

ANC 2F | Community Development Committee Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

7:00 P.M.

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
5 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

Attendance

PRESENT

Joyce Cowan
Commissioner Deeley (2F08)
Dave Feinstein
Joel Heisey
Helen Kramer
Jim Loucks
Commissioner Sylvester (2F07)
Ron Rubin*

ABSENT

Louis Cipro
Leah Frelinghuysen
Commissioner Lamare (2F05)
John Long
Jim Luecht
Greg Melcher

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

Mike Goodno, DDOT
Bill Smith, Studio Smith
Kobi Hsu, Owner, 1317 Naylor Ct.
Meridith Burkus, Studio Theatre
Elizabeth Vair, Studio Theatre
Rodney Trapp, Studio Theatre

**denotes Committee members who were not present for all votes*

Committee meeting **called to order** by CDC Chair Commissioner Kevin Deeley at **7:03 p.m.**

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Deeley moved to adopt the draft agenda without modification; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Vote: 7-0 (unanimous; Rubin not present)

Approval of August 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Helen Kramer moved to adopt the August 26, 2015 meeting minutes without modification; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Vote: 7-0 (unanimous; Rubin not present)

Community Announcements

Barrel House Liquors (1341 14th St, NW – 2F03)

Discussion of historic landmark status for building façade

Commissioner Pepin Tuma (2F03) explained that Barrel House Liquors plans to move to an adjacent retail space because the business owner and landlord could not reach agreement for lease renewal. Tuma solicited Committee and community feedback on his and neighbors' desire to preserve the historic façade of the business. Committee members asked clarifying questions about the specific parts of the structure to be preserved; HPO's opinion on the matter; and the implications of retail use for the space should the structure be preserved. The Committee requested that the matter return to the CDC as an official business item if and when preservation efforts begin in earnest.

Bicycle lane on N St, NW b/t 15th St & Vermont Ave, NW

Mike Goodno, DDOT

Notice of intent for installation of contra-flow bicycle lanes

Mike Goodno, Bicycle Program Specialist for DDOT’s Policy, Planning & Sustainability Administration, detailed DDOT’s notice of intent for the installation of five foot wide contra-flow bicycle lanes along two blocks of N St, NW between 15th St, NW and Vermont Ave, NW. Goodno explained that the proposal resulted from observed bicyclist use of N St, NW, and the need for a safer route alternative to Thomas Circle, NW. Goodno emphasized that the addition of the bicycle lanes would not reduce the existing number of street parking spaces. The Committee requested that the item return to the CDC for official business consideration at the October 28, 2015 meeting.

Bicycle lane on M St, NW b/t 9th St & Blagden Alley, NW

Mike Goodno, DDOT

Notice of intent for installation of contra-flow bicycle lanes

Goodno next detailed DDOT’s notice of intent for the installation of a bicycle lane on half a block of M St, NW (between 9th St, NW and Blagden Alley, NW), which would continue and connect existing bicycle lanes on that stretch of road. Goodno emphasized that although the addition of the bicycle lane would not reduce the existing number of street parking spaces, it would reduce the two dedicated lanes of vehicular traffic to one lane that would still be wide enough to accommodate to car widths. The Committee requested that the item return to the CDC for official business consideration at the October 28, 2015 meeting.

Old Business

[none]

New Business

Bicycle lane on 12 St, NW from Penn. Ave to L St, NW

Mike Goodno, DDOT

Notice of intent for installation of bicycle lane

Lastly, Goodno detailed DDOT’s notice of intent for the installation of a bicycle lane on 12th St, NW from Pennsylvania Ave, NW north to L St, NW. The proposed installation would reduce the number of vehicular travel lanes from four to three during rush hour, as well as provide for full time parking on the east side of 12th St, NW (in addition to the proposed bicycle lane). Goodno claimed that DDOT’s modeling forecast minimal disruption to existing traffic patterns.

Several Committee members expressed concerns about the proposed installation’s impacts on vehicular traffic patterns, congestion and capacity, and bicyclist safety given 12th St’s prominence as a north-south artery for midtown traffic. One community member spoke in favor of the proposal.

Joel Heisey moved that the CDC recommend that the full ANC not support the proposal given unsubstantiated demand for a bicycle lane on 12th St, NW, and the existence of bicycle lanes on 10th and 11th Streets, NW that presently provide sufficient north-south routes for bicyclists; the motion was seconded and approved by the Committee.

Vote: 6-2 in opposition of the proposal

1504 14th St, NW (Studio Theatre – 2F02)

Meridith Burkus, Elizabeth Vair, Rodney Trapp

DDOT public space application for unenclosed sidewalk café

Meridith Burkus, Managing Director of Studio Theatre, and two other senior staff members (Vair

and Trapp), presented their request for the Committee's support for an unenclosed sidewalk café along both the P St, NW and 14th St, NW exterior of Studio Theatre. Burkus and her colleagues detailed their intention to bring Studio Theatre's community presence to the outside of the building; to more broadly engage all parts of the community; and to provide a seating and gathering area for the general public. The proposed sidewalk café would have an 80 person capacity, two-seater tables and chairs; free WiFi; and would occasionally be used by Studio Theatre for specific events.

The Committee asked Burkus and her colleagues questions about trash and maintenance; storage of the tables and chairs; and access to the space by all members of the public including homeless and vagrant individuals. The Committee expressed concern with the proposed number of tables and chairs along the 14th St side of the exterior, given space limitations on that sidewalk.

Joyce Cowan moved that the CDC recommend that the full ANC support the application for public space use for purposes of a sidewalk café. Cowan thereafter accepted Heisey's friendly amendment to her motion specifying support for only one row of two-seater tables on the 14th St side of the sidewalk café, and the requested number of tables and chairs along the P St, NW side. The amended motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Vote: 8-0 (unanimous)

1312 S St, NW (2F01)

Bill Smith, Studio Smith

HRPB concept, design, and massing for rear addition to existing rowhome

Bill Smith, principal of Studio Smith, presented his request for the Committee's support of the HPRB concept, design, and massing for a rear addition to his single family residence. Smith explained he had been working with Steve Callcott at HPO, whose primary concern was that the addition was not visible from any part of S St, NW. Smith explained the proposed addition would not be visible from public space; it would adhere to the existing 35' building height limit; it had no zoning implications; and would not extend back far enough to affect neighbors.

Helen Kramer moved that the CDC recommend that the full ANC support the HPRB concept, massing, and design for the rear addition; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Vote: 8-0 (unanimous)

1317 Naylor Ct, NW (2F06)

Kobi Hsu, Owner

HRPB concept for garage renovation and second story addition

Kobi Hsu and her partner, owners of the property in question, clarified that their presentation to the Committee would be informational in nature since HPO had previously placed the application on the Consent Calendar for earlier today, and the application was approved. Hsu explained that they would return to the CDC in the future for zoning variance needed for lot coverage in order to add a second story.

The Committee expressed serious concern with HPO's decision to place the application on the Consent Calendar without first allowing the ANC an opportunity to weigh in on the matter. Helen Kramer moved that the CDC recommend that the full ANC write a letter to the Director of HPO protesting the lack of community input on the matter and requesting that HPO refrain from placing future applications on the Consent Calendar without providing ANC 2F an opportunity for consideration; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Vote: 8-0 (unanimous)

Open Forum

- **1001 O St, NW update:** Commissioner Deeley provided a brief update on the ongoing HPO matter for 1001 O St, NW. Deeley explained that Brenden Meyer of HPO approved the [one copy of the] presentation the Applicant had previously brought before the CDC. Meyer communicated to Deeley that the matter would return to ANC 2F for its consideration once the plans had gone through all other regulatory disciplines.

Joyce Cowan moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Committee. Meeting adjourned at **8:55 p.m.**