

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F REGULAR MONTHLY PUBLIC
MEETING** Wednesday, May 7, 2008 – 7:00 PM
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

Present: Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Chris Dyer (2F03), Mike Benardo (2F06), Jennifer Trock (2F04)

COMMUNITY FORUM

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

Commissioner Announcements

Chairman Reed announced although the Board of Zoning Appeals had denied in part and granted in part the ANC2F motion (authorized at the April public meeting of ANC 2F) for rehearing and reconsideration of the action of the BZA in approving certain variances to the Morrison Clark Hotel. Specifically, the BZA denied the motion insofar as it sought rehearing, but granted it as to reconsideration. The BZA will reconsider at a special meeting scheduled (as of May 15) for May 27. The BZA will not allow or consider any new submissions by the parties. **Commissioner Benardo** (a member of the CDC at the time, and currently chair of the CDC), confirmed, however, that the CDC did not have plans showing the problems raised by the Quincy Park residents at the time the recommendation was made to advise grant of the application for variances.

May 20th meeting at the Convention Center Community Health partnership

The NIAMS Community Health Center, which opened in July 2001, provides the platform for the HPP's research, education, and training activities. Located in the heart of a multicultural community in Washington, DC, the Health Center provides the community with access to specialized care and scientifically based health information and NIAMS researchers with access to patients most affected by rheumatic diseases. All patients at the Health Center are enrolled in the Natural History Study of Rheumatic Diseases in Minorities, which is designed to gather information on incidence, prevalence, severity, and outcomes of disease.

On May 8, 2008 the DC Housing Authority will host a Brown Bag Lunch. Contact DC Housing Authority at www.dchousing.org for more information.

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC WASA) is hosting community meetings to discuss a proposed adjustment to water and sewer rates. The Board is considering a rate increase of 8.5 percent for water and sewer services. If approved, the new rate becomes effective October 2008 and would raise the average monthly bill by approximately \$4.24 (based on an average monthly usage of 8.33 Ccf or 6,231 gallons of water). A downloadable version of the meeting flier is attached for your convenience. Public meetings are being held as follows:

MONDAY, MAY 19 6:30 pm 8:30 PM
Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
901 G Street, NW

TUESDAY, MAY 20 6:30 pm- 8:30 PM
Washington Center for the Aging
2601 18th Street, NE

TUESDAY, MAY 27 6:30 -8:30 PM
Cleveland Park Library
3310 Connecticut Avenue, NW

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28 6:30-8:30 PM
Southwest Neighborhood Library
900 Wesley Place, SW

THURSDAY, MAY 29 6:30-8:30 pm
Anacostia Senior High School Auditorium
1601 16th Street, SE

In addition, DC WASA is hosting **public hearings** on the proposed rate adjustments **Wednesday, June 11, 6:30-8:30 pm and Monday, June 23, 10:00 am-noon** at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol Street, NE (within walking distance of Union Station). For more information, contact DC WASA Public Affairs at (202) 787-2200.

Chairman Reed announced that **Commissioner Jim Richardson** has tendered his resignation due to the fact that he is moving out of SMD02 and by law is disqualified from serving as the ANC Commission from that SMD. **Jerome Sikorski** has also resigned, due to ill health. **Chairman Reed**, on behalf of the ANC, praised both commissioners for public service. Formal notice has been forwarded to the DC Board of Elections and Ethics in order to initiate special elections to fill the vacancies in accordance with the ANC Act.

Reed asked that anyone interested in serving the Logan circle community should consider running for the vacant seats.

Reed pointed out that the ANC principally communicates via the internet and urged community members present at the meeting to be sure that their email addresses were on the ANC's distribution list. This can be done online at the ANC's website: www.anc2f.org

PSA 307 Report – Lt. Smith

Officer M.J. Caron gave the report for Lt. Smith that showed violent crime from April 2007-April 2008 is down 60% and property crime is down 14%. **Officer Caron** pointed out that open windows have been a problem, so please keep your property locked. It is also important to stay alert while home with an open window. Several cases have been reported of break in attempts even while the property owner was at home.

Captain Gresham PSA 307 is being investigated within the MPD for abuse of power and **Lt. Smith** was working on this investigation.

Several alleys in the Logan Circle area continue to act as an open air drug market – **Officer Caron** informed the community meeting to call the police when drug activity is seen. Note: the proper number to call is 911 (not 311). 911 is used whenever the situation calls for an officer to respond.

Resident **Aaron Adams** praised MPD for ticketing on Sundays. **Adams** said the ticketing is working and greatly appreciated by the community.

Resident **Joe Kerger** of 1401 Q Street brought to **Officer Caron's** attention three garage burglaries that have taken place in his condo building. Caron stated MPD is aware of these break-ins and informed **Kerger** that these stats are counted as thief from auto and not burglary. **Helen**

Mayor's Office Ward 2 Coordinators- Abby Petersen and Mark Bjorge

Abby Petersen detailed some of the services the Mayor's Office provides for the residents. **Jim Richardson** inquired about the construction project on 14th Street and the dumpster in the street taking up several valuable parking spaces. **Petersen** promised to look into the matter and report back.

Lynn Munson stated that a fence has been put up on public property at 1128-1132 10th Street, NW and the owners have been unresponsive to complaints. The fence is blocking condo owners from using the public access property. Petersen undertook to investigate.

Graffiti cleanup waivers were made available at the meeting. Property owners who wish the City to undertake graffiti **removal** on private property must sign a Graffiti Removal Release and Waiver of Liability Form. The Forms may be obtained from the Office of Community Relations and Services at 202-442-9509. Forms are also available online:

http://dpw.dc.gov/dpw/lib/dpw/pdf/graffiti_removal_english.pdf

Mark Bjorge and **Abby Petersen** can be reached at the Office of Community Relations and Services 202-442-9509 or at mark.bjorge@dc.gov or abby.petersen@dc.gov

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

No report Christopher.Ziemann@dc.gov or at 202/671-2555

Riding bicycles in Central Business District is illegal. You can find the map on the following website (DDOT's Bicycle Program website):

[http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1245,q,559639,ddotNav_GID,1761,ddotNav,\[34416\].asp#](http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1245,q,559639,ddotNav_GID,1761,ddotNav,[34416].asp#)

This is a pdf document with a map showing the boundaries (South of Massachusetts, East of 23rd, West of 2nd St NE, North of C Street SW).

DDOT Urban Forestry Administration – Liz Tylander- No show

Community Announcements

Logan Circle Community Association (LCCA) will hold the May membership meeting on May 14, 2008 at the Hotel Helix from 7:00-9:00 PM. The May meeting will honor the volunteers who participated in LCCA's first DC Servathon, give a sneak preview of the upcoming summer events in DC and will provide an opportunity to meet and mingle with prospective candidates for Ward 2 and At-Large City Council positions.

The LCCA Summer Picnic in the Park will be Sunday, June 8th 4-7 PM at Pepco Park, 12th and O Streets, NW.

The *Library Transformation Survey* was presented to the ANC meeting by Chris Otten of DC Library Dynamo. The Library Transformation Survey is designed to seek out community input and needs for the new Shaw Library. Final design meeting date June 18, 2008 at Shaw Interim Library

- 10 Minute Recess -

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Benardo** and after further discussion, the agenda was approved with the following amendments and a copy directed to be filed with the minutes and posted on the ANC2F website:

Add under: New business
Emmaus Services- letter of support

Add under: ABRA
Ollie's Trolley – entertainment endorsement

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meetings of April 2, 2008

Minutes of the meeting of April 2, 2008, were presented for approval. Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Benardo**, and after further discussion, the minutes were approved with direction to the Executive Director to post the same on the ANC2F website.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Resignations of Commissioners Richardson and Sikorski

Letters of resignation from Commissioners **Jim Richardson (2F-02)** and **Jerome Sikorski (2F-05)** presented and, without objection, were accepted.

Election of Treasurer

In light of the resignation of Commissioner **Richardson**, who was treasurer of ANC 2F, the Chairman opened the floor for nominations for treasurer.

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

RESOLVED, That Commissioner **Jennifer Trock** be and is hereby elected by acclamation to be Treasurer of ANC 2F to serve until her successor is elected and qualified to serve

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Election of Secretary

In light of the resignation of Commissioner **Sikorski**, who was secretary of ANC 2F, the Chairman opened the floor for nominations for secretary.

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

RESOLVED, That Commissioner **Michael Benardo** be and is hereby elected by acclamation to be Treasurer of ANC 2F to serve until his successor is elected and qualified to serve

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Crime and Public Safety Matters

ANC2F Crime and Public Safety Committee Report (Helen Kramer, Chair)

Kramer asked for volunteers to join the Crime and Public Safety Committee, “if you are concerned please join the Crime and Public Safety Committee.” Prostitution is still a problem in the Logan Circle neighborhood. Several hotels and gas stations are being used for street prostitution and illegal drug activity. **Kramer** stated that Ward 2 City Council member Jack Evans and Lt. Groomes were asked by the Committee to impound the cars of the “Johns” and if MPD can send warning letters to the home address of the “Johns.” Kramer is still waiting for an answer from Evans’ office.

Allocution letters- DC law provides the victim of crimes to offer testimony at sentencing of convicted criminals. Currently, the community is not considered a “victim.” This hampers efforts to seek to persuade judges to award appropriate sentences in crimes considered serious by

the community. Ward 2 City Council Member Jack Evans was asked to draft an amendment to include members of the community as victims

Aaron Adams mentioned that as Logan Station was being built he witnessed three young men committing an assault, but he has never been contacted to serve as a witness. **Kramer** asked **Adams** to inquire of US Attorney's office, and to communicate back to her or **Chairman Reed** with the follow-up.

ABRA Matters

CulinAerie - Stipulated License- liquor license 1133 14th Street, NW. **Susan Holt** reported that this applicant would be seeking a Class C license in connection with a cooking school. **Reed** pointed out that the new business will add to the community. The matter was deferred until the July meeting for action in order to give the applicant to communicate with the condominium association of the building in which the new business is to be located.

LHO Tom Joad Circle Hotel 1155 14th St, NW (renewal) – No proposal was made with respect to this matter. **Brian Vargas** asked for an explanation as to when the ANC protests renewal applications. **Reed** pointed out that the policy is stated in the approved liquor licensing policy of the ANC. Basically, the ANC does not seek to take action unless there are residential tenancies nearby that could be disturbed by liquor operations or other potential problems. Where, as here, the business is located in the downtown area where there do not appear to be potential problems, the practice has been to take action only in future renewals and after problems have appeared. **Joel Heisey** spoke in favor of this hotel's management and its good practices.

Ollie's Trolley 1426 L Street, NW # 23540 (CR-01) – This matter was submitted for clarification.

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

RESOLVED, That the Amended and Restated Voluntary Agreement between the parties by further amended by a Second Amended and Restated Voluntary Agreement which shall permit the licensee to obtain an entertainment endorsement, and the appropriate officers of ANC 2F be and are hereby authorized and instructed to execute such agreement and take such further action as may be reasonably required to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Community Development Committee Matters

ACKC's Public Space Application for a Sidewalk Café, 1529c 14th Street, NW, drawings were distributed at the April CDC meeting showing sixteen seats at eight tables (two chairs per table). The sidewalk is 19 feet wide and the café would be 7' 8". The remaining open sidewalk would be 11' 4" wide after the café and the tree box takes up 4' of that that space. ACKC intends to

use stanchion poles and chains to cordon off the space. All of the tables, chairs, stanchion poles, chains, and other items will be taken in every night.

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F accept the unanimous recommendation of the CDC and advise the DDOT to approve the outdoor café application as presented to the CDC.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

The Park Restaurant 920 14th Street, NW, sidewalk cafe

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

RESOLVED, That the ANC2F determines that the proposed outdoor café proposed by Park Place, Inc. in the rear of its business at 918-920 14th St. will not likely disturb or disrupt adjoining or nearby tenancies, and, accordingly, that ANC2F advise DDOT to approve the public space application as presented to the meeting; and that, to extent the use of the café constitutes a material change in operations, ANC2F advise the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (“ABC”) to grant consent for such change; and it is,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chairman be and is hereby authorized and directed to communicate such advice to the respective agencies and, as to ABC amend the existing voluntary agreement between the parties to reflect the above advice, if deemed appropriate.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Report on 14th Streetscape Project (Brian Vargas)

Brian Vargas attended the DDOT Steering Committee and made a presentation to the ANC meeting. DDOT streetscape study is now complete and ready to move on to the next phase. The construction project is scheduled to begin 2009-2010. The study showed the community wants a pedestrian plan during construction walkway and the community wanted to keep the businesses open during the construction phase.

Several highlights of the plan include: sidewalk art; bulb-outs for pedestrian convenience and safety and for each of traffic and bus stop control, paid parking for non-local residents, etc. The number of bus stops is still in debate.

The plan in its current form proposes alternative plans, one more expensive than the other. The more expensive would entail sidewalks refinished with London Pavers, and other up-scale selections. This plan has an estimated cost of approximately \$7 million dollars. The bare-bones costs of this project will be approximately 4.7 million dollars. The final piece of this project is the extent of the funding. **Vargas** encouraged community members to talk to their council members about additional funding like Jack Evans and the Logan Circle ANC.

Reed pointed out that the plan will have a huge, beneficial impact on the esthetics, comfort and homogeneity of the neighborhood, and should be strongly supported. **Trock** thanked **Vargas** for his volunteer work with the 14th Street Steering Committee.

The full study is online at <http://www.14thstreetstudy.com/reports.asp>

New Business

Dog Park Application- **George Kassouf** presented a proposal for formal designation of a dog parks at an essentially unused section of playground adjoining Shaw Junior High in Washington, DC. He argued that the proposal is consistent with recently promulgated regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for dog parks.

Dog owners of the Logan Circle and Shaw neighborhoods are actively identifying and gathering information about several possible sites for a proposed dog park, and will seek the approval of adjoining ANCs. At that point, a formal application will be made to the DPR to consider 11th Rhode Island Recreation field as one of the sites. Anyone interested in participating in this effort should contact **George Kassouf** at geokassouf@aol.com.

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

RESOLVED, That the ANC2F advise Department of Parks and Recreation to grant the application for a dog park as presented to the meeting.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Emmaus Services- DC Office of Aging

The **Reverend Joseph K. Williams** appeared before the ANC to request support for the designation by the District of Columbia of Emmaus Services to be lead agency for the provision of services in Ward 2 to the elderly in accordance with the Aging Americans Act.

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F advise the DC Office of Aging to grant Emmaus Services pending application to be designated the lead agency in Ward 2 for the provision of services to the elderly in accordance with the Aging Americans Act.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Public Space Permit – 1416 Rhode Island Ave, NW

Mr. **William Kidd**, owner of the above residence, asked the ANC to support his pending application for public space permit to park his car in the public space in front of his residence. Community sentiment expressed at the meeting, was strongly against the proposal. **Reed** pointed out that the ANC has consistently opposed such requests since they are discriminatory to other residents. **Joel Heisey**, a member of the CDC, also strongly opposed the space permit.

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F advice DDOT not to grant the public space permit

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report (Jim Richardson, Treasurer)

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F hereby approves the Q-2 2008 Quarterly Report; as presented to the meeting.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

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

RESOLVED, That due to the resignation of **Jim Richardson** as an ANC commissioner (and, by consequence, as the Treasurer of ANC 2F), and the election of Commissioner **Jennifer Trock** as Treasurer of ANC 2F, the appropriate officers of this ANC be and are hereby authorized and directed to remove **Richardson** as a signatory on the bank accounts of this ANC and to add **Jennifer Trock** as a signatory on the bank accounts of this ANC, including bank accounts of the ANC held at SunTrust Bank.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Upon motion by **Dyer**, seconded by **Trock** and after further discussion, the following expenses were approved;

Cynthia Cota	\$938.70
Cynthia Cota	65.00
Verizon	66.37
Sandra Biasillo	155.40
DC Treasurer	4.00
DOES	54.14
IRS	1,073.45
Jim Richardson	61.32

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:02pm.