

Notice of these meetings was: 1) given at the public meeting of ANC2F on 6/3/09
2) distributed to the ANC2F listserv on 6/3/09 and 6/10/09.

These minutes were created by the Arts Overlay Committee for their use. Speaker comments are presented in highly summarized form and do not represent verbatim statements made at Committee meetings. If using these summaries in other contexts, the attribution should be to the ANC2F Arts Overlay Committee minutes of June 16, 2009 and not to individual speakers.

Present

Absent

Andrea Doughty
Jim Kane
Joe Kerger
Ben Harris
Mary Brown
Khalid Pitts
Linda Welch

Brief overview by Andrea Doughty:

ANC2F's special ARTS Overlay Review Committee is reviewing the provisions of the ARTS Overlay Zoning District, including the 25% limitation related to restaurants/bars on 14th Street, NW, in order to examine what more the zoning regulations can do to encourage vibrant development of daytime retail and other uses on 14th Street. The committee is interested in hearing from any person or organization that has views on these issues.

Meeting of the ARTS Overlay Review Committee are public and will take place on Tuesday evenings in June and July. Following this period of public consultation and outreach, recommendations will be formulated in August. The ARTS Overlay Review Committee will report its recommendations to ANC2F and the DC Office of Planning by early September 2009.

Speakers:

Tim Hillard: Long time resident and Chair ANC2F Task Force on Liquor License issues 2002

Supplied handouts and /or available at ANC2F website library (all attached here):

1. ANC2F Task Force on Liquor License issues History and Summary
2. ANC2F/Logan Circle Public Opinion Survey about Liquor Stores and Establishments that Sell Alcoholic Beverages Numeric Results

3. Free Text Survey Results
4. Ad Hoc Task Force Report on Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Matters,
5. Survey Form
6. Recommendations of the ANC 2F Ad Hoc Task Force Regarding Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Matters (Adopted by the ANC on April 2, 2003)
7. ANC2F Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Guidelines (Approved April 2, 2003)

Ramon Estrada, Chair Emeritus of ANC 2B and SMD Commissioner for 2B09, discussed the relationship between the Arts Overlay guideline of 25% eating and drinking establishments and ABRA enforcement of its regulations. He noted that there is no data base that is shared between the Office of Planning and ABRA. According to statistics he has received from ABRA, there are 48 ABC licensees within walking distance in the Arts Overlay. He highlighted the need to develop enforceable language that applies to both types of properties since the Arts Overlay is surrounded by residential neighborhoods.

He mentioned that ABC regulation to limit establishments serving alcohol is very limited in the form of “moratorium zones” that are tightly geographically defined. ABRA has consistently warned that the two zones in Dupont Circle ANC will be abolished. It is unclear how long ABRA will support the use of moratoria.

He noted that several new restaurants are coming online in our neighborhood soon in addition to the recent openings of POLICY Restaurant and Eatonville. These include MASA 14 next to VASTU and Local 14 next to the new Room and Board. These four new and proposed restaurants will tip the percentage over the 25% guideline in the Arts Overlay. Moreover, the BZA approved Special Exceptions last Fall for two more restaurants to be located in the Central Union Mission property and the Whitman Walker project once they are developed.

He asked that new enforcement language be added to the Arts Overlay comments to be submitted by the Logan Circle zoning committee, if possible. This would complement the request from the Dupont Circle ANC.

He fielded questions from committee members and residents in attendance and thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak to the group. A copy of the Moratorium Committee report and the resolution that ANC 2B approved at their June meeting are attached.

Questions:

What about separating eating and drinking establishments? Should focus be on establishments requiring liquor licenses?

Currently seeing significant numbers of “CR” liquor licensees (restaurants) converting to “CT” (tavern) to avoid minimum food sales. What about an intermediate classification with 25% food and more limited space rather than CR vs CT.

What about 25% block by block; depends on block, location, case by case

General agreement: The breakdown appears to be in the Office of the Zoning Administrator. May be due to insufficient resources and/or commitment.

Suggestion that the committee: Draft recommendations, regulations, and define the mechanism/path/responsibility for enforcement.

Community speakers: David Knight, 14th & R. Prefers eating and drinking establishments that serve the neighborhood (e.g., Cork) to home furnishings stores and condo showrooms. Expressed support for a more localized application of a 25% guideline.