

ANC 2F MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2003
7:00 P.M.
Washington Plaza Hotel
MINUTES

In attendance: Helen Kramer, Chair
Jim Brandon, Vice Chair
Thomas Funk
Cary Silverman
Bob Hinterlong
Miriam Trimble

Community Forum

Kramer opened the meeting, and made the announcement that the Citizens Summit has been moved to November 15th. Dan Appolonio, general manager of the Comfort Inn - Convention Center announced that the hotel will be re-opening on November 20th at 1201 13th Street. The renovation is costing more than \$6 million. The hotel has 100 rooms. He said that he is looking forward to being a part of the community, and invited the community to stop by. He also said that he is going to be drafting a letter on behalf of the hotel protesting the liquor license at the 13th Street Quality Market.

Lt. Mike Smith, PSA 313, brought the crime statistics for October. Crime is down significantly from last year. He said that they are still moving officers around and that PSA 313 is down to 8 officers. Hinterlong asked who was responsible for the "musical chairs" of officers. Smith said that Chief Ramsay likes to move officers around according to their days off, scheduling, etc. Lt. Smith was commended by some of the residents at the meeting for all of his hard work.

Todd DiBias, chief of the Third District major crimes division of the US Attorney's Office brought court reports. He works very closely with Lt. Smith. Charles Biggio asked if there was a mandatory penalty for possession of a firearm. DiBias said that there was not, the only mandatory sentences in the District are for murder and kidnapping.

Lars Hydle spoke about the redistricting of PSAs. He likes the idea of the redistricting, but feels that the PSAs should be aligned with ANCs, not neighborhood clusters as defined by the Office of Planning for other purposes. The PSA redistricting will divide most ANCs, and he feels this will cause confusion for both the officers who handle the PSAs and the ANCs who have to work with multiple officers. He asked who would deliberately create this administrative chaos. There will be hearings and ANCs will have a chance to weigh in on this issue. Twelve ANCs have passed resolutions to request this aligning, and Hydle offered a sample resolution. Silverman responded to Hydle, saying that the ANC did send a letter several months ago making requests that the PSAs be redrawn. This ANC is currently served by three PSAs. Silverman thinks that having New Jersey Avenue as the eastern border would include areas that don't mesh with the Logan Circle area. Crimes on 7th Street may not be the same as those further west.

Commissioners Trimble and Funk stated that the southern borders of our ANC are not included and would be part of the First District. Kramer gave a history of the creation of ANC 2F to those in attendance. The Logan Circle area was part of a much larger ANC with 16 commissioners before 2F was created.

After a brief break, Kramer reconvened the meeting. She asked for additions to the agenda. Funk asked to add reopening M Street. Kramer added the PSA boundaries, and moved the CDC report to the first item on the agenda. Silverman moved approval of the agenda. Trimble seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Funk moved acceptance of the October 1, 2003 ANC meeting minutes. Brandon seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

Community Development Committee Report

Carlos Rohas represents an apartment building at 1150 K Street seeking two curb cuts. It has been before the commission before, but the plans submitted did not clearly indicate where the curb cuts were. Rohas pointed them out on the plan. Kramer asked the members of the commission if they felt comfortable taking a vote on it. Trimble moved that the ANC approve the curb cuts and inform the Public Space of this approval. Silverman seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Kramer gave a review of the Community Development Committee meeting. The first item was a request for a zoning variance for a rear deck at 1418 Q Street. Christina Handley wanted to be able to go from her garage into her 2nd floor residence. The committee supported this request.

The owners of 1312 13th Street requested a zoning special exception. The building is zoned residential, R-5-C. The current owners are proposing to use the first floor and basement for office space. In 1949, a laundry was located on this site, but the zoning for that use is long expired. The previous owner obtained a CO for a laundry in 1989, but was operating an illegal baseball cap sewing operation instead. The current owners obtained COs for a laundry with accessory office space based on fraudulent representations to DCRA. There is no laundry there, and the building owners have no business licenses. Funk said that he wanted to recommend that all former COs be revoked, so that there is no confusion in the future. The committee recommended that the ANC deny this request and that the ANC write a letter to the Board of Zoning Adjustment asking for denial.

Gus Koutromanos presented his plans to the CDC for a building at 1302 9th Street. The plans were incomplete and he had not presented to the Logan Circle Historic Preservation Committee. The Committee voted unanimously not to approve it at this time. Koutromanos said that he would not object to this delay to make sure that everything was complete and approved as required. Kramer said that despite that, he brought his plans to HPRB the next day, where they rejected them as incomplete.

Kramer invited developer Giorgio Furioso, and Greg Borynowski of Sorg Architects, to present their plans for 1515 14th Street. The building design draws from the "cubism" art of the 20's, the era when this building was originally constructed. HPRB approved the concept of a cubist building at this site. The height of adjacent Studio Theater is at 63'. There will be 24-28 residential units, and 40 parking spaces, so that the retail will also have parking available and will not burden the neighborhood. They wanted the building set back for aesthetic and zoning reasons. They may need a zoning variance for the elevator. The materials will be masonry that relates to the street, and metals and glass. Kramer said that the CDC voted that the ANC approve the project and request that the developer come back to consult with the community on materials selection and final plans.

A bike rack in the 1400 block of 14th Street was approved, as was outdoor seating at Soho. Brandon moved that the CDC report be approved. Trimble seconded.

VOTE: Approved 6-0. The secretary will send the appropriate letters and the Chair will send out the Public Space forms.

1426 11th Street

Mary Brown spoke for her neighbors, many of whom were in attendance, saying that Peter Koutromanos and his business partner wanted to open a restaurant in the first floor of this building. They want to open a Greek restaurant with recorded music, outdoor seating and an ABC license. She is gravely concerned that this use could lead to a bar or nightclub, and the trash, rats, etc. would disrupt the quality of life. The restaurant opening would be on P Street. Brown tried to meet with Koutromanos and his partner, but neither were able to meet, although the business manager did talk to her on the phone. At the end of that conversation he said that he had not considered all the impacts on the residents, so Brown is not certain what the status is now. The ground floor was an office for Harlem Cab in the 1970's and a barbershop prior to that. It is currently vacant. Brown asked the ANC to look for a historic review item that would come before the ANC, and that they would be back in front of the commission if this came before the ANC, and would also protest any ABC license request.

PSA Redistricting

Silverman moved that the ANC accept a draft resolution he read concerning the current redistricting plan, outlining concerns of the boundaries, and asking that the PSA be drawn to match ANC boundaries, 9th Street on the east, 15th or 16th Streets on the west, L Street on the south and S Street on the north. Funk seconded. Trimble objected to the boundaries, since her SMD goes to Independence Avenue. She concedes that the PSA doesn't need to go that far south, but feels that it should go as far south as K Street. Silverman accepted the boundary change to the south as a friendly amendment. Brandon asked why 16th was considered as a western border. Silverman said that it was because we were asking to have so much cut from the east, and that 16th is considered as part of Logan Circle. Richard Neidich said that he didn't feel the proposed boundaries would be a problem. The area outlined is currently working because the two police lieutenants share resources and work together. This would permit this to continue. Lt.

Smith said that this redistricting would not provide additional officers. It would also mean more paperwork for the officer in charge. On the good side, it would probably mean the end to the musical chairs moving officers around. He supports the idea of making the boundaries the same as Logan Circle and ANC2F. Silverman read the revised resolution (Attached).

VOTE: Approved 6-0.

Mid-City Post Office Closing

Silverman said that Logan Circle's local post office closed with no notice. The Post Office was in negotiations on a new lease in their current location, but that has ended. Sean Metcalf spoke with the Postmaster this morning. The Postmaster said that they wanted to stay in the neighborhood, preferably P to N, 13 or 14th but not in that location. Metcalf asked if anyone had any ideas of a space to let him know. He said that the post office moved out due to rate increase from \$18 to \$35-40 a square foot, rat infestation, etc. He was asked if 11th Street would be considered. Metcalf was not sure, but he would suggest it. Brandon said that he felt the ANC should involve all of the DC Councilmembers at large. Silverman moved that the ANC express its displeasure with the closing of the Mid City post office and send letters asking that the Post Office be relocated in the neighborhood immediately. Brandon seconded.

VOTE: Approved 6-0. Silverman to send the letters.

Liquor License Renewals

E. I Market, 1712 14th Street, Class B license. Silverman recommends no action.

Whole Foods, 1440 P Street, Brandon recommends supporting approval.

Izalco, 1314 14th Street, is trying to put a pay phone outside, and Brandon recommends that the ANC protest that license. Kramer recommended that Brandon visit the site.

J & K Market, 234 15th Street is located downtown, and will not be protested.

13th Street Quality Market has not negotiated with the ANC in the past. It was renewed the last time due to the fact that the ANC was not protesting any licenses at that time. Funk has a meeting set up with the owner next week. Kramer said that there have been numerous reports of loitering and drinking outdoors. The appearance of the building is appalling. Funk recommended protesting this license.

11-M Corner Market, 1133 11th Street is in 2F06. Hinterlong asked for some of the history from neighbors. Richard Neidich said that the ABC Board refused to make the voluntary agreement part of the license the last time a voluntary agreement was reached with them. There were issues of trash and loitering and former ANC Commissioner Leslie Miles negotiated the voluntary agreement and the ABC Board renewed the license without any of those provisions. Neidich said that the dumpster was moved, but they are using a stored up building for storing trash until trash day. Trucks block the intersection of 11 and M when making deliveries. Kramer suggested that the ANC vote to protest the license and have Hinterlong check to see if there are any problems this time, the same or new.

Roosevelt Food Shoppe, 1418 12th Street, Kramer recommends no action.

Kramer moved that the licenses stated be protested. Hinterlong seconded.

VOTE: Approved 6-0. Each Commissioner will be responsible for sending letters on the licensees within their SMD.

Hinterlong moved acceptance of the voluntary agreement with S & W Liquors on the corner of 9th and P Streets. There are several parties to this agreement, including neighbors and Emmaus. The agreement included provisions with trash issues, repainting the building in historically appropriate colors, removing graffiti from the building, along with the standard issues of no sale of singles or drug paraphernalia. Silverman moved acceptance. Hinterlong seconded.

VOTE: Approved 6-0.

Pay Phone

The request is for a pay phone at 1100 Rhode Island Avenue. Hinterlong moved that the ANC disapprove this pay phone, as there are already two payphones there. Brandon seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 6-0.

Reopening of M Street

Funk said that he has been trying to get M Street under the convention center reopened. It has been closed for several years in conjunction with the construction of the convention center. Funk got a response from Theresa DuBois of the convention center saying that the street will not be reopened until January 2004, due to problems with Metro. Neidich said that there is never any work going on, which is why it's behind schedule. He suggested taking it up with Councilman Jim Graham, who is Chair of Metro. Kramer moved that the ANC send a letter to Councilmember Graham in his capacity as chair of WMATA to investigate the slow work in the reopening of M Street. Hinterlong seconded.

VOTE: Approved 6-0. Funk to write the letter.

Treasurer's Report

Hinterlong moved the following expenses be approved:

\$300.00	National City Christian Church, December rent
726.62	Sherri Kimbel, October wages
32.00	DC Treasurer, October withholding
93.92	Verizon, two months payment

Brandon seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 6-0. Kramer asked about the possibility of opening a savings account with some of our money. Sherri replied that we couldn't do that at our current bank due to high fees. Treasurer Hinterlong will investigate other banks at the beginning of the year.

Old Business

October 30th was the first Parking Task Force meeting. There were 4 priorities: municipal parking, angle parking, an innovations committee to look at underused space or alternative transportation, and inventory focus group who will inventory the parking spaces around Logan Circle. Kramer made an announcement that the owners of the vacant properties at 13th and M Streets have applied for raze permits so that it appears that construction is imminent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35.