

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F**  
**Minutes of Regular Monthly Public Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – 7:00 PM  
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL  
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

**Present:** Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Emily Barton (2F02), Samuel V. Goekjian (2F03), Matt Raymond (2F04), Mike Benardo (2F06) (Vice Chairman). [SMD 2F05 is vacant]

**Absent:**

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

## **COMMUNITY FORUM**

### **Commissioner Announcements**

**Goekjian** announced that **Sheri Kimbel**, Ward 2 Constituent Member Services met with DDOT to discuss the parking issue and they have a number of possible solutions for the illegal parking in the no-parking zone in front of Thomas House, located at Thomas Circle, 1300 Massachusetts Avenue. A meeting between DDOT and Thomas House will be arranged.

**Benardo** announced Verizon Building 14<sup>th</sup> and R Streets, NW has been sold to PN Hoffman for development. No further information is available at this time.

### **PSA 307 Report – Sergeant Suber**

Sergeant **Suber** reviewed crime statistics for the prior month in Police Service Area (PSA) 307, covering a large portion of the ANC 2F area. PSA 307 had a drop in total crimes in the same month from the previous year, with overall violent crime down. Burglaries and robberies, in particular, are down from March 2011 to April 2011. However, property crimes still continue to be a problem for PSA 307. Sergeant Suber reminded residents not to talk on the cell phone while walking at night and make eye contact with the people around you. The residents in the community are the eyes of public safety. Persons calling to report a crime should leave a call back number for police follow-up. Logan Circle resident, Joan Ensor, inquired as to where the prostitutes come from that are working the Logan Circle area. Sergeant Suber responded mostly from southern states.

### **Report from Office of the Mayor**

Raeisha (Ra)Williams, Outreach & Service Specialist Ward-2 announced that Mayor Vincent Grey will hold a Town Hall Meeting in the next few weeks. The details will be released to the community when they are finalized.

Ra can be reached at 202-297-6566 or [raeisha.williams@dc.gov](mailto:raeisha.williams@dc.gov)

## Community Announcements

Logan Circle resident, **Richard Niedich** announced that if there is a federal government shut down, the District of Columbia will have no trash pick-up, no street sweeping, and parking tickets will not be issued unless cars are parked illegally.

**Jack Mathason** of LeadingAge announced their leadership conference *Build a Powerful Community of Strategic Partners* will be held April 11-13, 2011 at the Marriott Wardman. LeadingAge is an association of 5,400 not-for-profit organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging. LeadingAge advances policies, promotes practices and conducts research that supports, enables and empowers people to live fully as they age.

**Jake Wilkins** of Stop the Silence reported slight changes in race that do not need new ANC2F approval.

- 10 Minute Recess -

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by **Barton** seconded by **Goekjian** and after further discussion, the draft agenda was approved with additions and with a direction that a copy of the amended agenda be filed with the minutes and posted on the ANC 2F website:

Add Under DCHSEMA: Army Ten Miler Race

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

### Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meeting of March 2, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2011, were presented for approval. Upon motion by **Reed** seconded by **Raymond** 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**

### DCHSEMA/Street Closures

**Richard Gaskins** presented a request for street closing for the Lupus Walk, to be held Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. **Gaskins** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that he had made substantial progress in dealing with

others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Gaskins** can be reached at **888-349-1167** [www.lupusdmv.org](http://www.lupusdmv.org).

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

**RESOLVED**, That after review of the street closing application of the Lupus Walk, to be held Saturday, April 16, 2011 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (“DCHSEMA”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application.

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

**Rob Corbett** presented a request for street closing for the Captial Pride Parade, to be held Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. **Corbett** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that he had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Corbett** can be reached at [corbett@capitalpride.org](mailto:corbett@capitalpride.org)

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

**RESOLVED**, That after review of the street closing application of the Captial Pride, to be held Saturday, June 11, 2011 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (“DCHSEMA”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application.

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

**George Banker** presented a request for street closing for the Army Ten Miler, to be held Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 7:00 AM to 12:30 PM. **Banker** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that he had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Banker** can be reached at **202-685-3408** or [George.banker@jfnqncr.northcom.mil](mailto:George.banker@jfnqncr.northcom.mil)

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

**RESOLVED**, That after review of the street closing application of the Army Ten Miler, to be held Sunday, October 9, 2011 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (“DCHSEMA”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application.

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

## **ABRA**

### *Mood Lounge 1318 9<sup>th</sup> Street- Breach of Voluntary Agreement*

The establishment is operating primarily on Friday/Saturday nights, however, there have been several noise complaints especially from the residential building (condo) right next door. The noise is spilling out in to the street, as well as, the people leaving the bar are honking horns/yelling/playing music in cars, and illegally parking. The nearby residents accuse Mood Lounge of afterhours operations

A number of attendees at the meeting spoke about conditions surrounding the club:

**Jessica Wilki-** condo manager representing the condo next door tried to work out a solution with the Mood Lounge owners and the condo residents to allow the condo residents to text Mood Lounge when the noise gets too loud. Several residents left text messages that went unanswered.

**Orestes Del Castillo-** 908 O Street is questioning if the zoning is mixed commercial/residential because he can hear noise from his backyard and he does not live near the club. Del Castillo said the police have helped the situation when called.

**Sergeant Suber-** explained that Mood Lounge came had entered into an agreement to pay to overtime pay rates to MPD for duty police officers to be present between the hours of 11:00 PM-3:00 PM to control violations of noise and potential safety problems. Every Friday/Saturday two officers are also assigned to help with the illegal valet parking situation; they are also actively patrolling the alleys. Sergeant Suber reminded residents to call every time a problem arises because the complaints go into a data base that ABRA reviews.

**Greg Melcher-** questioned why the club occupies two floors when the voluntary agreement provides total square footage that does not include a second floor. .

**Mood Lounge attorney Rosemarie Salguero** of Doyle, Barlow & Mazard, PLLC, spoke to the residents' complaints. Ms. Salguero can be reached at [rsalguero@dbmlawgroup.com](mailto:rsalguero@dbmlawgroup.com) 202-589-1834. She expressed the intention of the owners of the club to work cooperatively with the community, and to remedy the noise and other problems. She also denied that there was currently any valet operations going on, but stated that an application for valet parking had been submitted.

The Commission the indicated that it would respond to the request for valet parking permit. Certain community members opposed a valet parking permit on grounds that a illegal valet parking operation had been conducted with the knowledge of the owners of the club. This problem was reviewed, with certain members of the Commission noting that if operations were legally conducted, that noise and other outside activities at the club could be ameliorated.

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC2F advise DDOT to grant the pending valet parking application permit for Mood Lounge, provided (1) that the hours of value parking operations commence when establishment opens and cease thirty minutes before closing of the establishment closing, and (2) that the valet parking operator be expressly required to use only off-street, legally zoned parking lots, and, further provided, that the license be conditioned that it be rescinded if at the end of six months ANC2F so recommends, if it determines that traffic, noise and other peace order and quiet enjoyment breaches have not been materially eliminated.

**Vote: (4-1)**

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F advise the owner they are in breach of the Voluntary Agreement and give thirty day notice of such breach in accordance with the existing voluntary agreement covering the Mood Lounge operations; and it is,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Commissioner Benardo be and is hereby authorized and directed to work with nearby residents and Mood Lounge owners to seek resolve complaints as to current operations and breaches of the voluntary agreement.

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

The Chairman directed that Mood Lounge be placed on the May agenda of the Commission to review progress.

*Rogue 24 922-924 N Street Rear, NW –New License*

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F protest the pending liquor license application of Rogue 24 922-924 N Street Rear, NW on grounds that the licensee's proposed new operations will disturb the peace, order and quiet enjoyment of nearby residents of the community and lower real estate values, and it was,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Commissioners: Benardo, Reed, and Goekjian, or either of them (with power of substitution) be and are hereby authorized and directed to act on behalf of the Commission in such protest, and to seek to enter into a voluntary agreement in accordance with D.C. Code §25-446, and upon acceptance by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board of a mutually agreeable voluntary agreement approved or ratified by this Commission to withdraw the protest, subject to the continued compliance by the licensee with the laws of the District of Columbia and the voluntary agreement.

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

*Eagle Café 1414 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW*

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

**RESOLVED**, ANC2F advise the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (“Board”) that this Commission rejects the changes required by the Board as a condition of the Board’s approval of the voluntary agreement previously agreed between this Commission and licensee; provided, however, that Commissioners Reed and Benardo be and are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate and compromise with the Board on behalf of the Commission as they deem appropriate; and upon acceptance of the renegotiated agreement by the Board to withdraw the protest, subject to the continued compliance by the licensee with the laws of the District of Columbia and the revised voluntary agreement.

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

**Education Committee (Evelyn Boyd Simmons, Chair)**

Education Committee chair Simmons reported the following items:

**Support for ANC 2F Schools**

- Garrison Elementary held a two part community outreach meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to meet the Early Childhood Team and participate in school improvement projects
- Target/Heart of America will conduct a total library makeover over the summer, including thousands of new books, new furniture and equipment. Each child will also receive books for his or her personal home library.
- Hands On DC Work-A-Thon Saturday April 30 event at Garrison to improve the school grounds. Please go to <http://handsondc.kintera.org> to sign up. Be sure to choose the “Garrison Wildcats” team to get assigned to Garrison.

**Collaboration with ANC1B**

- The Chair briefed U Street Neighborhood Association Vice President and the chair of newly created U Street Neighborhood Association Education Committee. The committee will serve as the coordination point for ANC1B parents and community efforts with focus on Garrison and collaborate closely with ANC2F and LCCA. ANC 1B includes the upper half of Garrison’s school boundaries, starting on the north sided of S Street.

**Community Building**

- Ross-Garrison Neighborhood Soccer and T-Ball Teams for ages 4-6 are in full swing. Thanks to collaboration, there are twice as many players this year as there were on the

Ross team last year, including neighborhood kids who attend Oyster and HD Cooke. A practice was held at Stead field and the first game was played at Carter Baron against Janney Elementary.

- Ed Committee member Kate McMahon joined Commissioner Mike Benardo at the Blagden Alley/Naylor Court March Association meeting to brief them on the committee efforts which generated strong interest and enthusiasm. This association territory overlaps with Seaton Elementary Boundaries.
- Garrison will host LCCA's last Heritage Trail meeting April 26. LCCA Vice President and Garrison Principal are exploring creating a youth component to the project.
- A Garrison preschool class field trip to Logan Hardware store is planned for late April 27. The class will shop for supplies for their spring planting project.

#### **DC Government**

- The Education Committee Chair participated in a meet-and-greet with Hosanna Mahaley, the Mayor's nominee for State Superintendent of Education, and De'Shawn Wright, nominee for the position of Deputy Mayor for Education. The meeting included 20-25 community leaders.
- Peggy O'Brien, Chief of Community Engagement, is retiring. Outreach to her replacement Kelly Young is planned.

#### **Crime and Public Safety Committee (Bryan Goodman, Chair)**

The Crime and Public Safety Committee will hold the next meeting on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 PM at 1441 Q Street, NW, in the basement apt. They usually have MPD representatives at the meetings.

#### **Community Development Committee Report (Mike Benardo, Chair)**

*1211 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NW – Application for Variances related to lot occupancy and side yard restriction, Owner Charles Sisson*

Applicant seeks a variance from the lot occupancy requirements under section 403, and a variance from the court requirements under section 406, to permit a rear addition to and conversion of a one-family dwelling into a four (4) unit apartment house in the R-4 District at premises 1211 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. The CDC voted unanimously (6-0) to deny variances

Upon motion by **Barton**, seconded by **Goekjian**, and after further discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, That ANC has determined that the applicant for the above variances has failed to meet the statutory requirements for the same and, accordingly, that ANC 2F recommend that the Board of Zoning Adjustments deny the requested variances.

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

**Treasurer's Report (Sam Goekjian)**

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

**RESOLVED**, That the following expenses be and are hereby adopted:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Cynthia Cota .....                     | \$962.45 |
| Verizon.....                           | \$61.97  |
| Department of Employment Services..... | \$64.80  |

**Vote: (4-0) Unanimous**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:38 PM.