

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

May 2, 2011  
Georgetown Visitation School, 35<sup>th</sup> and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Jones, Sticka, Starrels, and Birch present, constituting a quorum.

**Administrative**

***Approval of May 2 Agenda***

The agenda for the May 2, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

***Approval of April 4 Meeting Minutes***

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on April 4, 2011 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Solomon seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

***Public Safety and Police Report***

Commissioner Solomon reported to the community on public safety matters.

***Financial Report***

The second quarter 2011 financial report was adopted on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Lewis seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

***Transportation Report***

Commissioner Lewis reported on the District Department of Transportation's responses to our recent requests. Regarding the recommendation that Thomas Jefferson, NW become two-way at the southern end, DDOT said that they are going forward with planning the reconfiguration as we have requested.

Commissioner Lewis also reported that at the request of a resident, ANC 2E asked DDOT about the possibility of installing Circulator stop at 35<sup>th</sup> and Whitehaven, NW where a pause occurs in the natural course of Circulator's route. DDOT is considering making this an official bus stop, but doing so would require capital expenditures for disability ramps and removal of parking spaces. We will continue to clarify the situation with DDOT. Commissioner Lewis went on to say that DDOT is also exploring expanding the Union Station-Georgetown Circulator route to the National Cathedral.

Commissioner Starrels reported on BID meeting he attended regarding the future of light-rail, which is currently being pursued. Commissioner Starrels also said that a few tweaks will be made to street signage. Commissioner Starrels encouraged community members to give the ANC feedback on these changes.

Commissioner Solomon reported that the O & P Street restoration project is currently focused around P & 36<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW. High pressure gas lines are currently being installed there. Commissioner Jones reported on his continued engagement with this project. He reported it has expanded from Georgetown University to Wisconsin Avenue, NW. The primary reason for this expansion is that Washington Gas is changing pressure lines. This will result in the G2 bus line temporarily terminating at Wisconsin Avenue, beginning on June 27th. Commissioner Jones is also working on a waiver for home-owners to ensure that their gardens are not removed from public side of their property.

### **Community Comment**

Commissioner Lewis introduced a representative from Washington Gas and questioned the representative about Washington Gas' commitment to not installing exterior gas meters in the Georgetown Historic District. The representative admitted that this had occurred recently and Commissioner Lewis emphasized that such practices are unacceptable. He reiterated that inside meters are supposed to replace inside meters.

The Washington Gas representative said that Washington Gas was committed to ensuring the integrity of the historical neighborhood and that some of the outdoor installation have been because of safety concerns that go with indoor metering. Commissioner Jones then pointed out that Washington Gas had attempted to install an outdoor meter at his house, where safety is not a concern. Several community members also raised these concerns and urged Washington Gas to consider electronic reading.

Another resident questioned Washington Gas about whether they removed the paint that they use to mark utility lines once they are done. The Washington Gas representative promised to do better going forward.

Ruther Werner from Councilmember Evans' office reported that the budget hearings were on-going and suggested that the Council would be voting on it on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that redistricting of ANC and SMD will be begin by mid-June. Each councilmember will decide how to go about this process within their ward.

A community member asked about if the Council can do anything about Arlington Cemetery military drills that begin each morning at 6:30am. Ms. Werner said that she would bring up the topic with Councilmember Evans.

Commissioner Jones reported on the ongoing sanitation sweeps in the neighborhood, encouraging neighbors to ensure that they met regulations.

### **New Business**

*Georgetown University Nevils Construction Agreement*

After discussion about the need for a construction management agreement to minimize disruption while the Nevels GU dormitory is being rehabilitated, The Georgetown University Nevels Construction Management Agreement was adopted on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Birch seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

### ***Capital Bikeshare***

Commissioner Lewis spoke about ANC 2E's previous recommendations for Capital Bikeshare stations and the manner in which the District Department of Transportation is now proposing stations at the Rose Park location that we opposed, and at Wisconsin and Reservoir, which we did not recommend.

Commissioners Birch and Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E is disappointed that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has overlooked our earlier suggestions for locations for additional Capital Bikeshare locations in Georgetown. The Rose Park location proposed by DDOT is inappropriate and unacceptable in that the space. There is not sufficient space at this location and placing it there runs the risk of endangering individuals' enjoyment of the park.

However, we repeat our earlier request and urge DDOT to locate a Capital Bikeshare station on the north side of M Street at 28th Street, NW. We urge DDOT also to consider the three other locations that are mentioned in our January resolution on the matter, particularly the north sidewalk of Hyde Addison School at O Street, NW. The Long and Foster location strikes us as a missed opportunity that would not serve the community nearly as well as a Hyde School site. We do not necessarily oppose the Long and Foster site, but hope that DDOT will consider the sites that we have recommended.

### **Old Georgetown Board**

Commissioner Lewis rescued 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, with the exception of 3240 Q Street, NW, in which Mr. Lewis did participate. Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

### ***Regular Calendar***

#### **Large-Scale and Public Projects**

##### **3601 – 3607 M Street, NW, OG 11-109 (HPA 11-169):**

Representatives from EastBanc spoke about design elements that have changed since their last visit to the Old Georgetown Board, with modifications to the base design and the entrance areas made to make building friendlier to pedestrian traffic. Modifications to the building around the exorcist steps have also been made. Changes have also been made to the penthouse height. After discussion by Commissioners, neighbors, and the

representative, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E was hopeful that the evolution of the Exxon Condominium building would have reached more of a different direction than we have so far achieved. The Exxon site is a gateway to Georgetown and the District of Columbia for our neighbors in Virginia. Some have suggested this building seems better suited to our neighbors on the other side of the Key Bridge. The height of the building continues to be contentious to those who live behind the building. The mass will still interfere with their sight lines of most all the neighbors and will adversely affect their way of life and sight lines from public space. ANC 2E suggests the Old Georgetown Board consider the 40-foot height limit.

ANC 2E is also concerned that the stone wall located to the northeast, next to the exorcist steps, is losing its prominence. One would hope this area would be better addressed. ANC 2E would hope that the Old Georgetown Board would remain vigilant about protecting one of the prime gateways into Georgetown. Our constituents in Georgetown as well as the two million who use Key Bridge deserve a building that better represents the uniqueness of our village.

Commissioner Birch also made the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E requests that HPRB review the project.

## **Private Projects**

### **With regard to 3254 O Street, NW, OG 11-162 (HPA 11-225):**

A representative for the property disclosed her prior experience as Chair of the Board of Zoning and went on to present the project for concept alone. Nearby neighbors expressed serious concern about use and proposed appearance of the property and precedent on allowance of the proposed garage conversion. The Citizens Association of Georgetown also read their statement of opposition to the project.

After this discussion, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to the concept as proposed. ANC 2E has strong concerns that it does not provide reasonable protection to the stability of the surrounding neighborhood. The height and massing of this proposal is incompatible with the historic character of the service buildings on this alley. We seek to preserve the balance of structures that contribute to the historic fabric.

### **With regard to 1332 Wisconsin Avenue NW, OG 11-160 (HPA 11-253):**

Representative spoke on the addition of a new sign. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Jones made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the signage as proposed.

**With regard to 1111 34<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, OG 11-172 (HPA 11-265):**

Representatives spoke on proposed alterations to the property's marquee, storefront, doors, and rooftop mechanical equipment. After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation for the property. The only possible concern we would like the Old Georgetown Board to pay attention to is the size and visibility of the rooftop mechanical equipment from the north and also the south. Otherwise, ANC 2E appreciates the project and has no other objections.

**With regard to 3240 Q Street, NW, OG 11-269 (HPA 11-478):**

Representatives from the property spoke about the proposed addition. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Lewis proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels), which passed 6-0:

ANC 2E is opposed to the addition proposed for 3420 Q Street, NW. The size of the addition is inconsistent with the size and character of the original small house and, we believe, inconsistent with the thrust of the Old Georgetown Board's earlier comments. The length of the addition, for example, compared to the length of the existing house should be measured from the second story, because that is how it reads visually from the east façade, and not (as shown in the drawings) measured only from the end of the stepped-down first story. The height is also unsympathetic with the historic structure. Any addition should be no higher than the lowest point on the existing roof line.

The height of the proposed lower-level deck would intrude upon neighbors' privacy, as it would allow people standing on the deck to look over the top of a seven-foot fence. We do not believe the proposed second-story deck would be consistent with the historic design of the house. Also, if there is a ground-level terrace, we believe it should be permeable to protect against run-off on adjacent properties.

**At 10:44 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Birch seconded) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.**

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Jake Sticka  
Secretary, ANC 2E