

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F
REGULAR MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, September 5, 2007 – 7:00 PM
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

Present: Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Chris Dyer (2F03), Mike Benardo (2F06), Jim Richardson (2F02).

COMMUNITY FORUM

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

Commissioner Announcements

Chairman Reed announced he had received official notification from the Board of Ethics and Elections (“BOEE”) of the vacancy on the Commission created by the resignation of Sandra Biasillo SMD05. Accordingly, it will be necessary to hold a special election at the next regular ANC2F meeting on October 3, 2007, pursuant to D.C. Code § 1-309.069(d). Dustin Cole and Jerome Sikorski have been certified by the BOEE as the qualified candidates for the seat. to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2F following the period for petition and circulation and challenge

Commissioner **Dyer** announced he will be stepping down as the Community Development Committee (CDC) chair due to additional responsibilities at work following his nomination by the Mayor to head the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs. He will, however, remain on the CDC as a member.

PSA 307 Report – Lt. Mike Smith

Burglaries continue to plague the ANC2F neighborhood; the area hardest hit in north of Vermont Avenue. Bicycles and electronics are the most popular thief items.

With respect to 1711 Vermont Ave, NW, also known as the ladder burglary, the police department has been on the lookout for several suspects. At 1210 R Street, NW a surveillance camera identified a suspect who prior to this event had been sentenced to 36 months in prison, but had been released fully by a judge without having served any of the entire sentence. The suspect is being held without bond and if convicted will more than likely serve time. Chairman **Reed** asked Lt. Smith to investigate if the prior criminal activity took place in ANC2F, and if so, the ANC will write a letter of allocution to be read at the time of sentencing.

Many bicycles are stolen each month in ANC2F; Lt. Smith urged people to register each bike with the police department and put the bike registration sticker on the bike. In the event the bike is stolen and then recovered, it can be traced back to the owner. Please report any stolen bicycles to the police department.

A total deployment of all offices in district 7 (12 hour shifts- all hands on deck) was held on July 23rd and July 28th. The police department found the total deployment method to be a very effective and successful crime fighting tool.

Neighborhood crime patterns may find information on the web at www.crimereports.com.

Mayor's Office Ward 2 Coordinators

Mark Bjorge, Neighborhood Services Coordinators for Ward 2 was introduced. Mr. Bjorge replaces Shawn Howard. **Bjorge** and **Joseph Martin** will be working together in Ward 2 and both can be reached at the Office of Community Relations and Services 202-442-9509 or at the following e-mail addresses: mark.bjorge@dc.gov or joseph.martin@dc.gov

ANC2F Candidate Forum

Candidates for the special election were introduced and spoke briefly. Dustin Cole and Jerome Sikorski presented their reasons for wanting to represent ANC2F-05. Listed below are a brief summary of their statements. Candidates may be reached directly for additional information. (Note: ANC2F in providing a forum for the candidates does so as a community service. The ANC does not recommend for or against or pass upon the qualifications of either candidates)

Dustin Cole 1115 12th Street, NW (dustindc@gmail.com)

- Safety – will work with law enforcement
- Diversity – will provide a strong voice to residents in transitioning buildings
- Encourage - low-income homeownership

Jerome Sikorski 1221 Massachusetts Ave, NW (jeredski@gamil.com)

- Life long Washington, DC resident
- On board of Whitman Clinic; arts and humanities and historical property interest
- Would like to see DC Housing Authority more involved with their properties

DDOT Report – Chris Ziemann

Chris Ziemann, Transportation Planner Ward 2 discussed the 11th Street, NW reconstruction project between L Street and O Street. Presently, the roadway operates with two lanes in each direction with adjacent curbside parking on each side of the roadway. The proposed alternative requires the elimination of one travel lane in each direction to allow for the incorporation of a center turn lane and bicycle lanes. Most likely traffic will be two-way during construction.

DDOT will hold the public meeting regarding 14th Street Streetscape Design and Transportation Study on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at the National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle, NW Washington, DC 20005 at 7:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to develop and discuss transportation and streetscape improvement options. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Community Announcements

DC Department of Health, Nutrition and Physical Fitness Bureau will hold the fifth annual “Get Fresh” Festival on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at RFK Stadium Open Air Farmers’

Market Lot 6, Oklahoma Avenue & Benning Road, N.E. from 10:00am-3:00pm.

The Logan Circle Community Association business meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 - 7pm at the Studio Theater located on 14th and P Streets NW. After the business meeting, the group will be given a backstage tour of Studio Theater, and then gather for wine and cheese mingle. For more information please contact the Logan Circle Community Association at www.logancircle.org

The Community Justice Programs will hold the Fifth Annual Citywide Community Justice Advisory Network Forum on Thursday, September 27, 2007 from 6:30pm-8:30pm at Gallaudet University- 800 Florida Ave, NE. This year's keynote speaker is Chairman Vincent Gray, DC City Council. For more information or to RSVP please contact the Community Justice Program at 202-220-5320 or Luella Johnson at Luella.Johnson@csosa.gov .

- 10 Minute Recess -

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

The draft agenda for the meeting was presented for approval. By consent, amendments were made as follows:

Add: Consideration of a resolution with respect to the special election to fill vacancy of SMD 2F-05.

Election of chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC) to replace Mr. Dyer.

Amendment of pending check signing authority as to ANC2F bank accounts.

Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Reed** and after further discussion, the agenda was approved as amended, with direction to the Executive Director to post the approved agenda on the ANC2F website.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meetings of June 6, 2007

Minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2007, were presented for approval. Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Richardson**, and after further discussion, such minutes were adopted with direction to the Executive Director to post the approved minutes on the ANC2F website.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

DDOT Matters

Street Closings

Jewel Murray presented a request for street closing for the “AIDS Walk.” **Murray** stated that the request complies with the published street closing policy of this ANC and that she had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Murray** can be reached at 202/797-4458 or jmurray@wwc.org for more information.

Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Reed**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That ANC2F advise the D.C. Home Land Security and Emergency Management Agency to grant the application pending before them for permits for the **AIDS Walk**, Saturday, October 6, 2007

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Crime and Public Safety Matters

No meeting having taken place in August, there was no report of the Committee on Crime and Public Safety at this time.

ABRA Matters

Proposed Rule change – ABRA proposes to change the rules to allow ABRA staff to conduct roll call hearings. **Chairman Reed** indicated that he believes the Commission need not comment or advise upon the pending proposal.

Park Place 918 14th Street, NW

Dyer reported that minor changes in the previously adopted Voluntary Agreement were accepted by the parties, and that the agreement has been approved by the ABC Board and the pending protest of ANC 2F withdrawn as agreed.

Izalco Restaurant, Inc. 1228 11th Street, NW (CR-01) #25144

It was noted that the Commission in July 2007 voted to protest the application of Izalco Restaurant, Inc, 1228 11th Street NW (CR-01) #25144 for renewal of its license on the grounds that its operations disturb the peace, order and quiet, of residential tenancies and lower property values. **Reed** indicated that the applicant wishes to meet with the Commission to get support for a substantial change in operations. The matter was referred to **Benardo** for further consideration. No action taken.

Sam-Sam, LLC t/a, Nima’s Restaurant & Bar, 1230 9th Street, NW CR #77000

Reed reported that the ANC2F is working on a Voluntary Agreement with Nima’s and progress is being made. No action taken.

K&D, LLC t/a Cork, 1740-A 14th St., NW, CR License #77111- Voluntary Agreement

Diane Gross and **Khalid Pitts**, the principals in the proposed new restaurant were afforded the opportunity to disclose their plans to the community. The principals are residents of Logan Circle area. –Cork will serve cheese, wine, desserts, paired with wines. The restaurant

plans to open by the end of the year. Cork will have 70 seats, a private room. Gross and Pitts stated they want to create a neighborhood gather spot that serves good food, wine and desserts.

Reed pointed out that the Commission has protested the issuance of the license, but that this was only for the purpose of maintaining the right to negotiate a Voluntary Agreement, which Cork has indicated it is prepared to do. Several issues remain outstanding, but it is expected that they will be resolved. A form of the agreement was presented for consideration by the Commission.

Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Benardo**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That the form of the Voluntary Agreement presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that **Chairman Reed** be and is hereby authorized and directed to enter into the agreement on behalf of ANC2F with such changes as to them appear reasonable and necessary in the community interest, and to withdraw the pending protest subject to (a) compliance by the applicant with the terms of the agreement and (b) a request to the ABC Board that the pending motion to dismiss the protest on procedural grounds be decided by the ABC Board, since the issues raised in such motion are important for the proper functioning of this ANC.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Community Development Committee Matters

1430 K Street

The American Sociological Association purchased two floors of office condominium suites in the 1430 K Street, NW. Construction of the new building is complete and Association improvements should be finished by late 2007. The American Sociological Association's acquisition and development for this building will be financed or refinanced through the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds by the District of Columbia. The Committee unanimously recommended approval of the request.

1430 Rhode Island Ave

The CDC recommends approval of concept, design, and massing of the pending proposal of Hotel Helix before HPRB for a one-story structure on an adjacent lot to function as a meeting room. No additional hotel rooms will be added. The CDC also recommends advising the BZA to approve a zoning variance from (a) 11 DCMR 350.4 9 (d) which prohibits expansion of gross floor area and increase function or meeting space within a hotel existing on or before May 16, 1981, and (b) lot coverage requirements (the proposed additional 2,189 square feet of gross floor area increases lot occupancy from approximately 61% to 73%).

The recommendations of the CDC were opposed by **Jeffery Dzieweczynski** a property

owner adjacent to the Hotel Helix. Mr. Dzieweczynski spoke at length as to the problems posed by the requested addition, and provided a documented presentation of such problems.

Reed commented that the issue before the ANC on the basis of the CDC recommendations is whether the findings of the CDC were palpably wrong. He pointed out that the problems pointed out by Dzieweczynski do not appear to go to the merits of the specific findings that the CDC must consider in its review of the matter. Finally, he stated that Dzieweczynski is not precluded from presenting his views to the BZA and HPRB, and he encouraged him to do so.

Dyer moved that the ANC2F accept the CDC report and recommendations, **Benardo** seconded. After further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the CDC as presented to the Commission be and are hereby approved, and the appropriate officers are directed to so advise HPRB and the BZA.

Vote: (3-0) Reed abstaining.

Reed stated that **Commission Dyer** resigned as chairman of the CDC and recommended the election of Mr. **Benardo** as his successor. **Benardo** indicated he was willing to accept election to that position.

Whereupon, it was,

RESOLVED, That Commissioner Mike Benardo be and is hereby elected by acclamation as chair of the Community and Development Committee, to serve until his successor be elected and qualified.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

New Business

Special Election

Upon motion by **Reed** and second by **Dyer**, and after further discussion,

Whereas, the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single-Member District (SMD-05) was certified vacant, and the Board of Elections and Ethics submitted a list of qualified candidates to Advisory Neighborhood Commission ANC2F following the period for petition circulation and challenge pursuant to D.C. Code § 1-309.06(d) (2006 Repl.); and it is;

suggested that the Commission provide for special notice to residents of ANC 2F-05 regarding the special election. Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Dyer** and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That ANC 2F hereby authorizes that notice of the October 3, 2007 monthly public meeting of the Commission be, in addition to such other methods as this Commission has previously authorized and which are provided for under § 1-309.11(c), given as to the time and place of such meeting and a statement be included in such notice alerting the community to the special election to fill the vacancy of Commissioner of SMD 2F-04 which exists by virtue of the resignation of Sandra Biasillo; and it is,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That such notice be given by U.S. mail to the addresses of each person listed upon the voting registry of the Board of Ethics and Elections as persons entitled to vote in SMD 2F-05; and it is,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That subject to ascertainment by **Jim Richardson**, that this Commission may by law make such a mailing and pay the costs of the same, this Commission authorizes a sum not to exceed \$200 for postage and mailing expenses to be paid therefore.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Treasurer's Report (Jim Richardson, Treasurer)

Treasurer **Richardson** moved and **Benardo** seconded the approval of the following expenses:

Cynthia Cota	\$702.80- July
Cynthia Cota	\$702.80- August
Verizon	64.88
Sandra Biasillo	11.06
Mailing of Notice	200.00
TOTAL	\$1,681.54

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Treasurer Richardson will look at the procedure of reoccurring expenses.

Reed moved, **Benardo** seconded; that the ANC2F look into purchasing a computer, print, fax and scan machine and allocated \$2,000 toward this purchase of this office equipment.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:20 pm.

