

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F
Minutes of Regular Monthly Public Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 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

Reed announced the Ward 2 Town Hall Meeting. The Town Hall Meeting will be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 1315 8th Street, NW on Monday, May 9th 7:00 PM. Reed stated that meeting is the opportunity to comment on the Budget and also pointed out the following issues:

1. The downsizing of the budget devoted for prostitution. Prostitution is a major problem in our area, and, with the annual summer increase in prostitution, the decrease in that budget means less manpower to combat the crime. Through strong community efforts, the prostitution units (including the central unit) was achieving success. The budget reduction will result in a resurgence of the crime.
2. The education budget includes funds to reinstall most of the middle management personnel who in fact do very little in the school system. Education in our community is a number one priority; the money should go for front line, good teachers and refurbishing of the decaying structures of the schools in our area.
3. The income tax increase is an outrage. Residents of D.C. are already one of the highest taxed communities in the nation; increasing taxes in D.C. adds injury to the insult already visited on us by a Congress who will not permit us to vote.

Barton announced her resignation effective immediately because she is moving out of state due to a job change. She stated what a pleasure it was to serve as an ANC commissioner and the residents of Logan Circle.

Report from Office of the Mayor-Raeisha Williams, Outreach & Service Specialist, Ward2

Raeisha (Ra) handed out flyers about the Ward 2 Town Hall Meeting and encouraged Logan Circle residents to attend. Ra can be reached at 202-297-6566 or raeisha.williams@dc.gov

Report from Office of Jack Evan, City Council Member, Ward 2

Vince Orange, City Council Member at large, will hold a redistricting meeting on Monday, May 16th at the Wilson Building in Room 120.

The Census is tasked every 10 years with counting every resident in the United States. These numbers help communities advocate for improvements in public services, schools, hospitals, and much more, based on their population demographics. When the new data are released, government officials look at population changes since the last census took place and realign voting districts to ensure equal representation in government bodies. This process is called “Redistricting” and it is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. While the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for collecting and providing the data used for redistricting, it does not manage the actual redistricting. Each state, or, in our case, the District, has that responsibility.

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 slight increase in robberies as reported and most victims of the robberies are intoxicated. Because several Hispanic clubs are located on M Street between 12th and 13th Streets, NW this has contributed to the high number of robberies in PSA 307 as well. A rise in burglaries has taken place due to the warmer weather. There has also been a slight increase in theft from autos particularly between the hours of 11PM -1:00 AM on Thursdays-Saturdays. Please do not leave your personal items in the car in plain view. ANC2F will coordinate allocation of this person who was arrested.

Sergeant **Suber** stated that prostitution enforcement will not decrease with the budget cuts and he can be reached at Andre.suber@dc.gov

Chair **Reed** inquired about the armed robbery of workers during breaks(?) in the alley of the 1300 block of 14th Street. **Suber** had no information and said he would look into the incident.

Community Announcements

Tim Christensen announced the Heritage Trail Project 5th Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18th. Please come out and tell your story. Cultural Tourism DC's Neighborhood Heritage Trails are the official walking trails of Washington, DC. Take a stroll through DC history when you follow one of the self-guided walking trails. Each trail sign combines stories, historic photos, and maps. Explore, shop, exercise, and enjoy a bite to eat -- all at your own pace.

Memorial Day Chili Cook-Off fundraiser will take place to benefit Garrison Elementary School. This is a fantastic event and Clean Currents can make a difference to the community and to Garrison Elementary School. This year's DC public school beneficiary of the 3rd Annual Memorial Day Chili Cook-Off is hosted by Café Saint-Ex. For more information please contact jasmine@novelfoodsdc.com.

- 10 Minute Recess -

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by **Benardo** seconded by **Reed** 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 New Business: LCCA Heritage Tour
Add Under CDC: Clover Logan LLC- Tortilla Coast- BZA
Add Under ABRA: Veranda Voluntary Agreement Amendment
Add Under Treasurer's Report: Savings Account

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meeting of April 6, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2011, were presented for approval. Upon motion by **Raymond** seconded by **Goekjian** 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

Leslie Burks presented a request for street closing for the USDA Farmers Market, to be held on Fridays from June 3, 2011 until November 19, 2011 -7:00 AM to 4:00 AM (should this be 4:00 PM?). **Burks** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that she had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Burks** can be reached at 202-205-4250 or leslie.burks@dm.usda.gov.

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

RESOLVED, That after review of the street closing application of the USDA Farmer's Market to be held on Fridays from June 3, 2011 to November 19, 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 9th 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 into the street; in addition, the people leaving the bar are honking horns/yelling/playing music in cars, and illegally parking. The nearby residents accuse Mood Lounge of after-hour operations

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F advise ABRA, and the owner of the establishment, they are in breach of the Voluntary Agreement and demand a Show Cause Hearing.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Maddy's Tap Room, 1100 13th Street NW –New License

ANC2F takes no action at this time because this business is located in the business district.

Verdana Voluntary Agreement Amendment

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F accept the Voluntary Agreement as presented to this ANC, have owner amend the VA, make ANC a party and change the extended hours.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Commissioners Reed, Benardo and Goekjian are hereby authorized and directed to work with nearby residents and Verdana(?) owners to seek resolution of complaints as to current operations and breaches of the Voluntary Agreement.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Education Committee (Evelyn Boyd Simmons, Chair)

Evelyn Boyd Simmons was unable to make the meeting so the report was given by Emily Barton.

April saw very enjoyable Easter Egg Hunts at the 10th St Park sponsored by the Friends of the park and at Stead Park sponsored by Lindsay Reishman Real Estate.

The Hands On DC Garrison Work-a-Thon ran from 9am-3pm on Sat and drew 60 or so volunteers from the area, including a Garrison Wildcats team of 10 or so Garrison parents, teachers and students, LCCA, ANC2F, and others. Volunteers weeded, mulched, built planter boxes and painted fences.

Looking forward to May...

The St. Ex Memorial Day Chili Cook Off. A large group of volunteers is needed to support this event. Please ask anyone interested in volunteering to contact me.

The DCPS/chairman Evans "State of Ward 2 Schools" meeting will take place Tuesday, June 7 at Garrison Elementary at 13th and S St, NW. I have joined the planning group. Please come out and support your ANC2F schools.

An ANC2F mom has established a "You Don't Have to Move" website that describes the school search process in very parent-friendly terms and provides info and tips on things to do with your pre-schooler in the downtown area. Check it out at DowntownDCKids.org.

Crime and Public Safety Committee (Bryan Goodman, Chair)

Next meeting is Wednesday, 11th 7:00 PM at 1441 Q Street, NW. To join the Crime and Safety Committee, or if you have any question for the committee, please contact Bryan Goodman at Bgoodman32@hotmail.com.

The Crime and Public Safety Committee will look into allocution with respect to repeat offenders, especially those involved in theft from auto. Allocution is statement made by the community at the time of sentencing and allows the community to express concern at sentencing.

Community Development Committee Report (Mike Benardo, Chair)

1401 R Street, NW -- BZA and Historic Review -- PN Hoffman

Bao Vuong and Eric Colbert & Associates Square 207 Lot 110-1700 14th Street presented the project. This project is the conversion of former C&P Telephone/Verizon Building (south building) to residential use with ground floor retail.

BZA Variances:

- 1. Variance to allow 100% lot occupancy for residential building*
- 2. Variance to increase FAR to allow introduction of sleeping lofts*
- 3. Special exception to increase penthouse height in Arts Overlay*
- 4. Special exception for unequal penthouse heights*

***Kramer** moved, **Loucks** seconded, that the CDC recommend to the full ANC to advise BZA to support the application for the following: 1. variance to allow 100% lot occupancy for residential building; 2. variance to increase FAR to allow introduction of sleeping lofts; 3. special exception to increase penthouse height in Arts Overlay; 4. Special exception for unequal penthouse heights*

Vote 6-0

***Heisey** moved, **Kramer** seconded that the CDC recommend to the full ANC to advise HPRB to support the design approval including the penthouse.*

Vote 6-0

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

RESOLVED, ANC2F advise BZA to grant the application for the following: 1. variance to allow 100% lot occupancy for residential building; 2. variance to increase FAR to allow introduction of sleeping lofts; 3. special exception to increase penthouse height in Arts Overlay; 4. Special exception for unequal penthouse heights.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That ANC advise BZA, HPRA to grant pending application for design concept and massing.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Commissioner Reed wants the record to show that he has concern with the variance of FAR to allow introduction of sleeping lofts concerning this project.

Tortilla Coast 1454-1460 P Street, NW

Jim Sullivan- Owner of Tortilla Coast presented this project that intends to locate a Tex-Mex restaurant in the building and construct an outdoor seating area on private property that is currently being used as four parking spaces.

***Kramer** moved, **Cipro** seconded, that the CDC recommend to the full ANC2F advise BZA to support the application for the parking variance from the off-street parking requirement.
Vote 6-0*

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F support the application to BZA for the parking variance from the off-street parking requirement.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Bethany Baptist Church Illegal Parking 1300 10th Street, NW

The Charter School has a lease for 8-10 parking spots within the Bethany Baptist Church parking lot.

***Benardo** moved, **Heisey** seconded, that the CDC recommend to the full ANC that DCRA and Office of Tax and Revenue be notified for enforcement of violations.*

Vote 6-0

Benny Walton represented the church at the ANC meeting.

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

RESOLVED, That ANC2F notifies DCRA and Office of Tax and Revenue that it recommends enforcement of violations.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Arts Overlay Committee (Andrea Doughty)

Mary Brown reported that the DC Arts District project has completed its Neighborhood Investment Fund grant. During the past nine months, the project team organized a public dialogue culminating in the definition of, and naming of, the “DC Arts District” – consisting of the neighborhoods of Logan Circle, U Street and Shaw. District-wide, there are now DC Arts District-branded street banners that help to unify the District, and identify it as a unique place within the city of Washington. The Arts District will be supported by a website where arts organizations can post information about their activities, and by advertising in Destination DC’s tourist guide and map. In addition, the project team has organized a new non-profit known as the Arts Confederation to support the Arts District going forward.

New Business

Pepco Substation Project -1100 O Street, NW

Pepco is in the process of scheduling construction at its "O" Street Substation, located at 1100 O Street NW. The vast majority of this work will take place on the grounds of the substation; however, there will be ancillary community impacts.

This project is comprised of three phases, all of which are necessary to ensure the continued reliability of the electric transmission system:

Phase One, which will begin in July 2011

Phase Two, currently scheduled from September to December, 2011

Phase Three, currently scheduled from September to December, 2012

Donna Cooper is the Pepco contact person on this project and can be reached at 202-872-2477
dcooper@pepco.com

LCCA Heritage Trail

LCCA and Cultural Tourism DC will hold the final community meeting on Thursday, May 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel at Church of the Holy City, Emanuel Swedenborg Center for Worship and Study, 1611 16th Street N.W. (at Corcoran Street; enter through the parish house, up the driveway). The proposed trail route and stopping points will be announced and discussed at this meeting. This is the last Working Group session before the trail application is submitted to the city's Heritage Trails Advisory Committee. All are welcome!

Washington, DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails are developed by neighborhood working groups and the nonprofit Cultural Tourism DC, in conjunction with the District Department of Transportation. Funding for planning the Logan Circle Heritage Trail is provided by the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development under the Neighborhood Investment Fund.

For more information on the Logan Circle Heritage Trail effort, contact Tim Christensen, 202-641-6934 or tim.christensen@logancircle.org. To learn about the Washington, DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails Program, contact Jane Freundel Levey at Cultural Tourism DC, 202-661-7581.

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

RESOLVED, That ANC 2F provide a support letter for the Logan Circle Community Association Heritage Trail to the District of Columbia Neighborhood Heritage Trails Advisory Committee.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report (Sam Goekjian)

Upon motion by **Goekjian** and seconded by **Reed** and after further discussion

RESOLVED, That ANC2F hereby approve the 2nd Quarter 2011 Report

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

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

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

Cynthia Cota	\$962.45
Verizon.....	\$61.07
IRS.....	\$1,053.45
RCN.....	\$574.80

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Savings Account

Goekjian reported that he had investigated with ANC2F’s bankers, SunTrust Bank, at its 1275 K Street NW Branch, the status of its Savings Account, and certain Bank charges imposed thereon by the Bank. It appears that the Account was opened as one that was clearly inappropriate for the nature and needs of ANC2F, and as a consequence the Account was being charged monthly fees for nearly three years even though no withdrawals were ever made from the initial deposit of \$10,000.00 that established the Savings Account. Goekjian recommended that he be authorized by ANC2F to negotiate with SunTrust Bank for:

- (i) the conversion of the present Savings Account to a more appropriate one consistent with the original intent and needs of the ANC2F,
- (ii) such conversion to be retroactive to the original date of the creation of the Savings Account, and
- (iii) the monthly fees charged to the original Account during the nearly 3 years since its creation be refunded or credited and placed, together with the original deposit of \$10,000, in the converted Savings Account.

In the event he is unsuccessful in achieving these objectives, Goekjian recommends that he be authorized to close out the present Savings Account and have its funds placed, at his discretion, in the ANC2F’s existing operating account in SunTrust Bank or in one or more similar accounts in another qualified bank in DC.

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

RESOLVED, That ANC 2F authorize Goekjian to negotiate with SunTrust Bank the terms set out in items (i) through (iii) above.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That ANC 2F authorize Goekjian in his discretion to close out the Accounts in SunTrust Bank and replace them with similar account in another DC qualified Bank, provided that Goekjian obtains the prior approval of such Bank by ANC2F prior to opening such accounts.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Adjournment

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