

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F REGULAR MONTHLY
PUBLIC MEETING**

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 – 7:00 PM
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

Present: Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Mike Benardo (2F06) (Vice Chairman), Andrew Warth (2F02), Brian Vargas (2F03) (Secretary), Matt Raymond (2F04) (Treasurer), Dustin Cole (2F05)

Absent: None

COMMUNITY FORUM

Commissioner Announcements and Monthly Government Reports

Commissioner Warth -"District law requires property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks, handicap ramps and steps abutting their property within the first eight daylight hours after the snow, sleet or ice stops falling. This applies to all property owners – residential, commercial, federal, and municipal. If ice cannot be cleared without damaging the sidewalk, then property owners may spread sand or salt to make the sidewalks safe. Property owners also must clear snow from the ADA-curb cuts; these are part of the sidewalk." (Source: DDOT)

Any resident can report a violation of this law by calling the Mayor's Citywide Call Center (311) and submitting a "sanitation enforcement request for sidewalk snow removal." Each request will be assigned a tracking number. If a request is unresolved after twenty-four hours, please tell ANC 2F, which is interested in improving this law's enforcement.

Commissioner Vargas has the Crime Report dated 1961-2007. Please see Vargas at the break if you want to see the report. Two former PSA 307 officers have been promoted recently. Officer Caron was promoted to sergeant and Sergeant Carroll was promoted to Lieutenant and is moving to PSA 308. ANC 2F would like to congratulate both and wish them well in their new positions.

Chairman Reed- The ARTS Committee's report and recommendations are the consensus product of an unprecedented process of collaboration that has encompassed 130 participants, three ANCs, three major neighborhood associations, the MidCity Business Association, and the MidCity Artists Group, all of which organizations voted to endorse the Committee's recommendations. At the meeting held this past week with Harriet Tregoning, head of the Office of Planning, Tregoning was floored by the professionalism and scope of the report conducted by Andrea Doughty and her committee. So much so, that she is going to adopt significant parts of it in OP's response to the Zoning Commission for zoning review.

The Quincy Park Oral Arguments will be heard Tuesday, February 9, 2009 at Court of Appeals. Chairman Reed will attend.

Executive Office of the Mayor

Francisco Fimbres, Outreach Specialist is available to answer questions or to listen to community concerns. Mr. Fimbres can be reached at 202-727-9223 (office), 202-664-6119 (cell) or Francisco.fimbres@dc.gov.

Report from Council Member Jack Evans' Office

DPW completed replaced sidewalk, curb and street in the 1400 block of Corcoran Street, NW in late 2009. WASA's recently scheduled replacement of the old water main which would require destroying the new work. Last week, residents protested WASA's ill timed replacement plan, petitioning WASA to postpone the work. **Sherri Kimbel** reported that she will call WASA to assure the postponement.

Jack Evans will attend the March ANC 2F meeting.

PSA 307 Report – Lt. Vanessa Moore

Lieutenant Moore announced that overall crime is down 6% from this same time last year, with violent crime down 17%. Please remember to remove all personal items from your car as theft from autos continues to be a problem in the Logan Circle area.

Brian Bray is handling prostitution cases. Bray can be reached at brian.bray@dc.gov. Please feel free to email him with prostitution problems. Lt. Vanessa Moore Lt. Moore can be reached at 202-553-9247 or by email at vanessa.moore@dc.gov

- 10 Minute Recess -

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Vargas** and after further discussion, the agenda was approved with the following amendments and a direction that a copy be filed with the minutes and posted on the ANC 2F website:

Add Under DCHSEMA: St. Patrick's Day 8K
Remove Under New Business: Claridge House- Trash/Rodent problem
Add Under New Business: DC Condo Laws
Add Under ABRA: Ghana Café
Add Under CDC: New Appointment

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meeting of January 6, 2010

Minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2010, were presented for approval. Upon motion by **Vargas** seconded by **Benardo** and after further discussion, the minutes were approved with direction to the Executive Director to post the same on the ANC 2F website.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

DCHSEMA/Street Closures

Rick Freedman presented a request for street closing for the 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Race, which will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2010 from 5:30 AM -10:30 AM. **Freedman** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that he had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Freedman** can be reached at 301-871-0005.

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Vargas**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That upon review of the street closing application of 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Race, to be held March 14, 2010 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency ("DCHSEMA") and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Penelope Fletcher presented a request for street closing for the 4th Annual Walk for Lupus Now, which will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 6:00 AM -12:30 AM. **Fletcher** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that she had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Fletcher** can be reached at pennyfletcher@lupusgw.org.

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Vargas**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That upon review of the street closing application of, to be held 4th Annual Walk for Lupus Now, which will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency ("DCHSEMA") and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Condo Laws Report

Charles Biggio is in the process of seeking members willing to serve on the committee. Biggio asked the commissioners to present him with names of residents that might be interested in sitting on the committee. Reed pointed out that condo associations in Logan Circle also need to be involved. When the committee has completed the work, ANC 2F will circulate to other ANCs. Biggio will convene his committee and begin to review the DC condominium law and make recommendations.

ABRA

Birch and Barley Valet Parking

Reed reported that DDOT Space Committee has declined to revoke the valet permit issued without legal notice to the ANC and to the abutting property owner, but promised it will vigorously enforce the regulations on use of the permit. Reed stated that the choice for the ANC is to make a further issue of the illegal action of DDOT or await to see whether DDOT's promise to revoke the permit is fulfilled if and when the expected traffic problems which prompted ANC 2F's concern occurs.

Ghana Café

Commissioner **Warth** reported that neighbors are investigating possible violations of the restaurant's Voluntary Agreement. Warth indicated that he and the Café's owner (who was present at the meeting) will confer further. No ANC action was taken at this time

Community Development Committee

Elimination of the Reversible Lane on 15th Street between K Streets/Mass Ave

Upon motion by **Vargas**, seconded by **Reed**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That ANC 2F upon the unanimous recommendation of its Community Development Committee finds the proposed recommendation of DDOT to remove one-way rush hour restrictions on 15th Street NW between K and Massachusetts to be meritorious, and, consequently, to advise DDOT to institute such change as soon as feasible.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Charter Bus Restriction- 500 block of 10th Street, NW

40-60 charter buses a day during the high tourist season overwhelm the streets and cause significant safety concerns for pedestrians attempting to cross the street safely. Currently, there is a 15 minute limit for drop-offs and pick-ups. Charter buses often stay parked much longer because of inadequate enforcement. For this reason, DDOT conducted the 10th Street, N.W., Curbside Management Plan, completed in August 2009. DDOT met with Ford's Theatre, Downtown BID, downtown businesses and residents.

The CDC by a vote of 6-0, with one abstention, recommended that the ANC advise DDOT to adopt restrictions on charter bus parking in the 500 block of 10th Street and to make 10th Street two way between Pennsylvania Ave and H Streets, NW. The ANC took the matter under advisement.

Neighborhood Preservation Amendment Act of 2009 Bill 18-546

Bill 18-546: Neighborhood Preservation Amendment Act of 2009 was introduced on December 1, 2009, by Councilmembers Bowser, Mendelson, Thomas, Barry, Catania, Graham, and Kwame Brown, and cosponsored by Councilmembers Evans and Wells. The legislation will discourage long-standing vacant properties by authorizing DCRA to establish an escalated registration fee system in which fees will increase each year that a property remains vacant. The fee system would recognize that some vacancies are unavoidable and should be treated differently—for instance when a son or granddaughter receives real property through a family death—than vacant properties that remain nuisances for years. Bill 18-546: Neighborhood Preservation Amendment Act would be a positive step forward in the fight to protect our neighborhoods from the problems created from these long-standing vacant properties.

Rehabilitate McPherson Square

Jennifer Talken-Spaulling of the National Park Service spoke to the proposed project to rehabilitate McPherson Square. The rehabilitation will include: improve the overall appearance of the park and walk ways, curbs, new granite curbs, new park benches, remove the elm tree that is damaging the sidewalk. The Park Service is hopeful this project will be funded out of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. She indicated, however, that benches designed to preclude sleeping will not be installed as they were in Logan Circle at the strong insistence of the community.

The matter was referred to the CDC for further review and comment, which it will post on the ANC 2F website, [www.ANC 2F.org](http://www.ANC2F.org) and will solicit community comment.

MidCity Business Association

Natalie Avery, reported that the MidCity Business Association, which is not eligible for Neighbor Investment Funds (NIF) because of their 501 (c)(6) tax status, seeks \$150,000 from the Deputy Mayor's Office Planning and Development for its organization. MidCity is a business-to-business-consumer organization that represents businesses on the commercial corridors promotes daytime economy along the 14th Street corridor. Further information may be obtained through Natalie@midcitylife.org

Upon motion by **Vargas**, seconded by **Benardo**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That upon the unanimous recommendation of its Community Development Committee, ANC 2F finds that the MidCity Business Association has a record of demonstrated success and effectiveness in promoting economic development in the Logan Circle area and advise the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development to grant requested funding.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

New Business

Parking Hours and days increase \$2.00 per hour in the Logan Circle Area

Sherri Kimbel reported on the new parking meter rates in the Logan Circle area. The new rate in the Logan Circle area is \$2.00 per hour. Kimbel discussed the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) with the ANC. A Residential Parking Permit (RPP) allows a DC registered vehicle, or a vehicle with reciprocity, to be parked without the hourly limitation imposed on non-residential parking. To be eligible for a Residential Parking Permit (RPP), the street must be zoned for RPP as indicated by two-hour residential restriction signs. Each RPP is a permit number designation applicable to the vehicle upon which it is attached (on the driver side windshield) and is effective only in the ward of the holder. The purpose of the system is to prohibit non-residents of the ward from tying up residential parking during working hours. For locations within a ward which do not have the restricted parking, residents for each block that desire it for their block may obtain it by submitting a petition signed by 70% of such residents.

Washington Yu Ying PCS

Updated letter of support for the Franklin Building

In May 2009, the Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School (“Yu Ying”) sought and received the support of ANC 2F for use of the Franklin School Building on Franklin Park, at 13th and K Streets, NW for use the property to house the school. The then application of Yu Ying to the Office of Property Management was denied, indicating that the financial proposal made by the school did not appear sufficient. Mary Shaffner, on behalf of Yu Ying, again requested ANC support for its renewed application, which contains an extensively increased budget for the renovation of the property.

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Vargas**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2F having found that the proposed use for the Franklin School as a Chinese foreign language immersion charter school is in the best interests of the City and of this community in particular, and that the location of the property close to Chinatown is important to the educational aims of the school; and, accordingly, advise the Office of Property Management and other appropriate agencies of the District of Columbia to grant the pending application of Washington Fu Ying Public Charter School for acquisition and funding of the Franklin School at Franklin Square, NW for the purpose of housing the School

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Mike Silverstein ABRA Appointment

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Vargas** and after further discussion

RESOLVED, That ANC 2F advise the City Council to approve the pending nomination of Mike Silverstein to be a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

CDC Appointment

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Benardo** and after further discussion, it was

RESOLVED, That, ANC 2F hereby ratifies the appointment of Edward Hill as one of the two ANC 2F02 members of the Community Development Committee authorized to be named under the bylaws of this Commission by Andrew Warth, the incumbent Commissioner for SMD 2F02, the appointee to serve until his replacement is duly appointed and qualified

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report (Matt Raymond, Treasurer)

Upon motion by **Raymond**, seconded by **Benardo** and after further discussion, the following expenses were approved and approval of the 1st Quarter Report 2010:

Cynthia Cota	\$938.45
Verizon	\$62.13
DC Treasurer.....	\$54.00
Cynthia Cota.....	\$35.98

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:30 PM.