

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004, 7:00 PM  
THE WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Helen Kramer, Chair  
Tom Funk, Secretary  
Bob Hinterlong, Treasurer  
Miriam Trimble  
Jim Brandon

**Community Forum**

Commissioner Reports: Brandon reported that he filed his petition to run for re-election today. Kramer said that she received a complaint from a constituent about the traffic light at P on the west side of Logan Circle. She contacted the traffic division who said that the lights on P Street at the Circle have been taken out of service. The light on the west side of the circle has been replaced by a flashing red light. This will most likely result in problems for pedestrians and traffic on the circle.

William Calbert, 1523 Vermont Avenue said he is concerned about the amount of crime in the area. He heard of an armed robbery at noon on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. He suggested that people carry personal alarms to sound when they are being attacked. Kramer thought it was a good idea and said she would ask Logan Hardware to begin carrying them. Sgt. Emerson, MPD, said that the overall crime rate is down in PSA 307, (which runs from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Streets and L to S Streets), but robberies have increased and most of them are armed robberies. The Third District is working on an action plan to try to stem this. Many of the criminals are on bicycles. PSA 307 is considered a "hot spot" at this time, and MPD is sending horseback officers, bicycle officers, motorcycle officers and patrol cars to the area. There are eight officers assigned to this PSA on evenings. With days off, sick leave and vacations, there are as few as five on a shift. Funk asked about prostitution. Sgt Emerson said that the problem is catching them in the act and having them admit that they are not having consensual sex. It is sometimes difficult to prosecute them. Sgt. Emerson said that anything citizens can do to make crime less desirable in an area is good—if a streetlight is out, call the Mayor's Call Center at 727-1000. You can also make a report on line. Make sure you get a tracking number and keep it to follow up. Alisa Sweitzer, 1215 M Street, said that her house backs up to the alley behind the Mr. Wash Car Wash, and prostitutes seem to love that alley. There are condoms everywhere. Giorgio Furioso suggested that the ANC write a letter to Mr. Wash asking him to put up chains blocking his drive so people can't park there at night for prostitution. Bob Ellison said that there are also syringes in the alley. Sgt. Emerson said that syringes and prostitution usually go hand in hand. Lt. Smith's email address is [PSA307@hotmail.com](mailto:PSA307@hotmail.com). Residents are encouraged to email problems and crime reports to that email address, as they are very attentive to communiqués to this email.

At 7:30, Kramer called for a brief break.

**Approval of Agenda**

Kramer requested moving Item #6 up on the Agenda putting it right after Approval of Minutes, and the addition of a petition to make the alley from the 13 hundred block of Rhode Island to

14<sup>th</sup> Street one-way. Brandon asked to add election of Vice Chair to the agenda. Hinterlong seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Brandon moved approval of the July and August minutes. Hinterlong seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

### **New Business**

#### **Special Event: Race to Stop the Silence**

Pamela Pine gave details of this race to be held in conjunction with Care for Kids Walk a Thon. The race will be held Sunday, April 10, 2005. It will be an 8K run. The modified course will close Pennsylvania Avenue and Independence Avenue from 7 am until 11 am. Funk moved approval of the race course. Brandon seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0, Funk to write the letter and fax it to Ms. Pine

### **Community Development Committee (CDC) Report**

Kramer said that she had received a letter from the Office of Zoning requesting a list of the ANC's three most important concerns about outdated or inappropriate zoning regulations, and wanted the ANC to respond to the letter expressing concern about the vagueness of the language in the Uptown Arts Overlay District restricting the percentage of the ground floor frontage on 14<sup>th</sup> and U Streets that can be devoted to restaurant usage, the 15% recreational space requirement which has proven unworkable, and the lack of regulation of dog boarding establishments. Brandon moved the ANC send a letter, Hinterlong seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0, Kramer to send letter.

#### **1. 1410 Q Street, NW – HPRB rear addition**

Jonathan Taylor, of Tutt Taylor Rankin, and Dennis Lee, Capital Design Group, gave an update of this project. The proposed rear addition would have brick sides and pleated metal panel for the back of the building. The committee questioned the use of the metal material, noting that it is not historically appropriate on an 1880's row house. They agreed to change it to brick. The CDC recommended ANC approval of the rear addition as presented with the proviso that brick be used exclusively, rather than metal paneling.

#### **2. 1200 R Street NW Logan Phase II, PUD**

The committee reviewed the revised architectural design. The applicants came before the CDC to ask for support in obtaining a set-down for a hearing before the Zoning Commission. The ANC was asked to express its strong support to move the project forward. The CDC recommended favorable action.

#### **3. 1515 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW- Furioso Development**

Giorgio Furioso's project needed three variances: (1) variances from the roof structure height and (2) residential recreation space requirement, and (3) a special exception for the roof structure not meeting the setback requirements. It is a small, tight site, and to meet the 15 percent recreational space requirement, people would have to walk through private residences to get to the common space. They are seeking a reduction of public recreation space to 10

percent of the FAR. The location of the elevator penthouse does not meet the setback requirements. The CDC recommended that the ANC support the variances: roof structure height, residential recreation space requirements and special exception for the roof structure not meeting setback requirements.

4. 875 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Bowen Building, Public Space Request for a Driveway

The developers of this building at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and I Streets, NW requested approval of a curb cut on I Street for a driveway to service the Bowen Building. It is an historic building that is being renovated. By acclamation, the CDC recommended that the ANC approve the request.

Brandon moved approval of the CDC items 1, 2, 3 and 4. Funk seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0, Funk to write the letters in conjunction with Kramer.

5. 1314-1320 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW - revised massing concept

The site consists of two three-story buildings and one two-story building. All would have additions under the proposed renovation. HPRB ruled that they should set back the addition to the one-story building at 1320 14<sup>th</sup> Street from the façade by 16 feet. New construction will be set back 60 feet from 14<sup>th</sup> Street. There will be space between the old buildings and the new buildings. The 6<sup>th</sup> story units will have a second floor loft, accessible through internal stairs only. They have parking for all the units at this time. The historic buildings will be restored. Its cornice is at approximately 63', the elevator penthouse is 78', and the lofts are at 72'. This is a lower height than the plans presented previously.

There will be 25-28 total units, currently planned to be condos, plus ground floor retail in the renovated buildings. The access for parking and loading is through an existing alley that opens onto Rhode Island Avenue. It is a narrow alley, but Ronald McGhee, the architect, said that the new building will be set back from the alley to allow more space.

Commissioner Jim Brandon, who was in attendance at the meeting, spoke in opposition to the building, as did resident Jim Kane.

Kramer reported that the CDC voted 9-0 to recommend ANC approval of the revised massing concept of this project and asked that the developer return to make further presentations as to choice of materials as the design progresses under HPRB review.

Brandon asked the architect how much of the building will be destroyed to add the new addition. McGhee said it was a small amount and had been approved by the HPRB. It was not so extensive as to require Mayor's Agent approval of the demolition. He said he did not know where the trash facilities would be yet. Brandon wanted to know if there was a precedent for destroying historic buildings to build new ones. McGhee said that there was, but they were not destroying much of the building. Funk said that many buildings downtown have maintained just the façade and the inside has been gutted. Therefore, he does not consider this to be demolition. Funk said that for the record, the ANC is reviewing this building for height and mass only. Brandon asked if the owner is going to comply with the rental act of 1980, which allows tenants to purchase rental units in buildings. McGhee said that tenants had been dealt with in a legal manner and relocation fees have been paid. He pointed out that the District of Columbia has strong rules for how tenants are treated. McGhee said that he would provide anything the ANC wanted to assuage any concerns that they had. Kramer reminded the audience that the ANC is reviewing only the height and massing for HPRB approval. Jim Kane asked how much lower this design was than the original. McGhee said it was 11 feet lower.

Funk moved that the ANC approve the height and massing of this project with the proviso that the developers come back to the ANC with more details on the materials. Discussion: Brandon said that the majority owner was a minority owner previously, and he is not a new owner, as the CDC had been told and that the ANC should not approve a project whose owners are unknown. Kramer said that we know who the owners are and that they are reprehensible, but that there is nothing in the historic preservation law that requires owners to have a social conscience and their behavior as landlords is not under the ANC's purview; this is rather a matter for enforcement actions by D.C. Government agencies, such as the interagency Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force, and the Departments of Housing and Consumer Regulatory Affairs. Trimble moved closing debate on the issue. Funk seconded. Kramer called the question. **VOTE:** Approved 4-1, Brandon dissenting.

### **New Business**

#### Request for making alley one way

Doll Gordon presented a request by the residents of the 1400 block of Vermont Avenue NW and of the 1300 block of Rhode Island Avenue NW to make the alley behind their homes one way to traffic. She explained that there is congestion caused by Popeye's drive-through customers blocking the alley, and prostitutes using the alley. The neighbors have all agreed that making this alley one way and putting up "Do Not Enter" signs will help alleviate this problem. Brandon moved ANC support of this request. Seconded by Hinterlong. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0, Funk to write the letter.

### **Old Business**

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Street Quality Market

Kramer reported that she and Funk had worked for a long time to get the owner to sign a Voluntary Agreement to make no sales of fortified wines in pint bottles, "Phillies" blunts, cigarette rolling paper, glassine bags or other drug paraphernalia. He also agreed to replace broken glass in his windows, to remove excessive advertising, paint the front door and remove peg board from the front windows so that police can see into the store. He also agreed to post a "No Loitering" sign and to instruct employees to call the police when loitering occurs. Brandon moved acceptance of the Voluntary Agreement. Funk seconded. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

Funk moved nomination of Brandon as Vice Chair. Hinterlong seconded. Kramer moved that nominations be closed. Trimble seconded. Kramer moved the question. **VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kramer first asked that Sherri Kimbel give an update on our office. Kimbel said that the ANC now has a very small space at the National City Christian Church, but they are charging no rent. Our copy machine and printer were stolen from the office when they left it open for the new tenants to do some work, but the NCCC has agreed to let the ANC use their copy machines. They will also replace the printer that was taken.

Hinterlong moved acceptance of the following expenditures:

37.00 Postmaster DC, stamps

726.62	Sherri Kimbel, March wages
32.00	DC Treasurer, March withholding
53.68	Verizon, phone bill

With a recent quarterly allotment payment, this leaves a balance of \$12,248.63 in the account when these checks have cleared. Brandon seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

Funk moved approval of the quarterly report. Funk seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.