

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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: Commissioner Brandon thanked the voters in SMD 2F02 for re-electing him.

Edward Sayre, President of the Thomas House Residents Council, complained that the timing of the pedestrian crossing traffic signal at Thomas Circle is still too short for elderly and handicapped pedestrians to cross safely. There are 54 seconds for half the crossing but only 17 seconds on the other side. Kramer said that she had talked to Charlene Dickens of DDOT about this, and that Ms. Dickens had explained that the shorter timing of the light from the traffic island to the west side of 14<sup>th</sup> Street was needed to accommodate the traffic coming into 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Massachusetts Avenue from the west. Charlene Dickens said that the curb lane along 14<sup>th</sup> Street is now legally closed for six months. It was not legally closed last week. She said if there were any problems citizens should email her at [Charlenea.dickens@dc.gov](mailto:Charlenea.dickens@dc.gov), or call her at 202-671-2710. Paul London, owner of Thomas Circle Sports Club, said that his business is suffering greatly due to the closing of the alley leading to the front door of his business. He doesn't understand why a public alley is closed and asked the ANC for help. He said that he would go out of business if customers cannot get to his building. Dickens said that the alley was closed during the excavation of the building site as a safety measure, and that she would talk to her supervisor to see if there is any way to open a walking path in the alley.

Jim Hill said he would like the ANC to take a vote to support legislation amending District of Columbia automobile insurance law to eliminate unlimited liability if a D.C. resident loans a car to someone who has an accident.

Sgt. Emmerman, acting director of PSA 307 while Lt. Smith is on sick leave, presented the crime report. Car thefts are still very high—41 in this report. There have been many items stolen from cars, such as laptop computers, CD players, clothing, etc. Kramer said it is obvious that some people just haven't gotten the message that they should leave NOTHING in their car. Other crimes are down in the area. Prostitution is still evident in the area. There was discussion about the teal blue Cavalier with a huge antenna that cruises the area of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets early in the morning. Many people were familiar with the driver of this car—he is tied in with prostitution somehow, possibly as a pimp. Michael Nelson asked if police ever ticket people who "block the box" and obstruct traffic. Emmerman said that tickets are sometimes issued, but that it is hard to prove that a person knows they will block the intersection.

Teresa Dubois and Tony Robinson from the Washington Convention Center made some brief announcements regarding the old convention center. The demolition is going forward, and the building will be imploded on December 18 at 7:30 am. Traffic will be stopped around the area. The entire event will take about one hour. Robinson asked that anyone seeing anything

unusual call the Convention Center Hotline at 249-3200. Dickens said that the traffic plan they presented was not approved by DDOT. At 7:37, Kramer called a brief recess.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Kramer added an update on Claridge Towers to the agenda. Brandon moved approval of the amended agenda; Hinterlong seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Brandon moved approval of the October minutes. Hinterlong seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

Helen Kramer welcomed the candidates-elect for next year, and had them introduce themselves. Charles Reed from 2F01, Brandon from 2F02, Christopher Dyer from 2F03, Matt Raymond from 2F04, and Michael Nelson from 2F06 were at the meeting and were recognized. Commissioner Funk introduced Sandra Barasillo who was a write-in candidate from 2F05.

### **New Business**

#### **1101 New York Avenue- Traffic Plan**

Alex Palacios of Centex Construction and Robert Braunohler of Louis Dreyfus presented two alternatives for street closings. The first includes closing one lane on 12<sup>th</sup> and one lane on I Street. There is a closure on 12<sup>th</sup> Street already further north. If this plan is approved, there will be a covered walkway on I Street. The alternative plan is to use the south lane of I Street, which is for parking now, but has no meters. Dickens reminded the Commissioners that 1101 K Street is also about to start construction, resulting in lane closings. Funk moved to approve the first alternative for street closures, Hinterlong seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0. Funk to send letter to Douglas Noble.

Palacios said that he also wanted approval for cutting down some trees on the site: Two maples on I Street, a Ginkgo and a Sycamore on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Kramer asked whether the city arborist had approved this. They said they plan to plant 10 trees around the site to replace them. Charles Reed asked if they would make a commitment on the size of the trees. They are proposing 4" caliper trees. Hinterlong moved that the tree removal plan be approved, replacing them with 10 trees of 4-4.5" caliper. Trimble seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 4-1, Brandon dissenting.

#### **Presentation of plans for reconstruction of Q Street between 14<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets**

Ramona Burns, Ward 2 Transportation Planner (DDOT), said that the repaving will be put out to bid this month, and that they expect work to commence in March or April. When the roadway is being dug up, there will be no parking on the street, but it should be for no more than 3 -4 weeks. She will come back to the ANC with more details when a contractor is selected. They will also be putting in Washington globe lights, and brick sidewalks. Kramer asked whether the residents had been consulted on the choice of materials for the sidewalks, to which Burns answered no. Kramer said that brick does not last as long as concrete and is more difficult for elderly and handicapped people to walk on, especially in bad weather. There was a discussion of the base for the bricks and if something more stable than sand could be used. Burns was asked about the tree boxes that sometimes "disappear" during the repaving or sidewalk

replacement. Burns said that she would monitor that. The issue of “storing” building materials on the sidewalk or in tree boxes was also brought up. Dickens said that it is illegal to store materials overnight in the tree boxes or elsewhere, and that residents should call 727-1000 if that happens so that DDOT can enforce the law. Kramer asked if Burns could come back with an update at the CDC meeting. Burns said that if she had an update by then she would let us know.

### Community Development Report

1101 K Street: Traffic Control Plan – Chorman Romano of JBG presented the traffic plan for this office building, which has already been approved by the ANC. They will close one lane of traffic on 11<sup>th</sup> Street during Phase I, and have a covered sidewalk on K Street. Phase II will close one lane of traffic on 12<sup>th</sup> Street but not until the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street is reopened. Cook asked when Phase II would occur. Romano said that she did not know, as the completion of the school renovation for which the sidewalk was closed has been delayed. Romano said she would give the ANC notice when they planned to close that sidewalk on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Funk moved approval of the traffic control plan at 1101 K Street, Brandon seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

### 1125 11<sup>th</sup> Street: Revision to plans for residential development

Gail Montplaisir, the developer, said that they had been bumped to this month’s HPRB meeting and that they had made some changes to the project, so Kramer invited them to talk about it. They now plan to have a green space that expands into public space. The entrance has been revised to be more prominent and would have more lighting. Kramer continued summarizing the remainder of the project. They had requested permission to remove a tree on M Street for a curb cut. Richard Neidich pointed out that this curbcut would create a blind area for cars exiting the driveway, and that the curbcut would take away residential parking spaces. There was a discussion of the wood “paneling” material used on the exterior, but the architect, Norman Smith, said that the material will last at least 30 years prior to needing maintenance. There will be only eight parking spaces, but Montplaisir said that they are still exploring possible alternatives, including a “stacked” mechanical parking system. Funk moved that the revisions to this plan be approved. Kramer made a friendly amendment adding approval of the plan as presented with changes to the entrance.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

### 1515 15<sup>th</sup> Street: Traffic Control Plan

Paul Hoftyzer of Metropolis Development Company (MDC) presented plans for traffic control at the site of their newest project at the corner of P and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets. They hope to have the Duron Paint store razed by the end of January. Hoftyzer said he has met with the neighbors and with DDOT to get input and approval of the plan. It will be in two phases. The first phase will be excavation, which should take between 90 and 120 days. Completion of this phase is expected by May. The alley easement off of 15<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed during this phase. That will necessitate opening the alley at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street side so the businesses that use that alley will have access. A pedestrian corridor will be maintained along 15<sup>th</sup> and P Streets. The second phase is the build-out process, which will take about 12-14 months, to be completed approximately June 2006. The sidewalk on the east side of 15<sup>th</sup> will be closed, as well as the sidewalk on P Street in front of the project. DDOT said that it would monitor the site, as they want the sidewalks reopened as early as possible. MDC is required to keep the large trees on 15th Street. If the trees need to be cut down for any reason, MDC will have to present cause

and get permission from the ANC. Hoftzyer said that he had presented all of this to the neighbors in the area.

Charlene Dickens of DDOT said that she received a letter from Q Street residents and she had some questions, but no one from Q Street was there to clarify the issues. She said that there will be no truck traffic permitted on residential streets. Berk Osler of Church Street said that he wanted the ANC not to approve this project, as Church Street residents had no input on the matter, and the 1400 block of Q Street was consulted although they have little impact from this. He said that there are three row houses on Church Street and the renters in these houses were not informed of any issues. Kramer said that Q Street residents are pro-active and that it is up to the residents to be more active. Hoftzyer said that Metropolis has gone out of its way to be communicative and work with the community, and that Osler has his phone number and email address. He said that the owners of the property where Osler resides asked Metropolis to work with them specifically and not the tenants. He said that he was always available, and Osler could have approached him at any time. Mark Raditz, the owner's attorney, said that he has a good relationship with Metropolis and the Oslers. Kara McCabe said that she has had many contacts with Hoftzyer because she calls him anytime she has a problem about the construction and he always responds promptly. She specifically asked Hoftzyer about the property in question and was assured that he had been working with the owners. Brandon moved that the ANC delay voting on this issue for a month. Hinterlong seconded. Discussion: Kramer said that they could approve the plan conditionally as an alternative, making it conditional on these parties coming to a resolution. Kramer said that the conditional approval would protect the residents. Brandon said that he would like to be able to go and look at the site to be able to make a more informed vote. Kramer asked Osler if he would be comfortable with the conditional approval. He said that he thought that would be okay, but that it would be a good lesson to Metropolis to hold them up since they did not communicate properly. Kramer called the question of the motion on the table.

**VOTE:** Approved 3-2, Kramer and Funk dissenting.

### **Old Business**

#### Claridge Towers

Sean Metcalf, of Councilmember Jack Evans' office, said that Tony Hillie, the resident manager, is the contact on this issue. He said that there is a dispute over payment between the contractor and the D.C. government, and as a result work has stopped. Kramer said that many of the lights on the scaffolding have been removed and people are drinking under there. Metcalf said that they tried to get security for the site, but that was not working and they have now requested more police surveillance. Funk asked if some of the scaffolding can be removed. On another subject, Metcalf said that the traffic lights at 11<sup>th</sup> and O and 13<sup>th</sup> and O Streets are slated to be completed by April.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Hinterlong moved acceptance of the following expenditures:

107.94          Verizon, phone bill – two months

1006.86	Sherri Kimbel, October wages
72.00	DC Treasurer, October withholding
62.85	S. Kimbel, reimbursement for office supplies

With a recent quarterly allotment payment, this leaves a balance of \$17,939.07 in the account when these checks have cleared. Funk seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved 5-0.

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