

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

December 19, 2013
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, NW Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair. Commissioners Starrels, Solomon, Lewis, Prindiville, Jones, and Cassey, present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of December 19, 2013, ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Prindiville moved to approve the agenda of the December 10, 2013 ANC 2E public meeting. Commissioner Starrels seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Approval of December 2, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Prindiville moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2013 ANC 2E public meeting. Commissioner Starrels seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Public Safety Report

Lieutenant Antwon of the Metropolitan Police Department reported on the current safety climate of the community.

Financial Report

Commissioner Jones submitted the quarterly report for ANC2E. The checking and savings accounts remain secure.

Commissioner Jones moved the following motion. Commissioner Prindiville seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC2E approves this Commission's participation in the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund and authorizes the treasurer to pay the \$25 fee for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Lewis discussed the District's pothole repair program. Commissioner Solomon announced a stakeholders meeting with the ongoing rework of traffic on Wisconsin Avenue in Glover Park.

Department of Public Works Report

Commissioner Jones reported that residents who need a new trash can or recycling bin can call 311 and request to purchase a can. The Director of DPW will be attending our February meeting.

Community Comment

Georgetown Community Partnership Rental Property Compliance Program

Commissioner Jones discussed new GCP programs, including landlord accountability partnerships between the University, students, neighborhood associations, and the ANC.

New Business

Georgetown 2028 Plan proposed by the Georgetown BID with community input

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Prindiville. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E is pleased to add its voice to those of others in our community in support of the broad scope and creative thinking embodied in the plan initiated by the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) and formed in collaboration with a wide range of representatives of the business, residential and university sectors of Georgetown, including ANC 2E. We applaud the BID and all who have participated for the inclusiveness and productivity of that process and we look forward to further involvement in continuing that collaborative spirit in the implementation of elements of the plan as appropriate, as the individual components of “Georgetown 2028” are brought for review before the ANC and other city agencies.

3222 M Street, NW, Pinstripes, Application for drop off

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC2E endorses the concept of a dropoff area on Wisconsin Ave just south of Georgetown Park Mall most likely in the evening hours to accommodate Pinstripes and neighboring businesses.

ABC Issues

3401 K Street, NW, ABRA Lic. No. 090582, Gypsy Sally’s Acoustic Tavern, Amendment to Voluntary Agreement

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC2E endorses the amendment to the voluntary agreement entered on December 19, 2013 by and between Gypsy Sally’s Acoustic Tavern LCC and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, the Citizens Association of Georgetown and William R. Moroney, the latter a resident of the 3303 Water Street Condominium.

CFA/HPRB

SMD 01, 1680 35th Street, NW, Duke Ellington School of the Arts modernization project

Commissioner Solomon made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Prindiville. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, an element of the District of Columbia government serving the Georgetown and Burleith communities, respectfully offers the following comments on the concept submission for the Duke Ellington School remodeling project.

We value and welcome the Duke Ellington School and its talented and impressive students and teachers as an important part of the Burleith and Georgetown communities. A modernization and renovation of the School's building is a positive step that we support. We are mindful at the same time of the school's status as a Historic Landmark and of the need to retain the visual and functional character of the school as a good neighbor within the community.

Our comments on specific aspects of the concept submission are in the context of the community's high regard for the school. With our general support as background, we nevertheless have serious concerns about several elements of the concept submission:

1. We object strongly to the proposed rooftop performance space and open deck. These elements are jarring visually and functionally. They are not in keeping with historic precedent - not for this building, not for the surrounding community, and indeed not for other D.C. school buildings located similarly in a tight townhouse residential environment. A rooftop performance area and deck would overwhelm the dense surrounding area – visually; with noise night and day, including amplified sound; and with wholly inappropriate lighting at night. Numerous indoor performance and gathering spaces are provided in the proposed remodeling plan, and they should be abundantly sufficient. We believe a compelling case cannot be made either for the outdoor rooftop performance space or for a roof deck. Intended uses, for example, which we do not believe are appropriate, include renting the rooftop out for social events and for performances. Given the intrusiveness of the design as well as of the proposed functionality, the rooftop elements should not be approved.

2. The front lawn of the school is a defining element visually and historically. The plan as presented does not sufficiently respect the importance of the lawn and its relationship to the front façade and to the neighborhood. The upward sweep of the lawn to the front façade should be maintained, with no changes in existing grade, especially at the sides. Parking, whether visitor or handicap, should not be permitted on the front lawn. We note that handicap parking and perhaps visitor parking could be considered for the proposed garage. We also suggest that the scoop-out from the lawn to add a below-grade entrance, if permitted at all, be made as small and unobtrusive as possible to preserve a greater proportion of the lawn. And we suggest that a landscape plan be developed that preserves the mature trees on the lawn.

3. The portico on the front façade is where the classical architecture of the building is at its strongest, and it should not be compromised. The proposed glazing behind the columns competes unsuccessfully with the regularity of the classical forms, instead appearing as an arbitrary visual distraction, weak and out of place. The void at this porch was not intended to be occupied and serves to relieve the planarity of the long façade. Moreover, the entire volume of the enclosure would be lit at night, calling still more attention to this unfitting element and emitting a quantity of light inappropriate to the neighborhood. The glazing has the further problem of imposing a danger to migratory birds, who would perceive a clear passage and would be unable to see the glass.

4. The garage entrance proposed for Reservoir Road does not work either visually or functionally because of its prominently visible location and the heavy traffic in that block of Reservoir Road. It should be moved to the rear so that the garage would be entered from the much less visible and busy 36th Street.

5. The “fly” for the stage should have a lower rooftop profile – even several feet lower would help.

6. We suggest considering modulating the new fenestration and the massive appearance of the additions at the sides and rear of the building, and considering the appropriateness of the proposed materials and colors. The imposing orange-paneled façade elements, in particular, are incompatible with the traditional materials and muted colors. A more subtle palette would be advised.

7. [For HPRB] We urge that consideration be given to the loss of historic interior fabric, and in particular that consideration be given to exploring the possibility of a theater that fully modernizes the stage and seating but preserves the look, feel and location of the existing theater.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 03, 3219 O Street, NW, Government of the District of Columbia, Department of General Services, OG 14-020 (HPA 14-024) Hyde – Addison Elementary School, Addition, Concept

Commissioner Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Starrels. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E does not object to the concept as presented and appreciates the efforts the applicant is making toward design elements that are appropriate for the historic context at this site and surrounding area. However, we request that the applicant consider options which move the entire addition further toward the east in order to address the proposed ramp area that seems narrow and not well suited for that area. We also ask if other options may be considered for the southern façade that may be more fitting with the historic character of this site and surrounding area. We applaud the strong collaborative effort that is apparent between all interested parties with this project and encourage this effort to continue. We ask all interested parties to continue working together toward a design that results in the highest beneficial use to the school and its students while maintaining the historic character within the Georgetown Historic District.

SMD 03, 1351 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 14-007 (HPA 14-011) (former Georgetown Theater) Commercial, Demolition, roof top addition, rear addition, alterations, Concept – revised design

No action taken.

SMD 06, 3001 M Street, NW, OG 14-059 (HPA 14-101) Commercial, Sign for “Little Penguin,” Permit

Commissioner Solomon made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Starrels. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E has no objection to the signage proposed for Little Penguin. We object to the presence of the two blade signs and the two light fixtures on the front of the building and to the signage blocking out the

window on the 30th Street side of the building, and we urge their removal (if they have not been removed already). It is our understanding that these elements were never approved.

SMD 02, 1660 34th Street, NW, OG 14-062 (HPA 14-104) Residence, Rear additions – options, alterations to front façade, Concept

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Prindiville. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E is not in favor of either the “Plan A” or the “Plan B” proposal.

Plan A would consist of three stories at the rear of the house where there is now one story. At the third-story level, the addition would completely alter the roofline and massing, overwhelming the existing house and creating an inappropriate canyon for the neighboring house to the north. Even the addition of a second story would bring the bulk of the house much deeper into the property than the houses to the north and the south, and would block a view of the interior trees that is now enjoyed from the 34th Street sidewalks. We recommend no addition above the first floor.

Plan B would add a second story to the highly visible “el” that runs parallel to 34th Street toward the rear of the house. The current one-story structure is set back from a notch between the subject property and the house to the south, creating an intimately scaled open space and an inviting view of the trees in the center of the block. We believe the “el” should remain a one-story structure.

(We note that a plan similar to Plan B was proposed by the then-owner in 1987. ANC 2E opposed a second-story addition to the “el” at that time. Following the ANC’s opposition and before OGB review, the owner withdrew the project.)

SMD 03, 3217 P Street, NW, OG 14-065 (HPA 14-107) Commercial, Alterations, outdoor seating terrace, Concept

Commissioner Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E does not object to the proposal as presented. We would ask the OGB and the applicant to consider the possibility of more tree coverage. We have no comment on the signage because a signage concept was not presented at our meeting.

SMD 03, 3240 P Street, NW, OG 14-053 (HPA 14-077) Commercial, 3-story rear addition plus basement, Concept

Commissioner Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E opposes the concept as presented due to the inappropriate glazing that does not fit in the historic context of the neighborhood. ANC 2E also questions the scale and massing of the addition as presented.

SMD 05, 3222 M Street, NW, OG 14-072 (HPA 14-114) Georgetown Park, Window decals for “DC DMV,” Permit

Applicant was not present. ANC2E moved the project to no review. No action was taken.

SMD 05, 3286 M Street, NW, OG 14-034 (HPA 14-051) Commercial, Signs for parking lot, Permit

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Prindiville. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC2E has no objection to the concept as presented.

SMD 05, 3307-B M Street, NW, OG 14-061 (HPA 14-103) Commercial, Awnings, plaque and signs for “Calypso St. Barth,” Permit

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Cassey. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ANC 2E appreciates the signs as presented. We are hesitant about the awnings as presented. If OGB concludes the awnings are appropriate, we favor the straight valance awnings and not the scalloped option. We have no objection to the backlit Calypso sign on the eastern part of the building and no objection to the brass sign.

At 11:26 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Prindiville moved to adjourn the public meeting session of ANC 2E. Commissioner Starrels seconded the motion. With a vote of 6-0, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Prindiville
Secretary, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E