

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

July 1, 2008

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

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

#### ***Public Safety and Police Report***

Commissioner Solomon introduced MPD Sgt. Antoine to the community. Sgt. Antoine shared information with the community about recent crime in PSA 206, and responded to questions from Commissioners and community members. Statistics on recent public safety incidents are available at <http://crimemap.dc.gov/presentation/query.asp> There is also a Second District website including crime information at [2D\\_mpd@yahoo.com](mailto:2D_mpd@yahoo.com).

#### ***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on June 3, 2008 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Starrels (Solomon seconded) by a vote of 5-0.

#### ***Financial Report***

Commissioner Solomon reported that ANC 2E had recently been audited successfully by the D.C. Auditor's office.

Commissioner Solomon moved (Lowenstein second) to amend ANC 2E's budget to approve a payment of \$961.00 in back taxes. The motion passed 5-0.

#### ***Transportation Report***

Commissioner Starrels reported to the community that the transportation study is approaching completion and announced that the next public meeting on the study is to be held on Thursday, July 24 at St. John's Church.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Doug Smith, Interim Executive Director of the Georgetown BID, reported on the BID's plans for Taste of Georgetown. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Wisconsin Avenue between K Street and M Street. Smith informed the Commission that the Bid intended to present their plans to the Department of Homeland Security and then return to ANC 2E to give a formal presentation.

Tony Robins, Director of Communications of the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, reported on the ongoing landscaping project at Duke Ellington Park.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***ABC Issues***

#### **Paolo's Voluntary Agreement**

Commissioner Starrels reported that a proposed voluntary agreement has been reached with Paolo's and described the proposed agreement, which is available in the Commission's files. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC 2E withdraws its protest of the establishment and endorses the voluntary agreement contingent upon the ABC Board accepting the agreement.*

#### **Possible moratorium for Prospect Place**

Commissioner Starrels introduced a discussion about the possibility of a moratorium for the Prospect Place properties. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC2E would like to propose that Prospect Pl be included in the moratorium in place in Georgetown.*

#### **Ban of sale of single alcoholic beverage containers within ANC 2E.**

Ruth Warner, a Legislative Aide from the Office of Councilman Jack Evans, introduced the Single Sale Moratorium Act to the community. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC2E would like to be part of Ward 2 Targeted Single Sale Moratorium Act of 2008.*

### ***Special Items***

#### **Steps that Count – American Kidney Fund Walk**

No representative from the American Kidney Fund Walk was in attendance, so discussion was postponed until the Commission's September meeting.

#### **Holiday event at Wisconsin & M proposed by CAG and the BID**

Kelly Price, board member of the Georgetown BID, and Denise Cunningham, President of the Citizens' Association of Georgetown presented to the community their concept for Merriment in Georgetown, a holiday celebration to be held on M Street in December. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2e endorses the concept of Merriment in Georgetown with the provision that we will meet at least once more to concentrate on Street closings.

### **Application for funding of DDOT Transportation Enhancement projects**

Commissioner Starrels presented to the community a discussion about requesting funding from DDOT Transportation Enhancement projects for improvements including sidewalk repairs, painting and maintenance of lampposts and sign posts, and money for traffic control officers. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E requests that monies be dedicated to sidewalk repair, painting and maintenance of sign posts and lamp posts, and for traffic control officers.

### **Zoning and Planning Board of Zoning Adjustmen**

#### **Application (BZA 17761) of Harry L. Belin, on behalf of the Evermay Society, for a Special Exception to allow a non-profit organization use under section 217, in the R-1-B District, at premises located at 1623 28<sup>th</sup> Street NW**

Commissioner Eason introduced to the community the topic of Evermay's application for a Special Exception to allow a non-profit organization use under section 217, in the R-1-B District, at premises located at 1623 28<sup>th</sup> Street NW. After extensive discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

On consideration of the application ("Application") to the Board of Zoning Adjustment ("Board" or "BZA") by Harry L. Belin, on behalf of the Evermay Society ("Applicant"), for a Special Exception to allow non-profit organization use under § 217 in the R-1-B District at premises located at 1623 28<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, the Applicant having been given the opportunity to be heard, and having heard from the immediate neighbors and others desiring to be heard,

Be it Resolved by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, at a public meeting held on July 1, 2008, duly noticed, and at which a quorum was present and voting:

1. The Commission is unable to conclude the Applicant meets the requirements for grant of a Special Exception pursuant to § 217, and therefore recommends the Board closely scrutinize this essential threshold issue.
2. The Commission further requests the Board closely scrutinize Applicant's assertion that the proposed use is necessary to the purposes of the non-profit organization, or related to the property as a historic property and garden.
3. The Commission urges the Board, should it believe that the Applicant meets the threshold requirements for the grant of the Special Exception requested, to impose strict limitations on any activities permitted to protect the interests of the owners/occupants of neighboring properties, and that any authorization be limited to a period of two years, or so long as the Evermay Society is the sole tenant, whichever is shorter.
4. The Commission authorizes Commissioners Solomon, Starrels, Lewis, Lowenstein, Birch, Eason and Skelsey, or any of them, to present the report of the Commission, and to act for the Commission on any matters which may come before the Board relative thereto.
5. The Commission requests that its views with respect to the Application be given the great weight required by law.

**Application (BZA 17793) re 1693 35<sup>th</sup> Street for a Special Exception to create two apartments from an existing claimed rooming house**

Commissioner Solomon introduced a discussion about the application for a Special Exception to create two apartments from an existing claimed rooming house at 1693 35<sup>th</sup> Street NW. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes the application for a special exception for 1693 35<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. (BZA 17793). The proposed special exception would approve two-family zoning, known as "flats," normally permitted only in R-4 and higher districts. We believe the proposed special exception would have serious effects on the community for a number of significant reasons, including:

The preservation of R-3 single-family zoning in most of the Georgetown Historic District is a high priority for the community and for ANC 2E.

Increasing the density of the property at 1693 35<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. to two flats would greatly increase – e.g. double – the allowable number of people in the building. The most likely tenants in this building are young adults, and it is not unreasonable to anticipate that all or most of the tenants will have a car. This would have a serious adverse impact on parking, by creating a building in which the tenants, each with a car, would take 12 parking spots on the street – far too great a burden for a single building to impose upon that block. The requested exception would similarly adversely affect the community with greatly increased trash generation, already a problem in many group houses in our community, and with the risk of late-night noise, which is a great concern in the community.

Increasing the density of this property would only encourage other intensification of use of Georgetown properties, particularly on this block, which would overwhelm the environs.

ANC 2E urges the Board of Zoning Adjustment in the strongest of terms to reject the application for a special exception to permit doubling of the occupancy of the property, with all its attendant burdens on the community.

ANC 2E urges the Board of Zoning Adjustment also to examine carefully whether the building is even grandfathered for the existing claimed use as a rooming house.

ANC 2E supports the arguments of the Citizens Association of Georgetown and others in regard to his application.

ANC 2E supports the application of the Citizens Association of Georgetown for party status.

We ask the Board to afford the opinion of the ANC 2E the great weight to which it is entitled.

## **Old Georgetown Board**

### **Consent Calendar:**

*[If there are any consent calendar items, they go here. They're voted on in a group without discussion. When all nominations are in, Ed calls for a vote. At some meetings, there's nothing on the consent calendar.]*

**No Action:** Commissioners suggested at this point and later in the meeting that the following projects be removed from the agenda and treated as items for which no review is being undertaken by the Commission:

*3800 Reservoir Road, NW, Georgetown University – MedStar Hospital, O.G. 08-211 (H.P.A. 08-313)*

*1211 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Bebe, O.G. 08-228 (H.P.A. 08-346)*

1061 (Rear) Wisconsin Avenue, NW (a.k.a. Blues Alley), Blues Alley Jazz Club,  
O.G. 08-200 (H.P.A. 08-297)  
3268 P Street, NW, Residence, O.G. 08-174 (H.P.A. 08-266)

There were no objections and the items were so removed from the agenda.

**1614 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Presse Bookstore, O.G. 08-235 (H.P.A. 08-353):**

No presentation was made and no plans were submitted. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E is unable to support the project proposed for 1614 Wisconsin Avenue, NW because the applicant did not attend the meeting and no plans were submitted for review.

**1717 34th Street, NW, Residence, O.G. 08-226 (H.P.A. 08-344):**

Concept plans were presented for a rear addition at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor level and front dormers. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E would encourage the OGB to take a close look at how the proposed dormers would effect the historic nature of the property at 1717 34th Street, NW. The Commission is concerned that future plans remain consistent with what is currently being presented.

**3419 R Street, NW, O.G. 08-234 (H.P.A. 08-352):**

Permit plans were presented for a wood board fence, trellis and gates for a parking pad. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Solomon moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the plans as presented for 3419 R Street, NW, as long as the two entrances to the property are maintained and no additional entrances are proposed.

**2511 Q Street, NW, Rock Creek Gardens, O.G. 08-152 (H.P. A. 08-235):**

Permit and concept plans were presented for replacement windows and a porch. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposal for window replacement or for the repair and replacements on the porch at 2511 Q Street, NW. However, we would prefer replacement on the porch to be done with in kind materials.

**3058 R Street, NW, Residence, O.G. 08-142 (H.P.A. 08-225):**

No presentation was made and no plans were submitted. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E is unable to endorse the project proposed for 3058 R Street, NW because the applicant did not attend the meeting and no plans were submitted for review.

**1855 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Safeway, O.G. 08-205 (H.P.A. 08-303):**

Revised concept plans were presented to raze a building and for a new structure. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the improvements made to the concept proposed for the project at 1855 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, and looks forward to working with the project as it moves forward.

**3061 M Street, NW, Kate Spade, O.G. 08-213 (H.P.A. 08-324):**

Permit plans were presented for a projecting sign. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-1:

ANC 2E opposes the proposal for a blade sign at 3061 M Street, NW, recognizing that we prefer to support proposed blade signs only for business on side streets or for businesses on the second story.

**1229 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Apple, O.G. 08-225 (H.P.A. 08-343):**

Revised concept plans were presented for façade alteration. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes the facade alteration proposed on the basis of drawings presented. The Commission would like to draw particular attention to the all glass facade which would occupy the full front of this structure on Wisconsin Ave. The proposed facade is not in keeping with the historic character of the commercial district.

**1357 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Commercial, O.G. 08-217 (H.P.A. 08-335):**

No presentation was made and no plans were submitted. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E is unable to endorse the project proposed for 1357 Wisconsin Avenue, NW because the applicant did not attend the meeting and no plans were submitted for review.

**1016 29<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Residence, O.G. 08-219 (H.P.A. 08-337):**

Concept plans were presented for a rear addition at the second floor level. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-1:

*ANC 2E has no objection to the concept as presented.*

**3000 K Street, NW, Washington Harbour, O.G. 08-214 (H.P.A. 08-328):**

Permit plans were presented for roof mechanical equipment and a screen. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC 2E has no objection to the plans as presented.*

**3270 M Street, NW, Georgetown Park, O.G. 08-011 (H.P.A. 08-094):**

Revised concept plans were presented for alterations and additions for a mixed-use residential/retail building. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC 2E appreciates the revisions and the project as presented.*

**3416 N Street, NW, Residence, O.G. 08-216 (H.P.A. 08-334):**

Concept plans were presented for alterations and addition to a carriage house off a rear alley. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC 2E appreciates the design and the downsizing of the property to get it back in compliance. We endorse the project.*

**3206 Grace Street, NW, Cyprus Air Showroom, O.G. 08-218 (H.P.A. 08-336):**

Permit plans were presented for a gate at a rear service alley. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC 2E has no objection to the project as presented.*

**3251 Prospect Street, NW, Prospect Place, O.G. 08-183 (H.P.A. 08-239) and O.G. 08-229 (H.P.A. 08-347):**

Permit and concept plans were presented for three new condensers on the roof and concept plans were presented for the addition of a balcony, new window openings, and courtyard additions. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC2E has no objection to the presentation. We do want attention paid to the balcony and the terrace above the kitchen expansion due to the possible concerns about noise. Overall ANC2E appreciates the project.*

**3257 O Street, NW, Residence, O.G. 08-233 (H.P.A. 08-351):**

Concept plans were presented for a 2-story rear and side in-fill addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

*ANC2E opposes the project as presented because of privacy and light concerns as raised and documented by the neighbors, associated with the balcony and the size of the rear addition.*

***At 10:50 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Starrals moved (Solomon second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.***

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Jenna Lowenstein  
Acting Secretary, ANC 2E