

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

August 31, 2009
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

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

Administrative

Approval of June 29 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on June 29, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 5-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances, mentioning that the 3rd Quarter Report has been completed and is ready for submission.

The 3rd Quarter financial report was approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Lewis seconded) by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting at this point.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community, mentioning that DDOT is actively painting light poles and street repairs are occurring. They also noted that the 30th Street canal bridge will be closed for the next year. The Commissioners also stated that the Double-decker bus will change its route in another month to use K St. and Wisconsin Ave and that DDOT is rehabilitating brick sidewalks throughout the area.

Community Comment

Community members made comments regarding gas line repairs and the caution involved with breaking gas lines. Commissioner Solomon noted that the sidewalk on Whitehaven near 37th Street is being completed in September. It was also noted that plans are in process of moving forward for Ellington Field (38th St. and R St.) renovation. Linda Greenan from Georgetown University mentioned that the facilities office will renovate the field and an October meeting will be held to allow community comment and input. Ruth Werner from Councilmember Evans' office stated that the City Council will be back in session on September 15 and that September 22 is Ward 2 night at Nationals Park.

Jeanne Lord (Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs) from Georgetown University spoke about the University's move-in trash-removal program. Bulk trash removal will occur everyday (but Sundays) for three weeks up to September 12. Trucks will go out in the morning and make loops around neighborhood. Call Off-Campus Student Life (ocsl@georgetown.edu or (202) 687-5138) to report problems. Suggestions for future trash removal programs are always welcome. Also, during the academic year, there will be no warnings for student trash violations.

New Business

Georgetown Visitation School transportation management plan - recent traffic information confirming a reduction in morning rush hour traffic in and out of the School gates; possible waiver of one or more future annual traffic counts

Representatives from Georgetown Visitation School presented updated traffic-count information under the school's transportation management plan (TMP). It was noted that traffic in and out of the Schools gate during the morning rush period had decreased significantly since the TMP was implemented two years ago. The School requested that the Commission consider waiving the requirement of a traffic count during the current school year, subject to reinstatement upon request of the Commission. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E is pleased to report that based on traffic-count information, there has been a significant decrease in the Georgetown Visitation School's morning peak-period traffic during the past two school years, when an agreed-upon transportation management plan has been in effect, compared with the earlier, pre-agreement year.

Conducting an annual traffic count, which the agreement calls for in the first three years, is an expense to the school, and the school has asked if we would waive the traffic-count requirement for the current school year in light of the positive results in the first two years. ANC 2E agrees to waive the traffic-count requirement for the 2009-2010 school year, subject to reinstatement if ANC 2E so requests. In all other respects the Transportation Management Plan remains as agreed to, including, e.g., the possibility of reinstating traffic counts for future years if ANC 2E should so request.

WASA/DDOT transportation plans for WASA construction on Q Street between Rock Creek Park and 27th Street

Representatives from WASA and WASA's contractor and contract management company presented plans for their project on Q Street between Rock Creek Park and 27th Street in East Georgetown. This is the first of a long-term control project to separate sanitary and storm water drainage in Georgetown. Councilmember Evans has been reached and will help respond to concerns. This project will last approximately 11 months, use only 1 crew at a time, be limited to certain areas on Q St., allowing two-way traffic to be maintained during the day. At night, traffic flow will be normal, as plates will be pinned and ramped. The 24-hour contact number is (202) 612-3400.

Stop Signs at 32nd Street, NW and Scott Place, NW

Plans were presented for the installation of stop signs at the intersection of 32nd Street and Scott Place. The community has asked for an all-way stop. After discussion by commissioner and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports all-way stop signs at the T-type intersection of 32nd Street, N.W. and Scott Place, N.W.

All-way stop signs are appropriate because traffic often travels at excessive speed southbound down the hill on 32nd Street at Scott Place and neighbors are concerned about safety for pedestrians and motorists. The neighbors strongly support installing all-way stop signs at this intersection. The recent DDOT-sponsored Georgetown Transportation Study (October 2008) also supports all-way stop signs at this intersection, citing “strong community support for all-way stop” (See p. 64, Table 7, Box 28 and p. 183, Short-Term Option Recommendation ST-1, Georgetown Transportation Study Final Report).

Taste of Georgetown

Representatives from Georgetown BID presented plans for their 2009 Taste of Georgetown event, which will last from 11am to 4pm on October 10 with restaurants and wine tasting. Please visit www.tasteofgeorgetown.com for more information. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E enthusiastically endorses the Taste of Georgetown and hopes it builds on its successes from previous years and hopes it continues to substantially benefit the ministries.

Komen Cancer 3 Day—scheduled October 9 (Rose Park official stop)

No representatives from the event were present. The Commission discussed the plans for the event. No resolution was proposed or adopted in relation to this event.

Bike DC 2009—scheduled October 17

Representatives from Bike DC presented plans for their 2009 event, including some street closures in Georgetown. After discussion by commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E endorses Bike DC 2009 scheduled for October 17, 2009 and we wish them the best.

ABC Issues

Single Sales Update

Commissioner Starrels updated the community on requests to add exemptions to the single sales ban, mentioning that few community members have complained about the current ban, homeless population in Key Park has decreased, and the difficulty of specifying certain items. No action was taken by the Commission and the issue will continue to be explored.

3131 M Street, NW—Johnny Rockets application for liquor license

Representatives from the restaurant spoke about their need for a liquor license to serve beer and wine. After the discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E, at the moment, protests the license application with the intent of having a voluntary agreement pass at our October meeting.

Zoning and Planning

1690 36th Street, NW, Application of Washington International School for a Special Exception including additions to the building and additional parking spaces

Commission Skelsey has recused himself from the discussion and consideration of this project, as his children are students at the school.

Representatives from the school presented plans to add to the building and increase parking capacity and noted that the School and community representatives have successfully negotiated a Construction Management Agreement and a Transportation Plan Agreement. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC commissioners and community members have engaged in productive and collegial discussions with Washington International School (WIS) representatives. We have discussed in particular some key issues relating to (1) the impacts on the community of the proposed new construction and (2) ongoing transportation impacts from the school's drop-offs and pick-ups. As a result, we are pleased to report that we have reached agreement with WIS on the key issues of concern to the community:

- We have entered into an agreement with WIS on a Construction Management Plan (attached) covering such matters as, e.g., hours of construction, construction traffic and equipment, communications with the community, protection of public space, and the like. We request that this Construction Management Plan be incorporated into the decision regarding Application No. 17957.
- WIS has agreed that the addition on the Reservoir Road side of the property will be landscaped with screening trees which, at the time of planting, will be as tall as the addition and has agreed that air handling equipment on the roof of that addition will be quiet enough that it will not be heard by residential neighbors across Reservoir Road.

- We have entered into an agreement with WIS on a Transportation Management Plan (attached) covering such matters as, e.g., managing drop-offs and pick-ups, encouraging car-pooling and other traffic-reduction measures, monitoring transportation impacts, and the like. We request that this Transportation Management Plan be incorporated into the decision regarding Application No. 17957.

The resolutions and agreements described above have satisfied our concerns, and ANC 2E is accordingly prepared to support Application No. 17959 submitted by Washington International School to the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioners Solomon and Lewis, or either of them, to execute a Construction Management Plan agreement and a Transportation Management Plan agreement with Washington International School which they determine to be substantially in the form attached to this resolution.

1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW, Application for a Special Exception and Variance for Parking for Center for Digital Imaging Arts at Boston University

Representatives from the school presented plans to change their parking capacity. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E endorses the application with a parking cap of seven on-street spaces. We want to encourage the use of SmartBenefits for employees, and ANC 2E wants to review the plans in the fall of 2010.

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, except for those matters relating to 1649 35th Street, NW. Commissioner Skelsey chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

1416 34th Street, NW, OG 09-310 (HPA 09-348), Residence:

This project was moved to the No Review portion of the agenda.

3212 O Street, NW, OG 09-320 (HPA 09-358), Commercial:

Representatives from the property presented plans to partially demolish the property and build a new addition to the rear. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Starrels abstained):

We understand the proposal is within the allowable lot coverage in a commercial area, but we share concerns about the loss of the smaller scale buildings within the area.

3249 O Street, NW, OG 09-304 (HPA 09-342), Residence:

This project was moved to the No Review portion of the agenda.

1039 33rd Street, NW, OG 09-296 (HPA 09-334), Restaurant and Gallery:

Permit plans were presented to change the sign scheme for Chez Mama San restaurant and Gallery Chez M. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E gives qualified support to the project as presented.

3034 M Street, NW, OG 09-294 (HPA 09-333), Retail:

Permit plans were presented to add four lights to illuminate the store's facade. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no object as presented.

3225 M Street, NW, OG 09-305 (HPA 09-343), Retail:

Permit plans were presented to alter the storefront of True Religion Brand Jeans by changing the awning and sign and removing paint. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the project, however we want to point out to the Old Georgetown Board that the applicant did not present any materials detailing the signs to us and we want to make sure that the new signs keep with the nature of Georgetown.

3301 M Street, NW, OG 09-299 (HPA 09-337), Retail:

Permit plans were presented to alter the storefront, awnings, and sign scheme for Georgetown Cupcake. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates what the architect and client are trying to do with the building in question however we find the design incongruous with the building it is being attached to. ANC 2E hopes that they will find a solution that is in greater harmony with the existing building.

3137 N Street, NW, OG 09-303 (HPA 09-341), Residence:

Permit plans were presented for a two-story rear addition 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:

ANC 2E cannot support the project at this time due to the lack of notification to the adjacent neighbor to the east and we encourage the architect to continue to attempt to contact the neighbor before the OGB meeting.

Commissioner Solomon left the meeting at this point

3012 O Street, NW, OG 09-323 (HPA 09-361), Residence:

Permit plans for a rear three-story addition were presented. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E cannot support the project at this time because we do not know if the neighbors have been adequately notified and the new windows may create new views into neighbor's yard and thus a loss of privacy.

3212 P Street, NW, OG 09-308 (HPA 09-346), Residence:

No presenters were in attendance for this project. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E opposes the project and notes that neither the architect or owner was present to discuss before the anc. We also note that the addition of a third story to the house poses significant changes.

Commissioner Solomon returned to the meeting at this point.

3020 Dumbarton Street, NW, OG 09-312 (HPA 09-350), Residence:

Permit plans were presented for a basement entrance off the sidewall. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Starrels abstained):

ANC 2E notes the addition of the basement entrance creates the potential for an accessory unit to the single family dwelling and we have told the owner about our concerns over the potential accessory unit. We do not object to sidewall alteration and basement entrance.

3020 Dumbarton Street, NW, OG 09-313 (HPA 09-351), Residence:

Permit plans were presented to raise the roof for a third floor addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E encourages the owner to continue to contact the adjacent neighbors, but until that time we cannot support the project.

1517 27th Street, NW, OG 09-328 (HPA 09-366), Residence:

Concept plans were presented for a rear addition and replacement windows. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Skelsey seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no opposition to the concept plan as presented.

1681 32nd Street, NW, OG 09-326 (HPA 09-364), Residence:

Concept plans were presented for a one-story rear addition, relocation of the front door, a side in-fill and new surround. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the conceptual plans as presented but we understand that the owner of the adjacent property has not indicated consent, and we ask that they receive consent before they return for permit plans. This resolution is not intended to address any issues other than the concept application including any zoning issues that may arise.

3017 Dent Place, NW, OG 09-317 (HPA 09-355), Residence:

Permit plans were presented for a two-story rear addition to replace an existing porch. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Skelsey seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the permit plans.

1649 35th Street, NW, OG 09-321 (HPA 09-359), Residence:

Concept plans were presented to alter the curb cut, driveway and gate. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded) which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E recommends against approval of the proposed driveway and parking space at 1649 35th Street, N.W. for the following reasons:

- The 8' 7" space between the subject house and the neighboring house to the south is too narrow for safe and customary access by car and for exiting and unloading from a car, as is evident in the architect's drawing.
- It is highly likely, therefore, that cars will instead be parking in the front yard – much of which is actually public space. That would be an intrusive use of front-yard space which is inappropriate for the Georgetown Historic District or for the modest scale of this property.
- The proposed parking space abuts a fragile stucco wall on the neighboring house to the south. Cars attempting to park in this space would have to be driven much too close to this wall, as is shown graphically in the applicant's drawing.

- A lateral downspout on the applicant's house currently reduces the available width of the proposed space to approximately 8' 1" or narrower. The applicant's drawing seems to show the lateral downspout being raised, but this would create a highly visible element on what is now a clean wall.
- There are no other driveways on this block, and whether or not there was ever a space for narrow carriages at this location, any vehicular access has long been abandoned.
- A driveway would remove two public on-street parking spaces at this location as 35th Street is currently configured.

At 10:40 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