

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F REGULAR MONTHLY  
PUBLIC MEETING**

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 – 7:00 PM  
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL  
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

**Present:** Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Brian Vargas (2F03), Dustin Cole (2F05-Treasurer), Monica Schneider (2F02), Matt Raymond (2F04)

**Absent:** Mike Benardo (2F06) (Vice Chairman)

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Commissioner Announcements**

The next Logan Circle Arts Overlay Review Committee meeting is June 9, 2009 at 1440 Q Street at 6:30 pm. Department of Planning. ANC2F's ARTS Overlay Review Committee will hold its second meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at 1440 Q Street, NW. This is a public meeting and all are welcome.

The ARTS Overlay Review Committee is reviewing the provisions of the ARTS Overlay Zoning District, in particular the 25% provision related to eating and drinking establishments. The committee is interested in hearing from any person or organization that has views on these issues. Please contact Joan Ferraris: [jdferraris@yahoo.com](mailto:jdferraris@yahoo.com), Tel (202) 797-8371 to have your name added to the meeting schedule for the June 16 meeting or subsequent meetings.

Future public meetings of the ARTS Overlay Review Committee will take place on Tuesday evenings in June and July. Following this period of public consultation and outreach, the ARTS Overlay Review Committee will report its recommendations to ANC2F and the DC Office of Planning by early September 2009.

**PSA 307 Report – Lt. Vanessa Moore**

Crime patterns: Last month saw a major spike in robberies with weapons, due in part, to warm weather and the current economic climate. Most victims are white males, often wearing headsets, intoxicated and attacked at night (9 pm to 3 am). Twenty two robberies occurred in 30 days; a suspect has been identified in 6 of the robberies. Lt. Moore stated that PAS 307 needs more officers on duty during evening hours. **Reed** offered the ANC's help to get more resources assigned to PSA 307 because of low numbers of officers on duty. Lt. Vanessa Moore Lt. Moore can be reached at 703/405-1993 or by email at [vanessa.moore@dc.gov](mailto:vanessa.moore@dc.gov).

## **Community Announcements**

Helen Kramer is the Ward 2 Liaison W for Census 2010 and handed out information regarding the 2010 Census. The purpose was for public information and to solicit census workers. For more information visit [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census)

## **DDOT**

Chris Ziemann stated that the 11<sup>th</sup> Street between L and O, NW construction was held up due to wet weather, but DDOT is trying to finish up on time. Construction on the east side of the street is ongoing. The utility and sidewalk work is estimated to be completed by the end of June. Paving is the final step in completing construction on the east side. The road is ready to be paved. The wet weather has not permitted the contractor to begin this operation. Once the weather permits, roadway construction will begin. It will take approximately one week to complete the asphalt work from L St. to M. St. The contractor will then set up his equipment for the next block of construction. Since the beginning of June, the contractor has provided a flagger, in the morning and evenings, at the entrance to 1111 11<sup>th</sup> Street Condominiums to help residents exit and enter the parking garage. This service will continue until the completion of the paving on the east side.

Office of Planning together with DDOT will study Mt Vernon Square between L and H Streets and 11<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> to look at the area as a whole because of the construction and growth and to make Mt Vernon Square a viable place to live, work and visit.

12th and Mass (east bound) is always in grid lock- block the box- DDOT will check the signal.

**Zieman** also mentioned the pending 15th street traffic study. In the 1960's, transportation officials converted many of the District's two-way streets to one-way traffic to move large number of vehicles in and out of the city. Such was the case with 15th Street, NW, and its southbound sister street, 17th Street. Back then, moving cars was the priority. Now, however, the priority is to protect the rising in-town population from the suburban in- and out-flow. This engendered a DDOT study which the ANC has seen before to change the traffic patterns to make walking and bicycling safer and more convenient.

### *14<sup>th</sup> Street Study*

DDOT conducted a study of methods on 14<sup>th</sup> Street to make improvements to promote safe and convenient mobility for all forms of transportation—pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular, and transit. Per Ziemann, the Engineers were beginning to talk about starting the construction design documents.

Following Ziemann's report, Chairman **Reed** noted several problems with the relationship between the ANC and DDOT, citing several examples of poor communication: Specifically, he noted that there has been no evident action on the advice of the ANC to take action on illegal loading and unloading operations of the so-called China buses; and the failure of DDOT to enforce the ban on parking on public space. **Reed** will contact Chris to go over laundry list. DDOT now has Jeff Marootian, Customer Service Department to help with community relations. Mr. Marootian can be reached at [Jeffery.marootian@dc.gov](mailto:Jeffery.marootian@dc.gov).

- 10 Minute Recess -

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion by **Vargas**, seconded by **Schneider** 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 ANC 2F website:

Add: Under DDOT – 14<sup>th</sup> Street Study

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

### **Legislative Review -Monica Schneider**

**Schneider** reported on the Anacostia River Protection Act 2009- The DC Council voted unanimously to assess a five cent charge of paper and plastic bags to try to discourage their use, putting the District at the forefront of efforts nationwide to promote reusable shopping bags. The tax would apply to grocery stores, pharmacies and other food-service providers. Under the plastic bag legislation, called the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act, businesses would keep a penny for each bag sold and four cents will go into a fund to be used for Anacostia River clean-up.

### **Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meeting of May 6, 2009**

Minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2009, were presented for approval.

Upon motion by **Raymond** seconded by **Cole**, and after further discussion, the minutes were approved with direction to the Executive Director to post the same on the ANC 2F website.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

### **DDOT**

*Wesley Theological Seminary Pole Banners*

A presentation was made on behalf of the Seminary as to public space banners. The Commission pointed out that the banner designs, as presented, violated the District's sign

regulations, and made suggested esthetic changes. The matter was deferred until the Seminary has had an opportunity to review the designs further and actually submits an application to DDOT for permits.

#### *14<sup>th</sup> Street Study*

The Commission reviewed the status of the DDOT 14<sup>th</sup> Transportation and Streetscape Study. (See: <http://www.14thstreetstudy.com/>)

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F affirms its support for significant improvements to the streetscape of the 14th Street, NW corridor as proposed in a study conducted by DDOT, which improvements (particularly those set forth in the enhanced option set forth in the DDOT study) will, in the view of the ANC, add significantly to the safety, convenience, and esthetic appeal of the principal commercial corridor within ANC2F's boundaries; and implementation of the proposed enhanced option should be implemented as soon as possible; and, it is,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this Commission make its views known to DDOT, offer any assistance DDOT may wish, and suggest to DDOT that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 be explored as a possible source of funding for the implementation of the suggested streetscape improvements.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

#### **ABRA**

##### *Café La Salsa Restaurant 1712 14<sup>th</sup> Street #ABRA –fan noise*

**Reed** reported that the licensee had stated that it would be making extensive changes regarding the noise, and would appear at the meeting to explain the details. No representative, however, was present at the meeting. **Reed** stated that he felt there was no alternative but to proceed to undertake formal action.

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F declare a breach by Café La Salsa Restaurant under its Voluntary Agreement, and proceed to enforce the agreement under the auspices of ABRA.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

##### *International Life-Styles aka The Space # ABRA-076926-CX Club*

**Reed** reported that the DC Attorney General's Office (OAG), representing ABRA, accepted an offer of compromise to the pending show cause action against this licensee, which

action had been requested by this Commission. Under the settlement, the license was to be sold to a non-profit organization, the operations would be defined more clearly so as to require actual, recorded memberships, the operations would not in any way involve the prior owners, and the license would be placed in safekeeping with ABRA pending commencement of new operations.

A representative of the new owner (American Sacrifice Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non profit formed to honor and benefit U.S. armed forces veterans was present at the ANC meeting and indicated a willingness to enter into a Voluntary Agreement with the ANC, which agreement would involve new operating rules designed to assure that nearby residents would not be disturbed by the activities of the licensee.

### **Community Development Committee**

#### *Arts Overlay Committee-*

The first meeting of the ANC2F ARTS Overlay Review Committee will be held June 9 at 6:30 pm at 1440 Q Street, NW. The DC Office of Planning staff will give a presentation about the ARTS Overlay and the 25% restaurant limit. This is an open meeting and ANC2F Commissioners, CDC members and the public are welcome. The next meeting will be held Tuesday June 16 at 6:30pm, same place. Views and suggestions are invited. Contact Joan Ferraris, [jdferraris@yahoo.com](mailto:jdferraris@yahoo.com), (202) 797-8371 to have your name added to the meeting. Meetings will be held every Tuesday throughout June and July.

#### *New York University Square 247 at 1307-1311 L Street NW*

NYU has filed an application with the BZA for relief to construct a nine-story educational building containing an undergraduate dormitory (124 student and 3 faculty beds) and academic center for its "NYU Center in DC." BZA Application No. 17936

he proposed building will be located at 1307-1311 L Street NW. The site is zoned DD/C-2-C. Applicant is seeking for variance relief from the lot occupancy, parking and loading requirements of the Regulations as follows:

- Lot occupancy: in DD/C-2-C, an institutional use can occupy 100% of the lot, while a residential use (such as a dorm) is limited to 80% of the lot. NYU is proposing uniform 87.5% lot occupancy, due in large part to the narrowness of the lot (it is only 58 feet wide).
- Parking- required providing 51 spaces. Two parking spaces available at the rear of the building, but do not propose to construct the other 49 spaces. Students and staff will walk, bike, and use public transportation, and will not need to drive to or from the site. Also, students will be prohibited from having cars.
- Loading: requirement to have a 30 foot berth as well as a 20 foot delivery space. NYU is proposing to have the 20 foot delivery space. (The dorm rooms will be furnished, so students won't be moving furniture or other large objects into the rooms.)

Public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

The CDC expressed no concerns over the lot occupancy requirement or the loading berth requirement, but substantial concerns were raised over the near 100% variance from the established parking minimums. After discussion about the unique physical characteristics of the site, the nature of the lot, and the expected programmatic use of the building, the CDC ultimately voted unanimously to advise the ANC to support the variance request. CDC Vote: 6-0

Upon motion by Vargas, seconded by **Raymond** and after further discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F advise BZA to grant the pending request Application No. 17936 for variances to the requirements for lot occupancy, parking and loading berth requirements.

**Vote: 5:0 Unanimous**

*Public Space Hearing- City Center DC*

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F advise DDOT to grant a public space permit upon the terms submitted to and approved by the CDC.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

**Treasurer’s Report (Dustin Cole, Treasurer)**

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

Cynthia Cota .....	\$938.45
Verizon .....	62.86
DC Treasurer.....	54.00

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:45 PM.