

ANC 2F MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2003
7:00 P.M.
Washington Plaza Hotel
MINUTES

In attendance: Helen Kramer, Chair
Jim Brandon, Vice Chair
Thomas Funken
Miriam Trimble
Cary Silverman (arrived at 7:45)

Community Forum

Helen Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00. Lt. Smith, MPDC, gave a report on PSA 309. He reported that there has been a rash of stolen bikes, and car thefts recently. He strongly urged citizens not to leave anything visible in their cars. Prostitution is also up. Commissioner Funk asked if he was being a nuisance by calling to report seeing prostitutes in the area. Smith said citizens should always call, and give as many details as possible. There will also be a prostitution meeting for Ward 2 and he will make sure that the ANC commissioners are aware of the date. Lt. Groomes said that crime in her PSA is also down, except for auto theft, and she said that crime overall is down in the Third District. Contrary to what is reported in the media, we are not under a major crime wave.

Jim Richardson complained about the garbage odor and state of disrepair of the Mid City Fish Market at 14th and P Streets. DCRA had been asked to look into this, and Jim Brandon will call Charlene Barber to follow up.

Tim Downey, who lives on 5th Street, made a presentation on the new City Museum. It is run by the Historical Society of Washington DC. It's in Mt. Vernon Square, at the old Carnegie Library and the entire building has been renovated. There are educational and group meeting spaces, an archaeology lab, 150 seat theater, and an aerial map of the District. There is changing exhibit space and an art gallery. A café will open soon. There is also a research library which has been popular with District residents who want to research the history of their homes. They offer workshops on researching the history of your home.

Doug Davis, the architect, gave an update on the 275,000 sq. ft. office building he designed for JBG. They are asking to have an alley vacated, to make one large building. Without the alley closing, the building could not be constructed. They have moved the entrance to K & 12th, which is a change from what was

presented at the CDC meeting. Kramer said that the commission would vote on the request at the regular meeting, and called a short break.

Silverman arrived and Kramer reconvened the meeting. Brandon moved acceptance of the agenda, and Funk seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Brandon moved acceptance of the August 6, 2003 ANC meeting minutes. Silverman seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

CDC Report

Kramer presented the CDC report. On the issue of the alley closing for the new JBG office building at 11th and K Streets, the CDC voted to recommend that the ANC send a letter to the DC Council supporting the alley closing. The second item was Square 369, a building to be constructed in an historic district. The design presented was just conceptual massing. The developer is not proposing to build to the full zoning envelope permitted, and is scaling back the project due to the historical guidelines. The CDC voted to recommend that the ANC support the proposed massing with the provision that the developers come back to the CDC for approval as materials are selected and progress is made. The second item the CDC considered is a proposal for a mixed use facility at 1634 14th Street. There will be two levels of retail, with the first floor being slightly below grade. Above the retail will be 12 condominiums with parking. The building will incorporate modern design elements, and this evoked some controversy as to whether the building will be consistent with the neighborhood. The CDC voted to recommend approval 4-1-1 (one abstention).

Funk moved that the ANC accept the recommendations of the CDC. Brandon seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

Public Space

Also considered at the CDC meeting were two public space items. The Starbucks at 1429 P Street requested space for two outdoor tables. This request was supported unanimously. High Noon at 15th and K Streets requested an expansion of their sidewalk café from 36 to 60 seats. Kramer told the ANC that High Noon had pre-empted the decision of the PSC by putting the additional tables out already. The corner is very tight and has a trash can and newspaper boxes in it already. Many committee members also expressed concern about the space. The recommendation was to oppose the expansion.

Brandon moved that the ANC accept the recommendation of the committee to support Starbucks' request and deny High Noon's request. Silverman seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0. Silverman to send letters.

1400 Church Street, 1502 14th and 1401-1413 P Streets, traffic control plan

Stuart Gill with Uniwest Construction and Paul Hoftzyer from Metropolis reviewed the revised traffic plan. R and Q Streets will be off-limit to their construction vehicles. This traffic will be directed to use 14th and 15th Streets. P Street east of Logan Circle will also be off limits. These traffic requirements will be in the contracts with the subcontractors. Funk moved to accept the plan as presented this evening. Silverman seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0. Kramer suggested that Hoftzyer contact Mark Fallow, Logan Circle's local tree expert on specific tree selection when they begin replacing the trees that have been removed due to construction.

Pay Phones

The ANC received a request for payphones at 1418 14th Street and 1406 P Street. These new pay phones would be within feet of existing pay phones. Brandon moved to oppose these phones. Silverman seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Billboards

Funk discussed the temporary billboards that have been erected at 1201 11th Street and 1013 M Street. They are plywood sheets with posters tacked to them. Clark Ray's office instituted fines. Funk moved that the ANC send a letter to Mark Paul, the owner of the property, insisting that they be removed, and a letter to the Public Space Management administrator asking that they deny any application that they might receive requesting permission to erect billboards on the grounds that they are detrimental to the neighborhood. Brandon seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0. Funk to send letters.

Parking Task Force Proposal

Kramer reminded the commission that the agenda needs to be advertised one week in advance and if a commissioner wants to add something to the agenda, they should contact Kramer prior to that deadline to discuss it.

Kramer gave Silverman a large file from the parking task force of three years earlier. Silverman said he would review the file, but wanted to put together a task force to look into obsolete curbcuts and parking signage to try to secure hidden parking spaces; to investigate a DC Parks & Recreation parking lot in the 1300 block of S Street to see if the city vehicles and school buses currently parked there could be moved so that residents could use it; and to seek innovative uses of private property, such as the former John Wesley AME parking lot. It is due to be developed, but not for two years.

Kramer said that a survey was done 2 years ago and the commission made recommendations for signage changes to secure more parking. Sean Metcalf told the commission that the District cannot construct or maintain municipal parking structures. There will be some parking on the old convention center site. Richard Neidich said that the National Capital Revitalization Authority does have the authority to construct municipal parking structures. Brandon said that the previous parking commission also managed to eliminate many loading zones.

Kramer asked if Silverman would wait until next month to institute the parking task force. Each commissioner could bring nominees to the October meeting, and one of the ANC Commissioners would chair it. Brandon asked if the chair of the task force could be elected rather than appointed. Kramer said that she thought it would be better to have an ANC Commissioner chair it. Silverman agreed to wait until the October ANC meeting.

Brandon moved that the following expenses be approved:

300.00	National City Christian church, October rent
111.78	Verizon monthly phone service, incl. change to voicemail
717.38	Sherri Kimbel, August wages
32.00	DC Treasurer, August withholding
100.00	Petty cash (to replace funds used for office supplies 81.96)

Funk seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.