

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

June 30, 2014

Georgetown Visitation School, 35<sup>th</sup> and Volta Place, NW Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commissioner Starrels, Vice-Chair. Commissioners Solomon, Jones, Cassey, Starrels, Birch, and Steury were present, constituting a quorum.

**Administrative**

***Approval of June 30, 2014, ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda***

Commissioner Starrels moved to approve the agenda of the June 30, 2014 ANC 2E public meeting. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

***Approval of June 2, 2014, Meeting Minutes***

Approval of the June 2, 2014, meeting minutes was deferred to the September 2, 2014, ANC2E Public Meeting.

***Public Safety Report***

Sgt. Antoine reported on public safety and reported a June 2 robbery in the Georgetown area, one arrest and a second person is currently being investigated. On the 1300 block of 27<sup>th</sup> there was a vehicle vandalism which is under investigation. The public is urged not to keep valuables visible in the car. There was a burglary on the 3000 block of Dumbarton Street, NW, the public is urged to keep window closed and doors locked. Multiple citations have been given for the stop sign at 28<sup>th</sup> and R Streets. Commissioner Steury discussed that a traffic camera at the location would give MPD statistics regarding the number of citations.

Commissioner Solomon commented that cars had been vandalized on Volta Street, dented a car and a windshield was smashed. Please advise the MPD Second District that traffic circulation is ready to two-way on 35<sup>th</sup> Street. Ask Second District to keep an eye on the change.

John Weibenson of the Georgetown BID says new app for business communication with MPD is working well and he has received good feedback from merchants and officers. 50411 is text tip line and 727-9099 is a phone tip line.

***Financial Report***

Commissioner Jones reported ANC finances are secure.

***Transportation Report***

Commissioner Starrels urged the public to continue to call 311 to report potholes.

***Department of Public Works Report***

Commissioner Jones reported the Georgetown Community Partnership is noticing success when students were leaving at the end of the semester. After students left, violations have gone up. It's a clear sign that the Georgetown Community Partnership is working well with students dealing with property violations. There were 4 separate landlord actions.

DPW reports that regular trash is going into blue recycling bins. DPW crews will not pick up the trash in blue recycling bins.

***Introduction of ANC 2E Commissioner Dennis Quinn for SMD 08***

Commissioner Starrels introduced Dennis Quinn, newly elected and sworn-in Commissioner for SMD 08. Commissioner Quinn is a native of Bethesda and a current Georgetown student. Commissioner Quinn's information is online on ANC 2E's website.

***Designation of ANC 2E Secretary***

Commissioner Starrels moved that Commissioner Quinn be designated new ANC 2E Secretary. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

**Community Comment**

Commissioner Solomon advised that the service station at Wisconsin and Q Streets might be sold. ANC2E would like to hear any comments from the community regarding loss of station. The service station at M Street and Pennsylvania Avenue has also been sold, as well as the Key Bridge Exxon. The Wisconsin and Q station has a garage and the community takes their cars there. Comments from the community included that they would not mind having a nice development there. Also the traffic pattern is tight there, if there is a development, it might ease the traffic congestion.

Commissioner Birch is in favor of gas stations and now there are far fewer. The community needs gas stations and he hopes we can find ways to keep gas stations.

Commissioner Solomon said there is a trend throughout the city to sell off gas stations. If you would like to comment further on the sale of gas stations please email ANC 2E. Once stations are gone they are gone.

Attendee Will Cutler was pleased with the brick sidewalk restoration and now is concerned because of all the Pepco paint all over the sidewalks. Commissioner Jones reported that anytime any thing is dug in the city they have to paint to warn of the gas, utility, and water lines.

Commissioner Birch reported that Ruth Werner could not be at this meeting.

Commissioner Birch also reported that Mayor Gray is sponsoring a jumbo tron at Freedom Plaza tomorrow afternoon at 4 for the USA World Cup match. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets, and Constitution Avenue will be closed.

***Michael Fabricant from The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement and John Fanning of City Service Delivery, 202-510-1983, were present to discuss 1314 Potomac Street, NW, No. 1 under the OGB Agenda***

Mayor Gray asked Mr. Fabricant to come to let neighbors know that Mayor's office will work with neighbors and the property owner. The Attorney General is doing some fact finding. Mr. Fabricant will answer general questions.

According to the owner, Kebreab Zere, the property was not an alley historically. The tax sale was advertised publicly and the property foreclosed and settled in court. Mr. Zere received a clean and clear deed and as property owner is paying taxes.

Neighbors use this as a public alley to access their garages. City paved the alley 12 years ago. City has been maintaining the alley. Titled as a public alley, neighbors have deeds stating that it was an alley since 1903. If it was sold by DC in error, then DC needs to resolve this situation. DC made the mistake of selling the alley.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion regarding the Georgetown BID application for Taste of Georgetown on September 14, 2014, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0

ANC 2E supports the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Taste of Georgetown to be held Saturday, Sept 14, 2014. We wish them well and appreciate the bid working so closely with the community and with the Citizens Association of Georgetown.

Commissioner Birch commented on the use of public space during construction projects and requested that ANC 2E defer official action until September meeting because the subject needed discussion. Central to the issue is dumpsters, which take up roadway space and parking spaces. At 31<sup>st</sup> Street, between P and M, there is a dumpster on every block. John Richardson, a premier contractor, does not use dumpsters and has everything trucked out daily. The City of Alexandria forbids use of dumpsters.

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Commissioner Starrels made the following motion regarding the support for the renewal of the term for the Georgetown BID, which was seconded by Commissioner Cassey. Commissioner Solomon was recused as a member of the Georgetown BID Board. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E- the ANC that covers the Georgetown commercial district- supports the Georgetown Business Improvement District's application to be renewed for a 5-year term. The BID has a long history of working with the ANC on issues that are of mutual importance to the business and residential community. One of our Commissioners serves on the BID Board of Directors as an ex-officio member, and another ANC Commissioner is an elected member of their Board. The BID presents at many monthly meetings over the course of the year and keeps our members informed about upcoming activities so that we can weigh in on community concerns.

In 2013 we were pleased to participate in the Georgetown 2028 planning process and we continue to work with the BID on a number of action agenda items that were either agreed to, or are being studied further.

The Georgetown BID provides trash removal, rat abatement, graffiti removal, and public space beautification and maintenance services to our neighborhood that help our residents as well as our businesses. The BID has, and will continue to make a positive contribution to the life and vitality of our neighborhood and we encourage you to renew the organization for an addition 5-year term.

Commissioner Jones made the following motion regarding the Hyde Addison Elementary School, 3219 O Street, NW, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0

ANC 2E was contacted by DGS' architects for the Hyde Modernization for its opinion on the impact of the placement of low-profile HVAC intake and exhaust units necessary for the operation of the fresh air system in the building for the children. We have no objection and do not see any resulting harm to the fabric of historic Georgetown. Based on the architect's presentation, we do not believe this will be visible from the public way and therefore not in need of historic review in any event.

## **ABC**

Regarding Orange Anchor, 3050 K Street, NW, ABRA-095194, application for new license, ANC 2E supported a Settlement Agreement, which supported the pulling back of the hours in the original Settlement Agreement.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion regarding Gypsy Sally's, 3401 K Street, NW, ABRA-090582, substantial change request for an increase of seats from 284 to 452, which was seconded by Commissioner Steury. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0

ANC 2E protests the substantial change request to increase seats from 284 to 452 at Gypsy Sally's, 3401 K Street, NW, for reasons of peace, order and quiet.

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion regarding J.Paul's, 3218 M Street, NW, ABRA-072358, substantial change request to add an Entertainment Endorsement to license, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0

ANC 2E protests the substantial change request to add an Entertainment Endorsement to the license at J. Pauls, 3218 M Street, for reasons of peace, order, and quiet. ANC 2E asks that ABRA push the roll call hearing date to September 25, 2014, which will give ANC 2E time to negotiate a Settlement Agreement with the applicant.

## **Zoning**

Commissioner Solomon made the following motion regarding GU/MedStar application for approval of a proton therapy center, Z.C. Case No. 10-32B, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0

MedStar/Georgetown University Hospital has worked closely recently with community and Georgetown University representatives to demonstrate a commitment to collegial long-term planning in connection with the current GU Campus Plan and the possible development of a successor plan.

In light of this commitment and the likelihood that the proposed proton therapy center will not be inconsistent with the current Campus Plan and developments regarding a possible future campus plan, ANC 2E supports approval by the Zoning Commission of the proton therapy center proposal as presented.

## **Old Georgetown Board**

Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for the discussion of Old Georgetown Board items.

**With regard to 2715 N Street NW, OG 14-143 (HPA 14-283) Alexander Memorial Baptist Church –**

**Rectory**

Commissioner Birch made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed entrance porch on the front of the historic Hall residence, provided that it meets appropriate standards of design and compatibility with the façade of the house.

**With regard to 2709 N Street NW, OG 14-225 (HPA 14-430) Alexander Memorial Baptist Church – Church building**

Commissioner Birch made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

First, ANC 2E supports the concept of the adaptive reuse of the church building at 2709 N Street NW as residences, with the minimum amount of increased density on site. We prefer adaptation of the interior to provide a single residence rather than three. Our objections to the proposed design focus on the treatment of the church façade to the east and north of the property. We question the proposed removal of the historic sacristy on the north façade. Large window openings, currently stained glass, if replaced with clear glass as proposed would severely compromise the zone of privacy enjoyed by the neighbors in close proximity to the east and to the north. In addition, we wish to underscore the fragile nature of the eastern edge of the church property, including matters of drainage and stability of the existing brick walls to the east and north. We urge the attention to these concerns.

**With regard to 2717 N Street NW, OG 14-225 (HPA 14-430) Alexander Memorial Baptist Church - Vacant Lot**

Applicant stated that he postpone at this time.

**With regard to 1314 Potomac Street, NW, OG 14-231 (HPA 14-481)**

Commissioner Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Solomon. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

ANC2E finds the application lacking appropriate plans and is not able to be reviewed sufficiently. We recommend no Review be accomplished. In any event, ANC2e finds any fence to be placed at this location would severely disrupt the historic character of Georgetown and disrupt the historic open alley and adjacent service buildings historic character.

**With regard to 3000 M Street, NW, OG 14-130 (HPA 14-270)**

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

ANC 2E appreciates the evolution of the building at 3000 M Street, NW. ANC 2E would like the OGB to take a look at the evolution of the glass tower and make sure that it blends well with general street façade of M Street. ANC 2E likes the southern façade with the windows and has no objections to the Eastern façade.

**With regard to 3614 Prospect Street, NW, OG 14-264 (HPA 14-505)**

Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

ANC 2E does not object to plans as presented for 3614 Prospect Street, NW.

**With regard to 2920 R Street, NW, OG 14-246 (HPA 14-487)**

Commissioner Steury made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Cassey. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Whereas ANC 2E has reviewed the applicant's proposed plans for a concept permit, received and considered comments and observations submitted by neighbors, including 5 letters (3 supporting and 2

opposing) the application, all of which ANC 2E appreciates, considered the written observations by the Citizens Association of Georgetown Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee, which ANC 2E also appreciates, and heard the architect's presentation which addressed various concerns raised;

- ANC 2E has serious concerns regarding

(1) the placement of the proposed garages, and urges that the proposed garages be of material appropriate to the historic nature of the existing structure, and of a scale and with landscape screening that minimizes detracting from the façade of the historic structure;

(2) the protection and preservation of the historic and iconic specimen trees; and

(3) the overall size of the new construction relative to the existing structure.

- ANC 2E commends the Eins, the applicants, for their efforts to communicate with the neighboring community.

**With regard to 3329 Q Street, NW, OG 14-238 (HPA 14-473)**

Commissioner Birch made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Reviewing the application for existing wall and fences to the east of the property at 3329 Q Street, NW, ANC urges the Old Georgetown Board to consider issues of legitimacy, height and appropriate appearance of the construction.

- Legitimacy: It has been brought to our attention that the fences and walls do not conform to an approved set of drawings and plans, which for certain reasons were not reviewed by the OGB or the ANC. Indeed the drawings and site plans appear, in our view, to be unclear and not in conformance with what has been built, both in terms of height and design.

- Height: The present fence and concrete wall, which replaced a stockade fence, is approximately 2 feet higher than the previous fence and what was proposed to replace it. It is 11 inches taller than the 7 feet allowed, which would not have been permitted without the neighbor's consent.

- Design: Exposed poured concrete is not a material compatible with the character of the Georgetown historic district. The wooden fences along the property were meant to be made of wood slats running vertically and abutting with little to no spacing between the slats. The current fence presents horizontal slats with visible spacing between.

- In view of the questions raised by the construction of the wall and fences, ANC 2E urges the Old Georgetown Board to require that the concrete wall be removed or, alternatively, replaced with a fence or a wall of suitable material, including facing of an aesthetically and historically correct material, and enforcing the appropriate height. We urge that the fences be adjusted to the design shown on the plans as originally reviewed and approved.

**With regard to 1623 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 14-249 (HPA 14-490)**

Commissioner Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Birch. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

ANC 2E does not oppose the project at 1623 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, as presented. ANC 2E does have concerns about the removal of the mullions of the bay window to a single pane of glass.

**At 11:45 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Birch moved to adjourn the public meeting session of ANC 2E. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. With a vote of 7-0, the motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Melanie Gisler  
Executive Director  
for  
Ron Lewis, SMD 02  
Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E  
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