

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F
REGULAR MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES
February 6, 2007 7:00 pm
Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW**

In Attendance: Charles Reed (2F01), Chris Dyer (2F03), Mike Benardo (2F06), Jennifer Trock (2F04) and Jim Richardson (2F02).

Absent: Sandra Biasillo (2F05)

Charles Reed, *chairman pro tem*, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noted that a quorum was present and directed that a copy of the notice of the meeting be filed with the minutes.

Reed began the Commissioner announcements by stating that Chris Dyer had been appointed interim director of LGBT Affairs by Mayor Fenty. There have been problems with the Metropolis project on Church Street. DDOT has been called in. There is \$250,000 grant money for targeted areas and Logan Circle is one of the targeted areas. Reed has details for any non-profit who wants to apply for these grants. The search continues for an executive director.

Richardson said that there was a problem with garbage on Rhode Island, but it has been solved. Dyer said that DDOT will be putting up traffic calming measures on 15th Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue.

PSA 307 Report – Lt. Mike Smith

Lt. Mike Smith gave an update on crime in the area. There was a homicide on 1200 block of 11th Street. The assailant has been arrested. This is the first homicide in the area in 2 ½ years. Smith thanked Mike Schaeffer who encouraged a nearby apartment complex to hire a security company who assisted with the capture. Lt. Smith said he is going to retire (this announcement was met with dismay) and Lt. Emmerman will be taking over the PSA.

Ms. Schroeder raised the issue of graffiti issue, saying that there has been a lot of graffiti on Kingman Place. Smith said that graffiti is an issue throughout the PSA and told citizens about the “Adopt a Block” program. He recommended that each citizen know who their neighborhood officer is.

ANC 2F Crime and Public Safety Report

Mike Schaeffer gave an overview of the Crime Committee section of the website. Crime Committee correspondence section of the web page has been reconfigured into 4 main sections: (1) Allocution (2) Legislation (3) Neighborhood Improvement (4) Vacant Property with items sorted by date.

He gave two updates on vacant properties. The building at the corner of 10th and M Streets, which was an abandoned property, is getting a new roof and windows, saving it

from being condemned. Ed Six and Lynne Munson have been working with Jack Evans office to get this “abandoned property” brought up to code. 1316 12th Street has a trash dump behind the house, and has become a rat trap. The building is now condemned.

Sean Kim at District Liquors unilaterally decided to stop selling the \$2 bottles of Velicoff Vodka. He’s willing to put that in his voluntary agreement. It looks like he is going to rip down his building and put up a new one, with condos upstairs and a more wine-oriented store downstairs.

Acting DCMPD Police Chief Cathy Lanier

Chief Lanier thanked the community for bringing her in. She said that Lt. Smith and his team are doing a great job. She spoke about theft from autos and said that police presence is the best deterrent. She also reiterated that citizens should not leave things in cars as that is an invitation for criminals. She addressed the deployment issue and how officers have been assigned in the past. They are in the process of hiring 100 additional officers. Morale is a bit low and she understands what some of the issues are. Officers need to be valued for what they do. Police officers who live in the city will get the first round of take home cars. The second round will go to PSA officers who live within 25 miles of their district. This is a way to get more officers living in, or very near DC. She is working with the US Attorney’s office on cases and sentencing. She is concerned with the age of those committing violent crimes. She spoke of a triangulation system that is able to pinpoint where a gun is shot. They also are addressing the issue of crimes being committed by juveniles with guns. They will be taken off the street until their court appearance. That has not been done in the past.

The owner of Candida’s Bookstore spoke for the business owners. She asked why the beat patrols have been discontinued. She has been robbed at gunpoint in her store, and some local business owners have been robbed repeatedly. She asked for a permanent police presence on the streets. Lanier said that she gave Commander McCoy the latitude to institute those, but said that they also need police in cars to respond to 911 calls. McCoy said that he would try to put more beat cops in the area.

Lanier suggested that the ANC invite other police forces to come and speak to the group, such as Metro Police and Park police. They would like to know that they are needed. They have limited jurisdiction but do assist when they can. Lanier said that she is a huge fan of mentoring programs and asked that anyone who can, mentor youth. They also said that volunteers are always welcome to help with police administrative functions, as this frees cops to be out fighting crime and not stuck at a desk.

McCoy said that the third district has 10 crime cameras. Once a camera is in place, there is an immediate reduction in crime. Cameras can be moved. Businesses have paid for cameras in other cities. They are very expensive. DC is getting an additional 26 cameras.

DDOT Report

Deinma Jamabo of DDOT gave an overview of the Q Street reconstruction project from 14th to 11th Streets. It will begin on Monday, February 12th. It is scheduled to be completed by November 13th. Roger Gilbertson reminded them that the brick sidewalks needed to be installed diagonally.

Community Announcements

Joe Martin was introduced as the new Ward 2 Neighborhood Services Coordinator. There were some additional questions about graffiti. Mark Barnes suggested that the quicker the graffiti is removed the better as the graffiti artists want recognition. Sean Howard is the Mayor's Ward 2 liaison. His email address is Sean.howard@dc.gov. The next LCCA meeting will be February 15th at the Washington Plaza Hotel.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Reed added three street closings for walks to the agenda. He also added a protest for Pata Nega liquor license.

Trock moved approval of the amended agenda, Richardson seconded.

VOTE: Approved 4-0. (Dyer was momentarily absent)

Approval of January 2007 Minutes

Trock moved approval of minutes, Richardson seconded.

VOTE: Approved 4-0. (Dyer was momentarily absent.)

ABRA Matters

Park Place – 14th Street between I and K

Richardson gave an update on the negotiations to this protest. Dyer said that he has continually been rebuffed in his efforts to meet with the owners or their attorneys. He is going to try once more to meet with them and if he does not succeed will tell the ABRA Board that they have not acted in good faith and the protest will stand.

Reed asked for approval from the Commission to create a committee to look at voluntary agreements. The committee will consist of Charles Reed, Chris Dyer, Tim Hillard and Jim Richardson. Dyer moved the creation of a committee, Trock seconded. Some licensees are not yet under voluntary agreements, such as Stoney's who moved their existing liquor license to P Street, and they are open later than other restaurants in the area. A resident said that he was grateful that Stoney's was open late as there was no place open late to eat in the area. The vote was called.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Pata Nega, 1612 14th Street

Pata Nega is a proposed restaurant by the owners of Sonoma and Mendocino Grills. Reed moved that the ANC protest the liquor license on the grounds of peace, order and quiet, and authorize appropriate members to negotiate a voluntary agreement. There was a discussion about the proposed restaurant and whether or not it the license should be protested. Trock seconded the motion. Jim Cain asked if the Office of Planning had been consulted as to whether this use was permitted in the arts overlay district. Reed said that they would check.

VOTE: Approved 4-0-1, Dyer abstaining.

Willard International Hotel

They are seeking a substantial change in operations. They will be adding a Café Bistro and ask for approval and a stipulated license. Dyer moved approval, Richardson seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Whole Foods

The current voluntary agreement does not permit single beer sales. They seek to have that restriction removed as they carry some imported and unusual beers that are commonly sold as singles. Andrew Kline, the attorney representing Whole Foods said that a grocery store is not the same as a liquor store. Dyer said that he fears that this may open the ANC up to a “slippery slope” as other liquor stores may want to have single sales as well. The ANC has promoted having a single sales ban throughout the ANC and has fought the sale of singles for the past several years.

Helen Kramer urged the commission to take a look at the text of the agreement with Barrel House. She said that the agreement with Whole Foods should reflect that. John Grimberg said that it was against what the community had fought for. Jim Cain read a letter on behalf of the Zenith Condominium opposing the change.

Reed said that talks on renegotiating the agreement would begin and it would be addressed at the next meeting. Residents who have an opinion should contact their SMD representative.

Community Development Committee

Dyer announced that the Morrison Clark has purchased the Chinese Theater next door and wants to expand. The CDC voted unanimously to approve the massing and expansion. Reed moved approval of the recommendation of the CDC for the Morrison Clark expansion at 1015 L Street NW. Trock seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

New Business

Street Closings

Epilepsy Foundation on March 1
Komen Race for the Cure June 2
18th Annual St. Patrick’s Day 8K

Dyer moved approval of all street closures requested herein. Trock seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Initial Presentation of Change to Luxury Hotel

Giorgio Fioroso made a presentation. In 2004, a project for a condominium on 14th Street next to Viridian was presented and approved by the ANC. It is a very complex design. They still do not have a permit for the project from the Office of Planning. Meanwhile the condo market has tanked. They want to keep the unique architecture and are now considering a boutique hotel. It is permitted by zoning, but there will be some

BZA issues for penthouse mechanical, etc. There will be about 90 guestrooms. The parking impact of a hotel will be less than a condominium.

BoxLife

Mark Zimmen, the manager of BoxLife, gave an update. The theater is currently being constructed. They have approval for a CX liquor license for a theatre, not for a bar. They cannot serve liquor on a day that they are not staging a theatrical production. It will be a 50 seat theater. Reed said that there were questions raised about the license. The voluntary agreement is in place. They hope to open in 90 days. Jim Cain asked about whether the theater had expanded from its original space. There was a question as to why this issue is on the agenda, as they already have all the approvals they need. There is no action from this committee, and Andrew Kline offered to speak to Jim Cain about any questions he has at any time without taking up time at a public meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Sandra Biasillo the Treasurer was absent, so Dyer moved approval of the following expenses:

Richardson seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.