussion, Commissioner Solomon moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the Burleith Citizens Association's request for all-way stop signs at the intersection of 38th Street and R Street, N.W., for pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety.

New stop signs for P Street at 32nd Street

The ANC considered a request for new all-way stop signs at the intersection of P Street and 32nd Street NW, for traffic and pedestrian safety. After discussion, Commissioner Lewis moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the request for all-way stop signs at the intersection of 32nd Street and P Street, N.W. for pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety.

ABC Consent Calendar

On August 28, 2007, the ANC gave notice to the community listing certain establishments that are up for ABC license renewal, with a petition dates of September 4, that will not be reviewed at this time by the ANC unless a request to do so is received by the ANC by the time of this meeting. No such request had been received as of the time of this meeting. The listed establishments are:

Georgetown Club, 1530 Wisconsin Ave.

Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave.

Ritz Carlton Georgetown, 3100 South St.

The City Tavern, 3206 M Street

Commissioner Starrels asked if there was a motion to consider any of the listed establishments at this time, and there was no motion.

Zoning and Planning

Consent Calendar: Commissioner Eason moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

The following item is considered to be on ANC 2E's Consent Calendar and will be sent to the Old Georgetown Board and other agencies without objection:

1654 33rd Street new rear fence (OGB 07-223)

Georgetown University (BZA): An initial presentation was made by Georgetown University representatives about the University's application for zoning special exceptions relating to the construction of a new Science Center and a new Athletic Training Facility, modifications to the approved Multi-Sports facility, and approval of an amendment to an approved campus plan to accommodate the Athletic Training Facility; plus a special exception application relating to the rooftop structure on the Science Center and a variance application for the rooftop structure on the Science Center to exceed the height limit of roof structures. As the ANC noted in the published agenda for this meeting, the discussion was considered of an informative nature, with the matter continued for further discussion and possible ANC resolutions at the October 2007 ANC meeting.

Zoning Commission Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to loosen rules for garages and other accessory buildings (ZC Case No. 07-15): Commissioners and community members discussed a proposed rulemaking by the Zoning Commission to loosen rules for garages and other accessory buildings. After discussion, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Skelsey and Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E asks the Zoning Commission to reconsider the proposed rulemaking in Zoning Case 07-15. We are troubled about the impact on density in our community, and we are concerned about rule changes that would further imperil open space in our residential neighborhoods. The expansion of current provisions for attached garages not only to detached garages but to any manner and number of accessory structures is unwise. The proposed rule does not even attempt to clarify that the additional structure(s) cannot be used for living quarters.

We also ask the Zoning Commission to retain the distinction in R-3 and R-4 zones between rowhouses and semidetached or detached buildings. Extending to 70% the permissible lot coverage at the same time you are lifting requirements for side yards and rear yards is sure to result in a flood of requests for accessory buildings by special exception, further eroding open space and adding to the density of development.

ANC 2E finally asks the Zoning Commission to withdraw the proposed rule in its present form.

1645 31st Street, Williams-Addison House, Subdivision of a Landmark (Mayor's Agent, HPA 07-267): ANC 2E was notified that the Historic Preservation Review Board has denied the applicant's proposal to subdivide this Landmark property and that the applicant has appealed the matter to the Mayor's Agent. The applicant was informed that the matter would be considered by ANC 2E at this meeting but declined to appear. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Whereas, Marc Teren, on behalf of Equity Appreciation Partners Capital Fund 1, LLC (Appellant or Applicant) has appealed to the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation the decision of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to deny their application (Application) to subdivide the Landmark Property known as 1645 31st, NW (Lot 277 in Square 1282) into two separate lots; and,

Whereas, the Commission opposed the Application before the HPRB on the basis that the proposed subdivision is inconsistent with the historic character of the Georgetown Historic District and negatively impacts the Landmark property; and

Whereas, The Commission has made application to the HPRB to clarify the historic landmark designation of the property by amending the landmark designation, which application was made a part of the record in this proceeding, and which has been accepted by the HPRB and is now pending; and,

Whereas, the Commission continues to oppose subdivision of the Landmark Property for all of those reasons previously stated and on the record in this matter.

Now therefore, by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, it is hereby **Resolved:**

1. That the Commission seek formal party status in the proceedings before the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation .
2. That Commissioners Eason, Solomon, Starrels, Lewis, Birch, Skelsey and Lowenstein, or any of them, are authorized to represent the Commission in all matters before the Mayor's Agent.
3. That the Commission's comments previously submitted to the HPRB regarding this matter are ratified and confirmed.

1645 31st Street (OGB 07-241): Revised plans were provided to the Commission for additions to the existing house, alterations and basement excavation. The applicant's representative declined to appear at the Commission meeting. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E renews its objections to the proposed modifications to this landmark property known as 1645 31st Street, N.W. The Commission draws to the attention of the Old Georgetown Board that there is now pending before the Historic Preservation Review Board a request by ANC 2E to amend and supplement the landmark designation for this property, which may affect the Old Georgetown Board's decision. Therefore, we request that the Old Georgetown Board defer consideration of this matter until the Historic Preservation Review Board has acted on the pending request. Further, ANC 2E expresses concern with respect to the substantial excavation of the basement by the applicant and its impact on the historic structure and recommends that the matter be referred to the Historic Preservation Review Board to review threats to the integrity of the landmark property.

3419 R Street (OGB 07-240): Plans were presented for a 2-story rear addition with basement and partial demolition of the rear. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the plans as proposed for concept review provided the project passes zoning. We do not endorse or condone a zoning exception or variance for this property.

3022 O Street (OGB 07-221): Plans were presented for a 2-story rear addition with basement to replace an open porch. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Skelsey second) to adopt the following resolution, which after discussion was not voted upon:

ANC 2E resolves with respect to the application to enclose the open porch for 3022 O Street that we have no objection to the request as presented.

After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason withdrew the previous motion and instead moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E takes no position with respect to the applicant's proposal and we urge the Old Georgetown Board to look closely at the proposal and the possible effects on the existing rear wall of the property. We express our concern about the extent to which the impacted neighbors have been apprised of the details of the proposed project.

2913 Dumbarton Street (HPA 07-277): Plans were presented for renovation and an addition at the rear. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolutions, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Resolution for HPRB: ANC 2E, supporting the position of a number of the neighbors, urges the Historic Preservation Review Board not to permit expansion of the back of the property beyond the plane of the back of the adjacent house at 2915 Dumbarton Street, particularly above the top of the fence. The scale of the addition proposed by the developer is not necessary programmatically and is out of keeping with the scale and historic appearance of the adjacent houses. ANC 2E urges the developer and the neighbors to continue their discussions toward a possible voluntary resolution acceptable to the neighborhood.

Resolution for DCRA: ANC 2E urges that a building permit not be issued for 2913 Dumbarton Street N.W. for any plans that include a kitchen on the basement level, for example, with a stove or a range hood exhaust, because this could facilitate use of the basement as an impermissible separate apartment.

1623 Wisconsin Avenue, Georgetown Cafe (OGB 07-236): Plans were presented to replace a front door. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E received a fax of the proposed door that is difficult to read and the applicant was not present at the ANC meeting, so we cannot comment on the proposed door.

Because this property is on the Old Georgetown Board's agenda, we urge the Old Georgetown Board to consider also the signage currently in use on this property, which does not appear to meet applicable standards, particularly the three lighted signs in the front window.

1229 Wisconsin Avenue, French Connection (OGB 07-201): Plans were presented for a façade alteration. After discussion by Commissioners and community members,

Commissioner Eason moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E encourages the Old Georgetown Board to look closely at the composition of the façade and encourages an approach that shows greater concern for the context of this part of Wisconsin Avenue, particularly the pedestrian level.

1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, CIDA at Boston University (OGB 07-207): Plans were presented for signs. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection for the proposed signage as presented

1250 Wisconsin Avenue, The District Line (OGB 07-227): Plans were presented for signs and lights. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the signage as long as it is downsized to no greater than 12 inches

2715 P Street (OGB 07-239): Plans were presented for a 1-story rear addition and rear addition at the 3rd floor level, in progress. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E refers this matter to the Old Georgetown Board without comment. We regret that construction commenced without the required permit.

Four Seasons Hotel, Eno Wine Bar (OGB 07-233): Plans were presented for a rear addition of a greenhouse, alteration, signs and an awning. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as presented.

3333 Prospect Street (OGB 07-237): Plans were presented for porch alterations. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as presented.

Later in the meeting, an immediate neighbor of this project asked to be heard and raised concerns about the project. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason

second) to reconsider the earlier resolution and adopt the following resolution instead, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

After our initial consideration of this matter earlier in this meeting, an immediate neighbor to the west expressed concerns that we believe merit the attention of the Old Georgetown Board. We therefore reconsider the matter, withdraw our earlier resolution, and adopt this resolution instead. We take no position on this project at this time and encourage the neighbor to present his concerns to the Old Georgetown Board.

3330 Reservoir Road (OGB 07-232): Plans were presented for an addition to a 1-story garage and the addition of a covered walkway to the house. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E does not object in concept to the proposed addition to the current garage, because the height is within normal zoning limits and it is not designed to include a habitable second story.

ANC 2E has serious concerns about a covered walkway from the house to the garage, because such a structure is generally not in the vernacular of Georgetown residential architecture. Also, a covered walkway could extend significantly above the height of the fence; and, if attached to the house or garage, a covered walkway could raise zoning questions about the future size and use of the garage.

3401 Dent Place (OGB 07-248): Plans were presented for alterations to a paved corner entrance, in progress. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis noted that an earlier resolution for DDOT on this property remains in effect and moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E urges for the sidewalk treatment that the brick border and plantings be required to end on both the Dent Place side and the 34th Street side of the building sufficiently far back from the corner to allow pedestrians more adequate access to public sidewalk space across the diagonal and so that the sidewalk can be more consistent with the chamfered corner of the building. The pre-existing arrangement allowed a more open pedestrian use of the diagonal than the applicant proposes because of the pre-existing thin planting and a border that was at or only slightly above sidewalk grade. We also urge consideration of brick paving instead of flagstones and construction to professional standards.

ANC 2E also notes that the applicant has not yet replaced the second-story corner window with a double-hung window as required previously by the Old Georgetown Board; that other windows and doors were installed without brick mould, exposing large areas of dark caulk; and that full screens rather than the permitted half screens were installed. We urge the Old Georgetown Board to

require installation of the conforming corner window and of appropriate screens and brick mould for the windows and doors that were previously replaced.

3421 Reservoir Road (OGB 07-234): Plans were presented for a rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E reserves at this time taking a position on the overall massing of the project because the project would need one or more zoning variances and the adjacent neighbor who would be affected most directly has not yet had sufficient opportunity to comment. In all events, ANC 2E urges the Old Georgetown Board to consider carefully the proposed fenestration.

2903 Q Street (OGB 07-219): Plans were presented for a rear window and door opening. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposal as presented.

3509 M Street (OGB 07-196): During the course of the ANC meeting on September 4, 2007, it became apparent that the applicant in this case had made revisions to the proposal of which the ANC and the community were unaware. Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E was not aware that there is a revised design pending for 3509 M Street and therefore we have not seen plans, nor have the affected neighbors been able to be consulted. We urge the Old Georgetown Board to defer until its October meeting consideration of this revised proposal to allow the ANC and the community to consider it as well.

1715 Wisconsin Avenue (OGB 07-222): Plans were presented for a sign scheme, awnings, light fixtures, trash receptacle and alternate bench. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Starrels not present):

ANC 2E endorses the application for the sign, awnings, light fixtures, trash receptacle and alternate bench as presented.

1405 30th Street (OGB 07-215): Plans were presented for window and door alterations. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Starrels not present):

Because we received no materials on this project from the applicant and the applicant did not appear at the ANC 2E meeting to present the proposal, the Commission asks the Old Georgetown Board to defer consideration of the application at this time.

At 10:07 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Ron Lewis
Secretary, ANC 2E