

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

March 1, 2010
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Skelsey Golds, Starrels, Birch and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

Councilmember Jack Evans joined the meeting for a conversation with the community

Councilmember Jack Evans spoke to the community about a number of current matters, including the city's budget, noting that the District of Columbia remains strong financially, despite difficult taxing constraints set by Congress and lower revenues in the current economic environment; the improvement of infrastructure in Georgetown, citing a focus on streets and sidewalks as well as the soon to be reopened library; keeping the historic nature of Georgetown; and possible one-way streets in Georgetown. He engaged in dialogue with the Commissioners and community members regarding topics including the changes at Hardy Middle School, the city's finances and real estate tax assessments, education spending, the removal of traffic signals in the Georgetown residential community, the recent snow removal in Ward 2, the relationship between the city and Congress, the city's debt, and the Georgetown traffic study.

Administrative

Approval of March 1 Agenda and February Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eason stepped out of the meeting at this point.

The agenda for the March 1 ANC 2E meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on February 1, 2010 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Birch seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

April Meeting Date Change

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to move the April 2010 meeting to March 30, 2010 from March 29, 2010 so that it does not conflict with the start of Passover. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Starrels and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Public Safety and Police Report

Lieutenant Hedgecock reported on public safety matters and recent crimes in the community, including a recent crime in Burleith, iPhone robberies, and springtime-related crimes. He also noted that there have been seven street crimes thus far this year, and that crime overall is

down 29% compared to last year. Lieutenant Hedgecock responded to questions from Commissioners and community members regarding a recent felony/assault at Third Edition.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances, noting that ANC 2E has over \$10,000 in the checking account and over \$9,000 in the savings account. ANC 2E is still waiting on the 3rd Quarter and 4th Quarter financial allotments.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community. Commissioner Lewis spoke about the resumption of the streetlight rehabilitation project when the weather is warm enough in the Spring and DDOT's commitment to begin O and P Street rehabilitation this calendar year. Commissioner Starrels spoke about potholes, reminding residents to call 311 to report their locations. Commissioner Solomon reminded residents to shovel their sidewalks, particularly those located in high traffic areas.

Commissioner Eason rejoined the meeting at this point.

Community Comment

Community members made comments regarding snow removal.

Georgetown Energy, LLC presented information on the use of solar power in Georgetown and encouraged homeowners to look into green technologies.

Commissioner Starrels updated the community on the ongoing Philly Pizza situation and the upcoming hearing in the DC Superior Court.

New Business

DC WASA Waterfront Work

Representatives from DC WASA presented plans for improvements in the Georgetown waterfront area, beginning in two weeks, noting that most of the work will be south of K Street and there will be little impact on traffic and minimal disruption to the neighborhood. The project will be completed by June. Commissioners and community members discussed the project, but no resolution was offered or adopted related to this project.

Traffic Signal Conversion Suggested by DDOT (replacing signal lights with all-way stops) at 33rd Street, NW and Q Street, NW; 34th Street, NW and Q Street, NW; and 34th Street, NW and Reservoir Road, NW

Commissioner Lewis discussed the change and noted the success of the trial period and DDOT's decision to make the change prior to the meeting. After discussion by Commissioners and community members focusing on the benefits and drawbacks of the stop

signs and DDOT's decision to remove the signals before the meeting, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E notes that for the past several weeks, DDOT has experimented with all-way blinking red signals at three intersections in Georgetown (33rd and Q Streets, N.W.; 34th and Q Streets, N.W.; and 34th Street and Reservoir Road, N.W.) as a test of whether all-way stop signs would work well at these intersections. Today, DDOT removed the traffic signals at these intersections and replaced them with all-way stop signs.

We take this as a sign that DDOT has determined that all-way stop signs will be safe and beneficial to vehicles and pedestrians at these intersections. On that assumption, ANC 2E can report that most of the neighborhood comments about the all-way-stop test were favorable and that ANC 2E supports all-way stop signs and removal of the traffic signals at these three intersections.

In addition:

For all of these intersections, we recommend fresh line-striping for pedestrian crosswalks.

For the intersection of 34th and Q Streets, N.W., because of its proximity to Volta Park we recommend signage indicating caution because children are present.

And, enforcement should be enhanced to ensure that traffic comes to a full stop at these intersections, especially during this initial period of the new arrangement.

Zoning and Planning

2623 O Street, NW—Application for a special exception to all front and rear fourth story window dormer additions to an existing row dwelling not meeting the nonconforming structure provisions

Representatives from the property presented their plans to apply for a special exception to add window dormers to an existing row dwelling. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the application for a special exception for a rear dormer addition at 2623 O Street, NW because this dormer addition would not have any adverse impact on the neighboring properties as established through numerous reviews of the project with neighbors by the ANC and the applicant.

Commissioner Starrels stepped out of the meeting at this point.

1425 33rd Street, NW –Applicant requests area variance relief to permit an addition to a non-conforming single family dwelling which will increase an existing non-conformity, to

include lot occupancy and to permit an addition to a non-conforming single-family dwelling which does not comply with the required minimum width of an open court

Representatives from the property presented plans to apply for a lot occupancy variance and open court variance to allow for a two-story addition to a single-family home. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Given that the addition proposes no increase in the existing non-conforming lot occupancy and that neighbors have no objection to the addition as proposed, ANC 2E supports the application to the Board of Zoning Adjustment as submitted.

Commissioner Starrels returned to the meeting at this point.

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

1626 29th Street, NW, OG 10-063 (HPA 10-116), Residence:

Representatives from the property presented concept plans to alter the rear of the property including the addition of dormer and a deck. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the revised concept design for 1626 29th Street, NW.

3315 R Street, NW, OG 10-087 (HPA 10-156), Residence:

Representatives from the residence presented concept plans for a two-story rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has concerns about the massing of the proposed addition and we recommend that any addition that is constructed is within the scale of the addition to the matching house to the west. This is a unique house to the Georgetown community and we recognize its value to Georgetown. We encourage the OGB to take into consideration the uniqueness of this structure.

Commissioner Eason left the meeting at this point.

3245 N Street, NW, OG 10-076 (HPA 10-144), Residence:

Representatives from residence presented plans to add a fourth story to the residence and alterations to the garage. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

On the matter of the garage and the proposal for an additional floor, ANC 2E has no objection. On the matter of the proposed balcony to the top floor on N Street, NW, we have concerns about its role on the street and the precedence it creates in a sensitive residential neighborhood.

Commissioner Skelsey left the meeting at this point.

3324 M Street, NW, OG 10-084 (HPA 10-153), Commercial:

A permit application for a blade sign was presented for this property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the existing signage mounted on the building, but does not endorse the blade sign as it is a ground floor establishment on M Street, NW.

Commissioners Skelsey and Eason returned.

1206 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 10-027 (HPA 10-052), Commercial:

Revised concept plans were presented for the addition of a roof terrace. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E objects to the concept of the rooftop terrace at this property, reasons include that it does not fit the historic neighborhood; it impinges on the condominium residences across the street from the property, especially considering sightlines, noise, and the densely populated area surrounding the property.

1206 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 10-083 (HPA 10-152), Commercial:

This item was moved to the No Review portion of the agenda without objection.

1400 30th Street, NW, OG 10-071 (HPA 10-125), Residence:

Permit plans were presented for the addition of a metal spiral staircase at the rear. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Y seconded) which passed by a vote of X-0:

ANC 2E is pleased to learn that the external speakers have been removed from the western façade of the house, which were not in keeping with the historic character of the neighborhood. Regarding the plans for the rear spiral staircase, ANC 2E asks the OGB to review the proposal so that it achieves minimum impact on the neighboring properties.

At 9:05 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