

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F
REGULAR MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, November 7, 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), Jennifer Trock (2F04) Jerome Sikorski (2F05)

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.

Community Announcements

Rob Halligan—DuPont Circle Association Zoning Reduction Proposal—Northeast Dupont Area Neighborhood presented the zoning reduction goals of the organization to bring the existing zoning laws into conformance with actual use and with the 2006 DC Comprehensive Plan. **Halligan** was referred to the Community Development Committee.

Commissioner Benardo announced **Noi Chudnoff**, local philanthropist, and owner of 14th Street design shop Go Mama Go!, died of head trauma after falling and hitting her head. **Chudnoff** was a major donor to a number of local gay charities and organizations, including The Lesbian Service, Whitman-Walker Clinic and Ganymede Arts. The ANC2F extends its deepest sympathies to **Ms. Chudoff's** family.

PSA 307 Report – Lt. Mike Smith

Smith reported that the Prostitution Unit does patrol the Logan Circle neighborhood and as a direct result, prostitution arrests are down. Burglaries are down 50%; the residents have been very helpful in calling the police and watching out for one another. However, Robberies are up in the month of October; 10th Street, NW and O Street, NW are problem areas. **Richard Pinnell** asked **Smith** about the criminal activity at the CVS store located on the 1400 block of P Street, NW. **Smith** pointed out that several CVS stores have been targets of criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Helen Kramer- asked **Smith** if chaining off parking lot at night would reduce the prostitution and drug activity at currently being conducted after hours at Mr. Car Wash.

Logan Hardware, 1420 P Street, NW, has ordered pepper spray, which it will sell at cost to area residents.

Smith announced that the Metropolitan Police Department PSA 307 will sponsor five needy Logan Circle neighborhood families for the holidays by collecting food, clothing, and gifts.

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 gave a description of the services provided by the Neighborhood Services Coordinators office, "we are the eyes and ears of your community."

The Watha T. Daniel Interim Library opened on Saturday, October 20 2007. The new interim library (on the grounds of Shaw Jr. High School, 925 Rhode Island Avenue, NW) offers the following: public computers; free Wi-Fi; online homework help; children's area; downloadable audio and video; graphic novels; books for children, young adults and adults; CDs; DVDs; personalized professional service; and 4,500 square feet of space. The hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 am - 9:00 pm, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm and Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The contact information for the library is 671-0265/0267.

Bjorge 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

DDOT Report – Chris Ziemann (DDOT Transportation Planner, Ward 2)

15th Street project, (one way North bound traffic) Draft Final Report will be released soon. The project itself would begin in 2009 at the earliest.

14th Street Transportation and Streetscape Study will post the existing conditions report on the DDOT website next week. Short and long term recommendations and the next public meeting will probably be in January when the Draft Final Report will be presented with various options.

11th Street Project – construction should start in May-June of 2008. There will be two stages, first sidewalks, and second streets. This project will take about 10 months, weather permitting. It will include: asphalt, more trees, brick sidewalks in residential areas, and concrete in commercial areas. All traffic circles will be repaved between L Street, NW, Massachusetts Avenue to O Street, NW.

Bus Stop P Street, at P and 14th NW on NW Corner. **Zieman** read a statement received from WAMATA that the location (which is objected to by Cooper Lewis Condo Assoc.) was merely a repositioning of the stop from its temporary location on the NE corner of that

intersection, and where it had been placed due to the construction on the 1400 block, and that the developer had asked that the stop at 15th and P not be replaced. **Reed** stated that the WAMATA representation was false. The stop was at the NE corner for the past 32 years, and was never previously at its present location. **Reed** asked that Ziemann look further into the matter and communicate with him, since it appears to the community that the current location is hazardous, obstructing, and disturbing.

P Street, NW, 1400 Block and Church Street Repaving. **Ziemann** responded that Metropolis Development Company has been attempting to get a release/waiver from DDOT contract with Ft Myers Construction to mill and repave portions of P Street and Church Street which were damaged during construction. **Zemann** is trying to get all contractors to meet at the site to coordinate the mill and overlay work.

Community Announcements

The Logan Circle Community Association will host its Annual Fall Celebration on Thursday, November 15th from 7-9 PM at the Washington Plaza Hotel- 10 Thomas Circle, NW. This year's celebration will include food and drinks, the LCCA's Annual Awards and elections for board positions. For more information: Desi.Deschaine@logancircle.org.

- 10 Minute Recess -

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

The draft agenda for the meeting was presented for approval. Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Richardson** and after further discussion, the agenda was approved as amended by consent to include *1402 12th Street, NW*.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meetings of October 3, 2007

It appeared that the draft minutes of the meeting of October 3, 2007 presented for approval did not reflect corrections previously noted. **Chairman Reed** announced that approval would be deferred until the meeting on December 5, 2007, and asked the Executive Director to post the draft minutes on the website in the interim.

DCEMADHS

No business

DDOT Matters

No business

Crime and Public Safety Matters (Helen Kramer, Chair)

Kramer- reported that in response to complaints about prostitution activity in alleys, Assistant Chief of Police, **Diane Groomes** ordered additional police resources to assist the officers of PAS 307. As a result, several prostitution arrests have been made in the last month. Three assault and robbery crimes were committed, and seven arrests were made in the month of October. **Kramer** pointed out that two of the three assault/robberies were committed on individuals who were either talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphone. **Kramer** pointed out that pedestrians need to be aware of their surrounding while walking, especially at night.

Ed Six is working on the nuisance properties – the community will request the ANC2F to become more involved by writing letters of support to the appropriate agencies.

ABRA Matters

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

Murray Kivitz, counsel for the licensee, stated that the restaurant wishes to file application for an entertainment endorsement and increase its hours consistent with the area businesses. He stated that he wishes to work cooperatively toward that goal. **Chairman Reed** pointed out the licensee has posed noise, trash and other problems and has been the subject of complaints. In fact, the ANC voted to protest the reissuance of the license, but the protest was not timely lodged. Nevertheless, **Reed** indicated that the ANC would act in good faith to see if a satisfactory revision could be made to the existing voluntary agreement which would address the complaints and give appropriate enforcement avenues for the ANC. **Reed** appointed **Jerome Sikorski** (SMD05) to take the lead in the negotiations.

Whole Foods (requested change in existing Voluntary Agreement) (Class B—off premises)

Chairman Reed, noting that amendment to the voluntary agreement approved by the ANC in May requires the ANC to review whether there have been problems associated with the single sale provisions of the amendment. The Commission determined that there were no problems, and upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Richardson**, and after further discussion, it was

RESOLVED, That ANC2F agrees that the temporary provisions of paragraph 7 of the voluntary agreement with Whole Foods, as amended May 2, 2007, relating to the sale of single quantities should be made permanent, it being understood that such agreed is without prejudice to the ANC's to seek relief in the future if the Commission determines that the health, safety or welfare of the community justifies higher minimums.

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

Community Development Committee (Commissioner Benardo, Chair)

Benardo reported that **Paul London**, Thomas Circle Sports Club, wishes ANC support for enhancement of the streetscape leading to his business. The business, located in the geographic center of the block bound by 13th, 14th, L and Thomas Circle, is invisible to street because of recently constructed buildings surrounding it. **London** presented financial results showing club has been losing memberships and revenue. **Dyer** pointed out that several business use that alley for deliveries;

Benardo that the unanimous recommendation of the CDC by accepted by the ANC. Upon motion by **Bernardo**, seconded by **Dyer**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the CDC as presented to the ANC2F Commission and are hereby approved; that ANC 2F advise DDOT that the ANC favors improvements of the alleyways within the block bounded by 13th, 14th, L and Thomas Circle; and that DDOT be requested to consider and propose improvements after appropriate planning and traffic studies.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

New Business

Election of Secretary. **Chairman Reed** noted that **Benardo** has asked to be relieved as the Secretary of the ANC2F due to the press of the other responsibilities he has taken on. Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Dyer** and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That Jerome Sikorski be and is hereby elected to be Secretary of ANC2F, and to service in such office until his successor shall have been elected and qualified to serve..

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

1402 12th Street, NW—**Chairman Reed** stated that numerous complaints have been raised as to this property, among which are that loud, disruptive parties are held there; the property is occupied without a certificate of occupancy; the listed owner, a Ms. Williams, is not actually residing in the property, but is taking homestead exemptions under DC law and act, which if true would appear to violate D.C. tax laws; and that the house was being used as a commercial establishment in which the premises are rented for events. **Steve Silva** stated that he lives at the property and owns it [at least jointly with Williams]. He stated that the parties were personal in nature and that he was in attendance.

Reed stated that the facts asserted by Silva appear to be incorrect, or at least disputed by other persons. In light of the seriousness of the allegations concerning this property, **Reed** proposed that the matter be referred for investigation.

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

RESOLVED; That the U.S. Attorney and Inspector General of the District of Columbia be requested to investigate whether Steve Silva or the registered owner of 1402 12th Streed, N.W., or either of them, are in violation of the laws of the District of Columbia in connection with the use, occupancy, and tax obligations relating to this property or any business activities connected therewith

Vote: (4-1) Dyer dissenting, Sikorski abstaining.

Treasurer's Report (Jim Richardson, Treasurer)

Commissioner Dyer moved and **Benardo** seconded the approval of the following expenses:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Cynthia Cota | \$702.80 |
| Verizon | 64.87 |
| Cynthia Cota computer | 1,714.20 |
| Eugene Keyzman | 390.00 |
| DC Treasurer | 25.00 |
| DC DOES | 36.00 |
| TOTAL | \$2,932.87 |

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Benardo**, the quarterly financial reports for the quarters 3rd and 4th was unanimously approved.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

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

RESOLVED, that this Commission hereby authorize and approve the following reoccurring monthly expenditures, it being the intention of the Commission that such expenditures shall be authorized and approved unless and until the Commission shall amend or revoke this authority and approval:

Executive Director salary (at the rate set by contract), currently \$800 per month);

Phone bill (Verizon)

DOES,

DC Treasurer

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:00 pm.