

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

March 2, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair. Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Jones, Howard, Starrels, Birch, Clausen and Roache were present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of, March 2, 2014, ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the agenda of the March 2, 2015 ANC 2E public meeting. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Approval of January 5, 2015 and February 2, 2015 meeting minutes

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the January 5th and February 2nd, 2015 ANC 2E meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis introduced MPD Commander Reese and turned the discussion over to Commissioner Solomon for presentation of the commendation. Commissioner Solomon made the following motion, followed by a presentation of the commendation to Commander Reese:

In recognition of his commitment and service to the community, ANC2E commends Commander Michael Reese. As Commander of 2D, he has provided strong leadership to implement community policing by forming close ties with the residential, business and university communities. Commander Reese has represented the Metropolitan Police Department at the highest levels by his effort and contributions exemplified by the excellent service his department strives to deliver every day. His leadership and commitment to public safety, fellow officers and community is an inspiration for us all. We hereby acknowledge and express our appreciation and gratitude to Commander Michael Reese in his outstanding service to our community.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Public Safety Report

Lt. **Knutsen** of MPD reported that it was a quiet month and burglaries and robberies were down. There were two carjackings at 26th and P St., NW with a handgun. Park police apprehended the suspect. Commissioner Solomon noted that the car destruction continued at Howard University and is still unsolved.

Financial Report

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the ANC 2E first quarter financial report. The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Starrels reported that the Mayor's office is doing a great job of tracking snow-related and other street-related issues in our area.

Department of Public Works Report

Commissioner Jones reported that there was an "All Hands" trash collection the previous week and unprecedented salting of alleyways. The snow caused a big backlog of trash and best efforts are being made by DPW and the Mayor's office. He urged neighbors to be patient and to keep trash collection areas and gutters clear. He also reported that DCWASA had had 7300 calls and almost 1000 emergency work orders due to the snow and freezing conditions. Jim Wilcox asked if there could be more rigorous enforcement of snow/ice removal in front of residences and Commissioner Jones said there would be beginning in January 2016. He reminded the community that if someone is hurt on your sidewalk it could be your liability. John Fanning from the Executive office of the Mayor reported that there is a program to help seniors remove snow called serve.dc.gov He gave his contact information as John.fanning@dc.gov 202-340-7229. He announced that Gregory Dean had been hired as interim Fire Chief by Mayor Bowser. He also detailed a program where a core team of agencies including DDOT, ABRA, DPW and others walk neighborhoods together to address issues, make corrections to outstanding problems and improve quality of life.

Community Comment

Commissioner Solomon announced that he had received calls regarding when demolition begins at Duke Ellington School and stated that it begins sometime in April. He is also working on the construction traffic management program with them.

Ruth Warner from Councilmember Jack Evans' office announced that FY14 and FY15 oversight hearings wrap up soon and in early April there would be a new budget proposal. Property tax bills and assessments would be arriving to residents soon and if assistance is needed to please call CM Evans' office.

Commissioner Jones announced that \$500,000 was reprogrammed for completing design and construction documents for the Hyde-Addison school construction project and he is working with DGS and the Mayor on moving forward with construction financing.

Regarding an inquiry about the e-cigarette store on O St. (Vaporfi) Commissioner Jones stated that no regulations exist in DC regarding e-cigarettes near a school. The FDA is

due to issue recommendations this summer but in the meantime residents can contact Councilmember Alexander with comments or complaints.

Candace Mosely of Georgetown University announced the Spring Break schedule and that a schedule of performances and lectures is available.

Due to a time constraint Chez Billy Sud ABRA case is moved up on the agenda

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion with regard to Chez Billy Sud:

ANC 2E endorses the second amendment of the Settlement Agreement and therefore we agree with this substantial change.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

New Business

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion, after extensive discussion by commissioners and community members about the remarkable life and times of Yarrow Mamout, an early Georgetown resident:

With regard to an archeological survey of 3324 Dent Place NW:

We urge the D.C. Historic Preservation Office to request that the Historic Preservation Review Board recognize the property at 3324 Dent Place NW as property likely to possess archeological significance and determine that a thorough archeological survey, including excavation as appropriate, be conducted before any building permit is issued at this location.

This site was the home of Yarrow Mamout, a Georgetown resident of extraordinary talent and character. Enslaved in West Africa and brought to America as a young man, he was later freed and lived for many years, from 1796 until around 1832, in a house he built in Georgetown at what is now 3324 Dent Place NW. A master brick maker, jack-of-all-trades, businessman and investor, he was widely respected for his character, capabilities and personality.

When the painter Charles Willson Peale came to Washington, D.C. in 1819 to paint portraits of distinguished Americans, he included Yarrow Mamout (a copy of this portrait is attached). Another portrait of Yarrow Mamout, this one by James Alexander Simpson, is on display in the Georgetown Branch Library.

Further underscoring the importance of Yarrow Mamout's life and times are the attached materials from [the Mount Zion Methodist Church in Georgetown; the Citizens Association of Georgetown]; and] the Washington Post.

We understand the Historic Preservation Office considers that this property has significant archeological potential, both for important artifacts illustrating the life and times of Yarrow Mamout and for the possibility that Yarrow Mamout was buried on this property. We acknowledge HPO's work on this with appreciation and thanks.

We understand further that while current resources would permit some test excavations, a more comprehensive archeological survey, including the use of technology such as ground-penetrating radar, might not be possible without additional financial support.

We believe the Historic Preservation Review Board has the authority to require that the ground not be disturbed on a site of potential archeological importance – that is, to deny issuance of a building permit – until a thorough archeological evaluation is conducted. Such an action by the Historic Preservation Review Board would assure that the archeological potential is preserved and could possibly be a stimulus for necessary funding to do a comprehensive survey.

Under the applicable rules, the Historic Preservation Office may request such action from the Historic Preservation Board. While the rules provide that this “shall not normally be expected of homeowners or small businesses,” we believe this is a highly unusual and other than a “normal” situation – with the potential of finding archeological material that has extraordinary importance. This qualifies in our view for the exception in the applicable rules for exceptional circumstances.

We therefore respectfully request that the Historic Preservation Office request the Historic Preservation Review Board to recognize the status of this property as having very significant archeological potential and to determine that archeological testing, and excavation if appropriate, be conducted before ground disturbance or issuance of a building permit.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Roache made the following motion with regard to 3055 R St., NW the Jackson School/Jackson Art Center:

Whereas, the Jackson School, built in 1890 at the corner of what is now R Street, NW and Avon Lane, NW, and currently designated as 3050 R Street, NW, is owned by the Government of the District of Columbia and at present administered by the Office of General Services and is a designated Landmark under historic preservation law; and

Whereas, the Jackson School was closed in 1971, and by 1980 was being used for arts education and artist's studios, such use continuing to the present under the umbrella of the

Jackson Arts Center, a non-profit organization, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), which relates to charitable and educational organizations to which contributions are tax-deductible; and

Whereas, the Jackson Arts Center which is a significant fixture in the community for over 30 years is home for more than 40 artists who have given back to the community through art workshops, community art programs in local schools, lectures, and workshops in the Georgetown Senior Center.

Whereas, the artists are committed to enhancing the beauty of this historic building by using their escrow funds to preserve and repair the 125 + year old windows. They have also signed contracts to begin restoration and repair of outside bricks and improvements to the grounds.

Whereas, the community is highly supportive of continuing the present use of the Jackson School for arts education and particularly artists' studios due to the dearth of affordable studio space in Washington, D.C.

It is now therefore, by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E,

Resolved, that the Commission urges the appropriate City Officials and Agencies to renew the lease for the Jackson School to the Jackson Arts Center.

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Council Chair Phil Mendelson, Councilmember Jack Evans and the other members of the City Council.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Birch made the following resolution:

ROSE PARK TENNIS COURTS: HONORING MARGARET AND ROUMANIA PETERS

ANC 2E is proud to recognize the achievement of two Georgetown residents, the Peters sisters, Margaret and Roumania Peters, who distinguished themselves in the world of tennis, and started their careers in professional tennis playing as teenagers in the 1930s on the tennis courts at Rose Park near their home in Georgetown. Rose Park is an important piece of the history of the African American residents of Georgetown; according to *Black Georgetown Remembered*, published in 1991 by Georgetown University, Rose Park was one of the few early integrated playgrounds in the District of Columbia.

From the tennis courts of Rose Park, the Peters sisters went on to gain national recognition, first at Tuskegee Institute where the sisters were recruited to play on

the tennis team and consistently won in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and later playing and winning their matches in the American Tennis Association, a league formed to give African-Americans a chance to play competitive tennis at the national level.

Acknowledging the significance of Rose Park in the history of the Georgetown and in recognition of the history of our community enriched by the lives and achievements of Margaret and Roumania Peters, ANC 2E is pleased to support the efforts of the Friends of Rose Park to place a plaque at the Rose Park tennis courts honoring the Peters sisters.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following resolution with regard to the Fillmore School:

To assure that potential purchasers of the Fillmore School/Corcoran Art property at 1801 35th Street NW are fully aware of community expectations with regard to the future use of this property, ANC 2E states the following:

1. Most of the open space currently on the property should be preserved as open space. Landscaped parking or other landscaped open areas would qualify.
2. Use of the Fillmore School building as a school with the rest of the space remaining open would be acceptable.
3. Residential use would be acceptable if:
 - The Fillmore School building has no more than 10 residential units and the building retains its current exterior appearance, footprint and height.
 - Open space is retained where there is now open space on the 35th Street side and in the center of the property.
 - Several residential townhouses could be built on the 34th Street side, with their primary facades aligned and set back from the sidewalk; a height matching the 2-story height of the nearby townhouses; and massing compatible with the nearby townhouses.
 - On-site parking must be sufficient to accommodate residents. Residents will not be eligible for RPP status.
 - Vehicular access for residents should be from 34th Street via a two-way driveway at the north side of the property.

- 4. The current public playground will be retained/expanded and will be maintained, and other amenities will be as agreed to during the zoning process.**

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Lewis made the following resolution:

ANC 2E does not object to the pilot program proposed by GBID temporarily widening sidewalks for Saturday and Sunday on Wisconsin Ave., NW; however, unless the DDOT advises ANC 2E that widening sidewalks on Friday will not affect the traffic pattern significantly, we will not support it.

The motion was seconded and carried 6-2.

ABC

Commissioner Lewis made the following motion with regard to Bulldog Tavern (ABRA 096001):

ANC 2E has no objection to the entertainment endorsement as applied for and believes it is appropriate to grant the entertainment endorsement on a stipulated basis.

The motion was seconded and carries 8-0.

BZA

Commissioner Jones made the following motion with regard to Crumbs & Whiskers (BZA 18954):

ANC2e encourages the Board of Zoning Adjustment to award a Special Exception for Crumbs & Whiskers, an Animal Boarding facility, located at 3211 O Street, NW BZA No. 18954. We believe this Special Exception is warranted based on the applicant meeting the following criteria for Animal Boarding facilities in the District:

- There are no residence zones within 25 feet of the facility.**
- There is no shared space with any other facilities.**
- The applicant has agreed the facility will be enclosed and soundproof in such a way to ensure no objectionable noise or odor conditions to nearby properties.**
- The windows and doors of the premises shall be kept closed.**
- The animal boarding use shall take place entirely within an enclosed building**

- The applicant is partnering with the Washington Humane Society in the pre-care and ongoing care of all animals. This will include all cats being spayed/neutered prior to occupying this facility further reducing excessive noise by the animals. Double doors will be installed, which will not only prevent cats from departing the facility accidentally, but also help reduce noise.
- No animals will be kept in external areas of the premises;
- Animal waste and litter shall be placed in closed and sealed waste disposal containers. All outside waste containers shall be metal or other rodent-proof type containers. All waste and litter shall be collected by a licensed waste disposal vendor at least twice a week
- All animals and litter boxes shall be deodorized daily.
- Odors shall be controlled by means of an air filtration system or an equivalently effective odor control system; This will include both a HEPA filter system and a air deodorizer to be placed in the basement.
- Two of the three floors are tiled, while the remaining floor is sealed wood. Although this remaining floor is not impervious we believe the conditions will be acceptable based on feedback from the Washington Humane Society. This also includes painting the lower 48 inches of the walls in a washable semi-gloss enamel.

In addition to the Zoning criteria listed above, ANC2e requests this Animal Boarding facility is for cats only, and is limited to a maximum number of twenty.

ANC2e welcomes this new and unique business to Georgetown and happily supports its Mission of providing significantly better living conditions for shelter cats and to create a unique and fun café experience for its visitors.

The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

With regard to loading variance for 3220 Prospect St. NW, Commissioner Jones noted that ANC 2E can make a proposal at the March 30th public meeting.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Birch chaired the Old Georgetown Board portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 3255-3259 Prospect Street, NW, OG 15-120 (HPA 15-223):

ANC2e does not support the project as presented. We have concerns regarding the massing and height, including the encompassing of a townhouse on the west side of the property. The rear setback is not sufficient. We also find there is a lack of transition between the proposed building and the residential buildings that are directly west and south. This lack of transition results in a lack of cohesion with the

surrounding townhouses. ANC2e has concerns the proposed rooftop deck is not in keeping with the adjacent properties. ANC2e does not object to razing the current non-contributing building. While we appreciate the concept of placing underground parking, the number of spaces are inadequate for the scope of the proposal. We would encourage the applicant to explore alternatives that are more in keeping with the historic context of the surrounding properties.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion:

With regard to 1513 Wisconsin Ave., NW, OG 14-321 (HPA 14-602):

ANC2e opposes the proposed addition because of our continued concern for the negative impacts upon the historic character of this property and also the damage it would create in context with the surrounding properties in a uniquely fragile space. Concerns include the setback not being sufficient, in that it extends beyond adjacent properties and is noticeably short of the average setback for the block. The third story continues to draw concerns and results in a massing and stark contrast to the current historic relationships with this and surrounding buildings. ANC2e would greatly appreciate the applicant to work with the recommendations of the Board as well as follow to the OGB's recommended guidelines listed in the Policy on Additions and Site Alterations to Structures in Georgetown.

The motion was seconded and carried 8-0.

At 10:12 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn the public meeting session of ANC 2E. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Maysak
Executive Director
for
Ron Lewis, SMD 02
Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E