

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F
Minutes of Regular Monthly Public Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2012 – 7:00 PM
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

Present: Charles Reed (2F01), Nick Barron (2F02-Secretary), Samuel V. Goekjian (2F03-Treasurer), Matt Raymond (2F04-Vice-Chairman), Mike Benardo (2F06-Chariman) Matt Connolly (2F05), Charles Reed (2F01-arrived after Agenda and February Minutes vote)

Chairman Benardo 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

Matt Raymond reminded the community that parking enforcement for street sweeping begins on March 12th.

Chair Benardo announced that we would be recording the ANC meeting for the first time.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Sherri Kimbel brought a message on behalf of **Mr. Bulger**; his mother's birthday takes precedence over attending this evening's meeting. If you have any questions, James Bulger, from the Office of the Mayor, can be reached at jamesbulger@dc.gov or via cell at 202-340-7229

PSA 307 Report – Lieutenant Carroll

Lieutenant Carroll is the new head of PSA 307. **Lieutenant Carroll** reviewed crime statistics for the prior month in Police Service Area (PSA) 307, covering a large portion of the ANC 2F area. **Lt. Carroll** reported that there were 12 robberies, 3 assaults with dangerous weapons, 21 thefts, 35 thefts from autos, and 3 stolen autos. Robberies have picked up in the 14th Street and S & R street corridors. Feel free to contact them if you have any issues.

Lieutenant Carroll can be reached via cell phone at 202-437-8198 or via email at jeffreyw.carroll@dc.gov. If it is an emergency, please call 911 for immediate response.

Lt. Carroll reported that most of the robberies that have occurred involve people walking with their personal electronics (cell phones, iPads, iPhones, etc.), not paying attention in the late evening to midnight. Robbery prevention is critical. **Lt. Carroll** recommends paying attention to your surroundings and avoiding dark alleys. In order to assist with arrests, pay close attention to shoes and coats. There are robbery alerts flyers. 1) Do not walk in unlit areas. Stay in more well traveled areas. 2) Add tracking applications to help locate your phone. 3) If you go to the gym, be sure to lock your locker.

There has also been an increase in bike theft. MPD encourages individuals to register their bikes on the national registry. Serial number records make them easier to identify. Most theft from autos occurs in vehicles with out-of-state plates. These are completely preventable crimes. Do not leave valuables visible.

There have been 21 arrests in the PSA from assault with dangerous weapons to outstanding traffic violations. To see updated information on things happening in the individual PSAs individuals may go to www.mpddc.gov and sign on to link to yahoo groups and they can receive e-mails everyday about incidents.

Commissioner Ramon Estrada from ANC2B shared that 14th and U Street corridors have seen the highest crime rate in a long time over the last few months.

Carroll acknowledged the increased popularity of those corridors has attracted the crime constituent. The target areas in the PSA are based on policing strategies where they focus on areas of high volume crime. Designated patrols cover the entire PSA and additional officers target special areas. Traffic stops can often lead to multiple citations. Third District on the whole has had an increase in crime. They are addressing the issue with uniformed officers as well as employing other strategies.

Sheri Kimbel inquired whether Thomas House was in the PSA noting there is a large NO PARKING area in front of Thomas House which is not enforced or obeyed. She was there on Saturday and a lot of people still park there. She asked that **Lt. Carroll** help with the enforcement. **Lt. Carroll** agreed to look into the situation.

Christopher Linn announced that he was attending this evening as the new Chair of Crime and Public Safety Committee and indicated his interest in being involved and making a difference stating issues of public safety are important and that he appreciates input from the community and is honored to introduce himself and serve this ANC. **Mr. Linn** is also looking forward to organizing and getting more volunteers to set priorities. For those who are interested in being involved, he will be available during the break.

Benardo challenged the other commissioners to find someone in their SMD who is interested in being involved on the Crime and Public Safety Committee.

Sheri Kimbel, Office of Jack Evans, City Councilmember, Ward 2

Sheri Kimbel, Director of Constituent Services, shared that there has been an issue with voting for 129 at MLK Library and for 18 at Kennedy Center. They are trying to address this prior to the April 3rd primary. Hopefully by November, they will have more convenient voting locations. Ms. Kimbel then asked for questions from the community.

Commissioner Ramon Estrada from 2B noted that Reed Center traditionally has issues with voting as well. He has communicated this to the important parties, but wanted to bring it to their attention that people do not need to go through security to vote.

Office of the People's Counsel (Cheryl Morse-OPC)

Cheryl Morse works for the Office of the People's Counsel a consumer advocate agency within the DC City Government. **Ms. Morse** reports that one of the top issues they are working in their office is the PEPCO \$42.1 million rate increase. If approved, the increase will be about \$6 a month for an individual in the District. OPC objected to the rate increase and put in a request for the Public Service Commission to deny the rate increase. As of February 21, the Public Service Commission has give PEPCO adequate amount of time to state their case. The Office of the People's Counsel has now put in a petition to request a new evidentiary hearing. They believe the rate increase is not warranted. According to **Ms. Morse**, PEPCO is the lowest rated company in the country and has already had 2 rate increases in the last four years. If you would like to go on record as opposing the increase, you may fill out a card and mail in. The cards are available at the back of the room.

Another issue they are working on is Smart Meters. According to **Ms. Morse**, PEPCO has deployed Smart Meters in 92% of the homes in DC. Smart Meters give a digital read-out which indicating exactly how much electricity being used at every moment of every day. Smart Meters also enable PEPCO to see exactly who is out of power as the units constantly report data to the power company. Since PEPCO owns the meters, it is their right to remove and replace them. OPC has put in a petition to request an "Opt-Out" option, however, The Public Service Commission (PSC) has denied that request. OPC will be putting in another petition to deny. Requesting that the PSC go over the studies which were conducted by California and Maine-based that raise health issue concerns over the use of Smart Meters.

Finally, OPC has also filed a case (#1090) with Verizon on their reliability based on a multitude of consumer complaints and as of February 29, Washington Gas, has requested a \$29 million increase. For additional information on the Office of the People's Counsel you may go to their website at www.opc-dc.gov.

Community Announcements

Tim Christensen, Logan Community Association, announced that the next meeting of the association will be Wednesday, March 14th at 7pm at the Washington Plaza Hotel. Two major agenda items are biking, including bike safety, and N Street Village initiatives on enhancement.

Commissioner Estrada announced that he is on task force with Jim Graham and our Commissioner **Charles Reed** that oversees ABRA regulations. The next meeting of the task force will be on Voluntary Agreements. Issues which will be addressed are whether a citizen group of five has any standing as a protesting party and/or whether ANCs can even have Voluntary Agreements. There will be some critical votes taken and it is important that the community is heard. Jack Evans' proposal to require reimbursable details as a result of the Heritage India incident will be considered as well. The noise task force recommends that ABRA listen to every noise complaint and include in the applicants' records, including those in a C1 or C2 zone.

Lily Mendelson from the Latin American Youth Center announced that they focus on substance abuse prevention in Wards 1 and 2. They are sponsoring a Spring Break celebration on Friday, March 30th at Foundry Church. All families in this ANC are welcome.

- 10 Minute Recess –

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Remove under DCHSEMA DC Triathlon-event cancelled

Change under 1541 Q Street to 1541 14th Street

Add under ABRA Madison Hotel's Sidewalk Café request for stipulated license to serve

Add under ABRA Parc Deux Voluntary Agreement

Remove Crime and Public Safety covered earlier in Community Announcements

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

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meeting of February 1, 2012

Minutes of the meeting of February 1, 2012, were presented for approval. Upon motion by **Barron** seconded by **Raymond** and after further discussion, the minutes were approved with some minor editorials and non substantive changes with direction to the Executive Director to post the same on the ANC 2F website after the changes have been made.

Vote: (5-0) Unanimous

DCHSEMA/Street Closures

15th Annual Cassidy Turley Race for Hope -Danielle Rosenscruggs, Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure (ABC2)

Danielle Rozenzweig of Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure (ABC2) presented a request for street closing for the 15th Annual Cassidy Turley Race for Hope, to be held Sunday, May 6th from 5:00 AM to 11:00AM. **Rosenzweig** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that they have made substantial progress in dealing with

others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Rosenzweig** can be reached at 202-419-3145 and Danielle@abc2.org .

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

RESOLVED, That after review of the street closing application of the 15th Annual Cassidy Turley Race for Hope to be held Sunday, May 6, 2012 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (“DCHSEMA”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise DCHSEMA to grant such application.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Bike DC - Rick Baumann, Bike DC

Greg Billing Rick presented a request on behalf of **Rick Baumann** for street closing for Bike DC, to be held Sunday, May 13th from 7AM to 9AM. The event is a family community bike ride which includes DC and Arlington. **Billing** 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. **Baumann** can be reached at 202-558-7401 or 503-701-7609 (cell) or at Rick@BikeDC.net .

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

RESOLVED, That after review of the street closing application of the Bike DC, to be held on Sunday, May 13, 2012 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (“DCHSEMA”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise DCHSEMA to grant such application.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

37th Marine Corps Marathon - October 28, 2012 - Isabelle Thompson, Marine Corps Marathon

Isabelle Thompson and John De Lacy presented a request for street closing for the 37th Marine Corps Marathon, to be held Sunday, October 28, 2012 from 5AM to 1PM. Same course as they have had every year. The expect 30, 000 runners for marathon and about 30, 000 for the 10K. **Thompson** stated that the request complies with ANC 2F published street closing policy and that they have made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Thompson** can be reached at 703-432-1840 or Isabelle.thompson@usmc.mil .

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

RESOLVED, That after review of the street closing application of the 37th Marine Corps Marathon, to be held on Sunday, October 28, 2012 pending before

the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (“DCHSEMA”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise DCHSEMA to grant such application.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

ABRA

HGH 1610, LLC - 1610 14th Street, NW - Application for New Class “C” Retailer’s License – Presentation by Sheldon Scott – ANC 2F Vote to protest and enter a Voluntary Agreement

Benardo stated that the parties are looking to open a new establishment and are interested in entering in a Voluntary Agreement with ANC. **Sheldon Scott**, Group Restaurant Owner, reported that they are in the very early stages of the process. They do not have a lease yet, however, they are reaching out to the ANC early in an effort of collaboration. They are applying for a CT Class Tavern license. Their goal is to create and “Arts Incubator” which will showcase visual and performing arts. A CT license will relieve them from having a certain amount of seats or food requirement to allow for more flexibility in performing spaces. They have a business in ANC1B and are just about to open Chez Billy in 4C and are looking forward to entering into a VA with the community. **Mr. Scott** will return once they have negotiated the lease. The majority of their programming will be live performances, live theater, with DJs being very “secondary.”

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

RESOLVED, that the ANC protest the application on the grounds that the licensee’s proposed new operations will disturb the peace, order and quiet of the community and lower the real estate valuation of nearby properties and that we seek to enter into a VA to be submitted ASAP, with the understanding that we will withdraw the protest upon acceptance of VA.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Mood Lounge 1318 9th Street, NW-Request for Show-Cause Hearing Update

This ANC has made a request for a show-cause hearing based on violations of the Voluntary Agreement (VA) and an assault that happened at Mood Lounge in October of 2011. The VA requires Mood Lounge to keep a log of resident complaints and provide on request. They have not been able to produce the required log which is a violation of the VA.

Sherri Kimbel shared that Mood Lounge has been nominated for “New Business of the Year” in Shaw Mainstreets.

Madison Hotel Sidewalk Café-Lyle Blanchard (Look at the notes)

Lyle Blanchard, liquor license attorney on behalf of the Madison Hotel, reported that they have just filed an ABRA endorsement on March 6th. Mr. Blanchard noted he contacted ANC for support of their request and also looking for a stipulated license for the enclosed sidewalk café on M Street, and the unenclosed sidewalk café on 15th Street.

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

RESOLVED, the ANC recommend to ABRA that we support a stipulated license for the sidewalk cafés as described.

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

1541 Q, LLC – 1541 Q Street, NW - Application for New Class “CR” Retailer’s License – ANC 2F Vote to protest and enter a Voluntary Agreement

Well Built building at 14th and Q. At the last meeting, the ANC voted to protest this license. ABRA has denied the protest, and therefore the ANC has filed to reinstate this, which they will do next week. The restaurateur is experienced in the area and is more than willing to enter into a VA.

Parc Deux Restaurant 1601 14th Street, NW-Voluntary Agreement

Reed shared that the ANC submitted a VA. It was rejected by the ABC Board. They have made three specific changes. **Mr. Steven O’Brien** reported that ABRA requested four deletions from the agreement. In Sections 3 & 5, the ABC Board requested identical deletions regarding the hours of completely enclosed sidewalk café. In Section 11, the board requested that the required copy of complaint log be provided on request for inspection by the “Board,” not the “ANC.” And finally, the fourth requires that the agreement be available on demand to everyone but removing “ANC2F Commissioners.”

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

RESOLVED, that ANC Chairman advise Ms. Thea Davis via e-mail at ABRA thea.davis@dc.gov accepting requested changes sent via February 17, 2012 email from Sarah Fashbaugh at sarah.fashbaugh@dc.gov and copy Parc Deux counsel at sobrien@malliosobrien.com.

DDOT

Capital Bikeshare – Relocation of Bikeshare station at the intersection of 15th & P Streets, NW

The Capital Bikeshare moved from Southeast corner next to Tortilla Coast to Southwest corner by the TD Bank, off of P Street onto 15th which expanded the number of bikes. There was concern voiced on behalf of residents on the movement of the station and the failure of DDOT to

communicate to ANC. DDOT Representative **Josh Moskowitz** shared that the BikeShare station at 15th & P is the a second busiest in the system. Since its inception, there have been 90, 000 rides. Last month, this station ranked #1 for instances in which it was full. DDOT has expanded 23 existing stations in the District in the last three months. Before they moved the station on 15th they investigated pedestrian traffic. **Mr. Moskowitz** indicated DDOT believed it was a much better fit for pedestrian traffic and for maximizing the efficiency of the station. He noted that DDOT does control the public right of way. Thirty days prior to new station installation, they have solicited ANC input. For existing stations, DDOT has not traditionally sought input from neighborhood. They do solicit input from business owners. **Benardo** shared that they would like to have input in the future. Barron echoed appreciation for the move and responded that he would also appreciate opportunity for ANC input.

Residential Parking Program Ward 2 - Proposal by Office of Jack Evans –

Sherri Kimbel, Director of Constituent Services, spoke on a proposal for a test program in ANC 2F, where successful businesses, such as the 14th Street corridor and around the convention center have led to greater demand for parking. The proposal would create Residential Parking Program (RPP) only parking on one side of the street six days a week, the majority of hours in a day. Individual blocks would be able to opt out if a majority of the residents do not want it enforced on that block. Original goal was to limit the number of commuters that were using the area for parking. **Ms. Kimbel** shared they have heard from many individuals who are concerned about going out for the evening less they lose their parking spots. Enhanced RPP has been put in place in a couple areas in the city down by the ballpark and Ward 1 has offered it everywhere and allowed individual ANCs to decide to participate or not. They are proposing Logan as a test area for enhanced RPP. One side of every street will be enforced from 7am to Midnight resulting in parking strictly for residents. Any block which would like to opt-out can vote with a majority by collecting a list of resident signatures. Opting-out can occur at any time, even after experiencing enhanced RPP. Overall response is positive. Community members asked questions, some expressed support for a parking program, and some shared concerns over the exact execution of the program and its impact on residents and businesses.

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

RESOLVED, the ANC provide a letter of support for the RPP Proposal and recommend that it be implemented as soon as possible with the understanding that it is a pilot program and refinements can be made.

(6-0) Unanimous

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

(Amendment to Resolution)

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ANC recommend in the letter of support that

Jack Evan's office advise on an appropriate time period of advance notice prior to implementation to allow for community notification and opt-out options and to implement seven days a week.

(5-1) Motion passed

Community Development Committee (Matt Raymond, Chair)

926 N Street, NW - Suzanne Reatig Architecture - Request for support of concept and massing (HPRB) of a new building in the Blagden Alley-Naylor Court Historic District

Matt Raymond shared that the CDC heard a second presentation from applicant Suzanne Reatig Architecture looking for support from HPRB on concept and massing on a project that abuts the north entrance to Blagden Alley. **Mr. Raymond** and the CDC felt that this second proposal was an improvement, but still left a lot to be desired. HPRB will hear this regardless, and the ANC will have an opportunity to comment further on design.

Popularise.com gave an informational presentation on a website. No action taken. Concern was expressed on the committee that the common person would not be aware of the rules governing historic buildings and areas.

1250 9th Street, NW - CAS Riegler Construction - Request for support of concept and massing (HPRB) and various variances/special exceptions (BZA) of a new building in the Blagden Alley-Naylor Court Historic District

The CDC considered just the zoning issues. The applicant is requesting support for concept and HPRB massing and various variances and special exceptions from the BZA. They report that they have been reaching out to the SMD Commissioner as well as neighbors of adjacent properties. They are scheduled to go back to them in March to present. This is the fourth time this applicant has presented to the ANC. The applicants will go to BZA at the end of June and the concept review for HPRB has not been scheduled yet. The CDC supported the three variances and passed unanimously.

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

RESOLVED, that ANC that it write a letter recommending the BZA of its support the application for three variances as not 1250 N Street NW and 902 N Street NW. maximum height, maximum lot occupancy, maximum FAR and required parking.

Vote 6-0 (Unanimous)

1625-1631 14th Street NW (Gospel Union Mission Building) - Eric Colbert, AIA - Request for support of design refinements (HPRB)

Eric Colbert came to give an informational presentation on the status of the project and design refinements. **Mr. Colbert** shared that in September 2006, the project was given conceptual approval for the massing and general design of this project’s addition by HPRB and was supported by this ANC. They are currently developing plans and elevations based on the original concept as modified by HPRB and staff recommendations. The design is consistent in massing but has been simplified. They are going to HPRB on March 22nd. BZA variances that were approved are not expired.

Treasurer’s Report (Sam Goekjian)

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

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

Jennifer Dusek	\$669.62
Verizon.....	\$70.15

Vote: (6-0) Unanimous

Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion by **Raymond**, seconded by **Barron**, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:59 PM.