

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

February 5, 2008
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Skelsey, Lowenstein, Starrels, Birch and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Lewis reported on the change in use for the District's 911 number to include both emergency and non-emergency calls for police response, while also continuing to be the emergency number for fire and ambulance calls. The 311 number will now be used for all non-police, fire or ambulance calls relating to D.C. government services, and 727-1000 will be discontinued. He then called upon MPD Lt. Roland Hoyle, who gave an overview of recent crimes in our area and responded to questions from the community. Statistics on recent public safety incidents 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on January 2, 2008 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Solomon second) by a vote of 7-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Eason, Treasurer of the Commission, gave a brief financial report for the quarter ending December 31, 2007, reporting that the Commission's accounts are solvent and that a full quarterly report will be presented at the March meeting.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Starrels reminded the community that the ANC Transportation Committee, chaired by Commissioners Starrels and Lewis, meets and confers regularly with the District Department of Transportation and other District government officials about transportation-related issues of interest within ANC 2E and that community input and suggestions are welcome and encouraged. Commissioners Starrels, Birch and Lewis discussed new signage installed by DDOT that increases allowable parking hours on the north side of P Street from 29th Street to just east of 31st Street and solicited community comments on the tradeoff at that location between creating more parking and narrowing the useable roadway. Commissioners noted that it is unclear at this time whether DDOT

actually intended to change the parking rules for this location and that the new wording on the signs may be erroneous.

ANC Public Meeting Dates for 2008

Commissioner Lewis announced the following public meeting dates for ANC 2E for 2008 and moved (Eason second) to approve the dates:

January 2; February 5; March 4; April 1; April 29; June 3; July 1; September 2; September 30; November 4; and December 2.

The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Commissioners Solomon and Skelsey introduced Hyde Elementary School teacher Kathleen Sheehy to the community and presented a certificate acknowledging Ms. Sheehy's outstanding achievement in having been honored as the District of Columbia State Teacher of the Year.

A representative of the Nation's Triathlon reported that the organization will be seeking the approval of ANC 2E at the March meeting to conduct the bicycle segment of the race on Sunday, September 14, 2008, on Canal Road and the Whitehurst Freeway.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Items

Status of Hardy Middle School construction; and name change

Tony Robinson from the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, together with colleagues from OPEFM and Sigal Construction Company, reported on the status of construction on Hardy Middle School. Construction is resuming now and is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of the school year in late summer 2008. In response to a question from Commissioner Starrels, Mr. Robinson stated that he and OPEFM Executive Director Alan Lew are committed to the school opening on time. The contractor is applying for permits to work beyond normal working hours, including weekends, in order to meet this timetable. The contractor's representatives assured the community that most of the after-hours work would be indoors and would not be apparent to the community.

Patrick Pope, principal of Hardy Middle School, and Charlotte Brookins-Hudson, president of the school's PTA, requested support from ANC 2E for the recommendation by the PTA to rename the school the Coretta Scott King Middle School of the Arts. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the proposal to change the name of the Hardy Middle School to the Coretta Scott King Middle School of the Arts.

Status of the Georgetown Branch Library interim site and reconstruction of the permanent library

Archie Williams, representing the D.C. Public Library, reported that negotiations are taking place with a goal of locating a temporary library on part of the field at the Jelleff Boys and Girls Club. He reported also that the design team for reconstructing the Georgetown Branch Library will be announced on February 7 and that a community design meeting will be scheduled in around a month.

ABC Issues

Modern

Commissioner Starrels reported that Modern is requesting an entertainment endorsement to its license. A representative of Modern explained that no change from existing operations is contemplated – there is now disk jockey music but no live entertainment – and the change is being requested in response to a change in applicable rules. Under the new rules, an entertainment endorsement for live music is required when disc jockey music is contemplated. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Commissioner Eason abstaining; Commissioner Skelsey not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the entertainment endorsement for Modern based on the understanding that the existing Voluntary Agreement will be clarified to state that the permitted entertainment is only for a disc jockey.

Rhino Bar and Pumphouse

A representative of Rhino Bar and Pumphouse reported that the establishment is requesting an entertainment endorsement to its license, to accommodate disc jockey music. Commissioner Starrels recommended that the Voluntary Agreement with this establishment be revisited in light of the entertainment request. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0

In the interest of establishing peace, order, and quiet, ANC 2E **protests an Entertainment Endorsement for Rhino Bar and Pumphouse.**

Zoning and Planning

No Action: Commissioner Skelsey suggested that two items listed for discussion on the agenda – 1525 34th Street NW (O.G. 08-069) and 3265 P Street NW (O.G. 08-080) – be removed from the agenda and treated as items for which no review is being undertaken

by the Commission. There was no objection and the items were removed from the agenda. Later in the meeting 3255 N Street NW (O.G. 08-071) was similarly removed from the agenda, and at Commissioner Starrels' request, 1063 Thomas Jefferson Street NW (O.G. 08-036) was similarly removed from the agenda.

Consent Calendar: Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to place the following item on the consent calendar, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Lowenstein not present):

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:

1336 30th Street NW, O.G. 08-078 (H.P.A. 08-127), replacement of garage door

2903 Q Street NW, O.G. 08-050 (H.P.A. 08-071):

Plans were presented for a roof deck and garage at the rear of this residence and light fixtures and stoop paving at the front. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has serious reservations about the proposed concept plan for 2903 Q Street NW, in particular with respect to construction of a second story deck that would overlook the residences on either side as well as be visible from public space, and we would hope the Board will take this objection into consideration. We have no objection to the garage concept as proposed.

3259 R Street NW, O.G. 08-086 (H.P.A. 08-142):

Plans were presented for partial demolition of a 1959 addition and side and rear additions. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Commissioner Skelsey recused himself and did not participate in the discussion or vote on this matter):

ANC 2E has concerns about the massing of the new addition in relation to the size of the historic house. We would encourage the Old Georgetown Board to take these concerns into consideration and to conduct a site visit prior to any decision on the conceptual plans as presented.

1346 28th Street NW, O.G. 08-05 (H.P.A. 08--72):

Plans were presented for a rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the first floor and second story addition proposed except for the bay window, noting that the window to the north would compromise the private enjoyment of the residents at 1348 28th Street, and we encourage the Old Georgetown Board to seek to reduce the impact of the bay window.

1526 32nd Street NW, O.G. 08-084(H.P.A. 08-134):

Plans were presented to dig out a basement and for underpinning and enlarging a rear window well. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed project as presented, with the understanding that the appropriate underpinning will take place and with the understanding that the affected neighbor is aware of the proposal and does not object.

3024 Q Street NW, O.G. 08-095 (H.P.A. 08-151):

Plans were presented for additions to the front and side of a garage and for alterations to the rear. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Skelsey not present):

ANC 2E reserves giving support to this project as presented because of concern with the program that is possible in the space of the design over the garage, which concern is shared by a neighbor in contact with the ANC.

2808 Olive Street NW, O.G. 08-085 (H.P.A. 08-137):

Plans were presented for a replacement fence and gate, and to cut a tree. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the project for a new fence and gate as proposed.

3509 M Street NW, O.G. 07-196 (H.P. 07-307):

Revised plans were presented for a rear addition and alterations. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E still has severe reservations about the project as a whole. Given the magnitude of the project, we object to going forward with the project unless there is serious consideration given to the practicalities of construction and the ability to maintain the integrity of the historic structure. While the Old Georgetown Board

declined our earlier suggestion that the fragility of the historic building would be jeopardized by the project as presented, we urge the Board to reconsider and conclude, as we believe the Board has done in the past, that evidence of the ability to construct without injury to the historic building is, in appropriate circumstances, integral to the Board's responsibilities.

1077 31st Street NW, ZDF German Television, O.G. 08-090 (H.P. 08-146):

Plans were presented for alterations to a rear connector addition and replacement of first floor windows. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the changes to the original rear addition. We would prefer the addition to remain with no signage and urge the Old Georgetown Board to consider closely any future lighting proposal. We have no objection to the proposed replacement first floor windows.

3429 M Street NW, Dixie Liquor, O.G. 08-067 (H.P. 08-105):

Plans were presented to replace a storefront window and for alterations, including an existing deck. 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 (Skelsey not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the plans for the window, deck and alterations.

1552 33rd Street NW, O.G. 08-094 (H.P.A. 08-150):

Plans were presented for alterations and side, rear and roof additions. 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 (Skelsey not present):

ANC 2E has no objection to the massing of this proposal. We entrust to the sound judgment of the Old Georgetown Board the intriguing historic preservation questions involved in the overall concept, including consideration of whether there is a particular time frame of greatest significance for this building and the implications for a sound renovation. We appreciate and rely upon the applicant's assurances that (a) great care will be taken to see that the contemplated construction does no injury to the adjacent property to the north, (b) the renovated house will be for single family use, and (c) the applicant will be financially responsible for restoring the curb and sidewalk in front of the property to the pre-existing, no-curb-cut condition and will not seek or use a driveway into the property.

At 9:35 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