

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

June 29, 2009
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Golds, Starrels, and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Sergeant Antoine reported on public safety matters and recent crimes in the community. He mentioned that crime has decreased this year in comparison to last year across most categories of crime. Commissioner Solomon and Sergeant Antoine responded to questions from Commissioners and community members regarding quality of life issues, clean up after a recent storm, traffic enforcement on Water St., tow truck presence on Pennsylvania Avenue, and an attempted robbery on M St. (an arrest was made).

Approval of June 1 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on June 1, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Commissioner Solomon seconded) by a vote of 5-0.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances. The Commission received one of three allotments, has answered the city auditor's questions, and will receive the additional allotments shortly. ANC 2E is in good financial health.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community, including the Canal Bridge project (discussed in-depth later in the meeting) and utility work at K St. and Thomas Jefferson St. The Commissioners mentioned that the light post rehabilitation project is now fully funded and that all light poles in the historic district will be refurbished. The also mentioned that despite ongoing construction, the sidewalk in front of the TD Bank building at Wisconsin Ave. and Q St. will remain open per ANC 2E's request. The Commission will be consulted before further work at the bank.

Community Comment

Community members made comments regarding loud music at bars in Georgetown and the establishment of a hospice program on Wisconsin Ave. (additional service and staff coordination only, no patients will be on the premises). Commissioner Lewis stated that city is seeking expressions of interest from developers and non-profit organizations with regard to

future ownership and use of the Hurt Home (3050 R Street). Ruth Werner from Councilmember Jack Evans' office mentioned that the council is in session until August 2 to deal with the revenue shortfall and invited the community to join Councilmember Evans on the Fourth of July. Commissioner Solomon shared the news that former Citizens Association President Juan Cameron passed away recently.

New Business

DC Department of Transportation overview of 30th St. Canal Bridge Project

A representative from DDOT (Mike Gales) presented plans for the project to revitalize canal bridges in Georgetown. The project will take three years, with the three bridges being repaired one at a time, starting with 30th Street, followed by Thomas Jefferson Street and 29th Street. Road closures will begin in July. The community is advised to contact Mike at (410) 952-7686 to report any issues. He answered questions from the community and the Commission.

DC Council Public Hearing regarding closing of a portion of a public alley located north of R St. and south of Whitehaven Parkway

Representatives from the project presented plans regarding the closing of a public alley in Burleith. Commissioner Solomon spoke about the project and its history. The Commission left in place a resolution in opposition to the alley closing adopted at an earlier date.

ABC Issues

Moratorium on ABC license expansion at the complex known as Georgetown Court, 3251 Prospect St. NW

Commissioners and community members discussed the possibility of a moratorium on increased seating for ABC establishments at Georgetown Court. Robert Elliot (owner of the project) spoke against the moratorium. Karen Cruse, representing CAG, spoke in favor the moratorium. After the discussion by Commissioners and community members, focusing on the pros and cons of the moratorium, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 4-1 (Commissioner Golds dissenting):

ANC 2E supports a moratorium on license amendments authorizing additional seating at 3251 Prospect St., NW, also know as Georgetown Court, and is authorized to accept the ABC Board's invitation to propose such a moratorium.

Confirmation of Fred Moosally as Director of ABRA

Commissioner Starrels spoke about Fred Moosally, his role in ABRA, his plans for the future, and his qualifications for the position. After the discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

Fred Moosally for the last six months has been Acting Director of ABRA. Before this he was General Counsel for ABRA. He has been an outstanding public servant in both positions.

ANC 2E enthusiastically endorses the nomination and confirmation of Frederick P. Moosally for Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, PR 18-315. We urge the Council as a whole to support his confirmation.

Hook-Tackle Box license and voluntary agreement

Changes to the license and voluntary agreement at Hook and Tackle Box were discussed, with a focus on combining the two establishments under one license and voluntary agreement. The owner of the restaurant answered questions from the community and the Commission. Karen Cruse, representing CAG, spoke against the change citing the bad precedent of piggybacking the licenses and voluntary agreements. The Commission decided to explore this issue further and will adopt a resolution at a later date.

Zoning and Planning

2900 K St. NW—Application for the Kingdom of Sweden to locate a chancery in excess of the permitted 2.0 floor area ratio limitation

Representatives from the embassies (both Sweden and Iceland) presented plans to add an Icelandic chancery to the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation and recommends the approval of the application to locate the chancery in excess of the permitted 2.0 floor area ratio limitation.

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 that which relates to 1617 35th St., as it is in his single-member district. Commissioner Starrels chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

1617 35th St., NW, OG 09-218 (HPA 09-196), Residence:

Representatives from the property presented plans for a roof deck. Three members of the community spoke representing a number of community members and CAG against the project. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E strongly opposes the applicant's proposed roof deck at 1617 35th Street and urges the Old Georgetown Board to deny this proposal.

A roof deck at this location would be a jarring and intrusive presence both visually and functionally. Visually, the proposed deck would jut out from the building in an aggressive manner, well past the rear facades of the neighboring houses. It would be wholly out of keeping with both the vernacular of the building to which it would be attached and the neighborhood as a whole.

Functionally, the proposed deck, located one story up in what is now the central open space of its surroundings, would look directly into the second-story bedrooms of not only the houses on 35th Street to its north and south, but also into the bedrooms of houses on nearby Dent Place and 34th Street. Residents in these houses are greatly concerned about this, and we believe they are right.

Finally, we note that the subject house, which is now on the market for sale, has a history of loud outdoor parties and we believe the neighbors are right to be concerned that similar activity could only be encouraged by this utterly unnecessary and intrusive proposed roof deck.

Commissioner Lewis also introduced a back-up resolution in the event that the OGB or the CFA approves the roof deck. Commissioner Solomon seconded this resolution, which passed 5-0:

Because of the extraordinary and serious concerns within the community and by ANC 2E about the applicant's proposed roof deck at 1617 35th Street NW, ANC 2E resolves that if the Old Georgetown Board or the Fine Arts Commission approves a roof deck at that location, ANC 2E is authorized to refer the matter to the Historic Preservation Review Board for consideration by such Board of this matter.

1068 31st St., NW, OG 09-283 (HPA 09-308), Piccolo Restaurant:

Representatives from the restaurant presented permit plans for their sign scheme. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion, which was not seconded by any member of the Commission.

ANC 2E appreciates the plans as presented but we recommend that the sign on the north side of the building be eliminated and let the other two signs go forward.

Commissioner Eason made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which was adopted by a vote of 3-1 (Commissioner Starrels dissenting):

ANC 2E approves the signage as presented.

1068 31st St., NW, OG 09-269 (HPA 09-295), Piccolo Restaurant:

Representatives from the restaurant presented concept plans to add a roof deck at the rear of the restaurant. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E has reservations about the roof deck and its implications for noise and interfering with the historic architecture of the neighborhood, and at this time, we think a deck may be problematic. We hope the Old Georgetown Board will study this very carefully as we go forward and consider the issues pertaining to the proposed roof deck.

1075 Wisconsin Ave., NW, OG 09-271 (HPA 09-296), Commercial:

Concept plans were presented to alter the storefront of the property, including removing brick steps and a rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 4-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the presentation and the concerns of the owners, however ANC 2E very much thinks that the historic nature of the front of the building should prevail. ANC 2E thinks that if the steps are modified, they should fit with their original design. ANC 2E does not want the window at the front of the building to change. The Commission does not have a strong objection to the rear addition as long as it does not obstruct the view of the building from the street.

At 8:59 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