

**Minutes for the Meeting of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E**

March 30, 2010
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Skelsey, Golds, Starrels, and Birch present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of March 30 Agenda and March 1 Meeting Minutes

The agenda for the March 30, 2010 ANC 2E meeting was approved, with some changes previously requested by Commissioner Skelsey and agreed to by the Commission, on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Solomon Seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on March 1, 2010 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Solomon and Lieutenant Hedgecock reported on public safety matters and recent crimes in the community, noting that there has been an uptick in crimes in West Georgetown (5 robberies, 12 burglaries). MPD is devoting more resources to the area, including on issues relating to Georgetown University, to help increase both the uniformed and non-uniformed presence. Lieutenant Hedgecock reminded the community that 911 is a number for both emergencies and non-emergencies. Commissioner Solomon reminded the community to enroll in the Crime Alert notification program by logging onto www.alert.dc.gov. Lieutenant Hedgecock and Commissioner Solomon responded to questions from Commissioners and community members.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's finances, noting that the Commission is still waiting on the 3rd quarter and 4th quarter allotments.

Commissioner Solomon made a motion to accept the corrected 1st Quarter Financial Report, which was seconded by Commissioner Skelsey and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Transportation Report

Commissioners Lewis and Starrels reported on transportation matters in the community. Commissioner Lewis mentioned that the streetlight rehabilitation will begin the first week in May; DDOT's "Pothole-palooza" is almost over; and DDOT, with Councilmember Evans'

support, is examining the possibility to add a left-turn signal for traffic to go north on Wisconsin Avenue, NW from eastbound M Street, NW. He answered questions from the community regarding the possibility of a pedestrian-only signal at the intersection of M Street, NW and Wisconsin Avenue, NW and the streetlight rehabilitation project.

Community Comment

Community members made comments regarding the spring community clean-ups on Saturday, April 17 from 9 to 12 on both the east and west sides. The Georgetown BID spoke about a collaboration with CAG to hold a tree forum on May 6 at 6 pm at the House of Sweden. The springtime Rose Park celebration will be held on April 24.

The Georgetown BID presented information on this year's French Market event, which will take place on Friday and Saturday April 23 and 24 from 10 am to 5 pm and includes a charity drive for baby clothes. DDOT traffic control officers will be hired to help the flow of traffic and pedestrian safety.

Representatives from Rose Park presented information on this year's Farmer's Market at the park, which will take place on Wednesdays from 3 pm to 7 pm. The market at Hardy School is on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Both markets open the first week of May.

Representatives from the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer presented information on this year's event, which has enjoyed great community support and will take place on Saturday and Sunday May 1 and 2. Participants who walk in the event will obey safety rules and no streets will be closed for this event.

New Business

Removing the designation of K Street, NW and Water Street, NW, below the Whitehurst Freeway as Snow Emergency Routes

Commissioner Starrels spoke about the issues surrounding the designation of these roads as snow emergency routes. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E requests that DDOT remove the snow emergency designation on K Street, NW between 28th Street, NW and Water Street, NW and also remove all appropriate signage.

Request to Metropolitan Police Department for a red light camera for the intersection at Key Bridge and M Street, NW

Commissioner Starrels spoke about the need for a red light camera at this intersection. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Commissioner Lewis proposed a small amendment to the letter, which Commissioner Starrels accepted without objection.

Dear Chief Burke,

The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the need for a red light camera(s) at the intersection of M Street and the Key Bridge, in Northwest, Washington, DC.

In the most recent DDOT-sponsored traffic studies, the intersection at Key Bridge and M Street, NW has earned an “F.” This intersection is one of the most difficult intersections as far as traffic is concerned in all of Georgetown.

One of the primary problems is for eastbound traffic that has to cross the intersection. While DDOT has timed the signal lights as well as they can, the traffic control fails drivers turning onto M Street, NW who ignore red lights while turning left, or westbound, or turning right, or eastbound.

Both westbound and eastbound drivers block the box and prevent drivers waiting to go eastbound from being able to proceed safely through the intersection. At best, eastbound drivers are limited to one or two cars per traffic light cycle.

The chaos also can impede Georgetown University from making better use of its Canal Road exit during busy times on weekends and weekdays.

The situation is unsafe for both drivers and pedestrians alike.

Red light cameras will calm down this dangerous situation. Drivers respect red light cameras.

ANC 2E in a unanimous vote hereby requests MPD to please install red-light cameras for inbound traffic from the Key Bridge.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Marine Corps Marathon

Representatives from the Marine Corps Marathon presented information for this year’s event. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the Marine Corps Marathon and all that it brings to the District of Columbia. At the same time, ANC 2E is concerned about the impact of the race on its constituents, particularly those that are boxed in by the proposed route. Although we are supporting the Marathon, we request that the Marathon work closely with Councilmember Evans’s office and the Georgetown BID to notify all affected residents and businesses and to consider a different route in future years.

ABC Issues

Safeway ABC License Voluntary Agreement—proposed revisions

A representative from Safeway (Craig Muckle) presented information on Safeway's proposed changes to its existing voluntary agreement. Commissioner Starrels presented the highlights of the new Voluntary Agreement, which had previously been circulated to Commissioners, and noted that the changes seem reasonable and are acceptable to the Citizens Association of Georgetown as well as Safeway. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E approves the amended Voluntary Agreement concerning the license to sell beer and wine at Safeway.

3291 M Street, NW, Crepe Amour & Georgetown Wing, Co. application for a substantial change to ABC license

Representatives from the restaurant presented their plans to change substantially their existing liquor license, with regard to their hours of operation. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E protests, for reasons of peace, order, and quiet, the application of Crepe Amour and Georgetown Wing, Co. for a substantial change in its license and hopes to have active discussions with them to have a resolution next month.

Zoning and Planning

3212 P Street, NW, BZA No. 18053, for a special exception to allow a two story rear addition to an existing one-family row dwelling not meeting the lot occupancy and rear yard requirements

Representatives from the property presented their plans to apply for a special exception to allow for a two-story rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Lewis seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the application for a special exception in view of the minimal impact of the two-story rear addition at 3212 P Street, NW; however, this consent is dependent upon a letter of consent from the adjacent residential neighbor.

1621 31st Street, NW, BZA No. 18058, for a special exception to allow a bay window addition to an existing one-family dwelling not meeting the lot area requirements, the lot occupancy requirements, the side yard requirements and nonconforming structure provisions

Representatives from the property presented plans to add a non-conforming bay window to the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis made the following motion (Commissioner Birch seconded), which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed exception for a bay window on the grounds that it is not significantly visible or intrusive and the applicant has represented that no neighbor objects.

Old Georgetown Board

Commissioner Lewis recused himself from the consideration and vote of all of the following items relating to the Old Georgetown Board on the ANC 2E agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Birch chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Public Projects

Design Aspects of Rehabilitation of O and P Streets, NW between Wisconsin Avenue, NW and 37th Street, NW

Representatives from DDOT (Mohammed Khalid) presented the design aspects of the O and P Streets, NW rehabilitation project, which includes a total reconstruction of the roadway, a resetting of the trolley tracks, along with other improvements to the road and the sidewalks and DCWASA improvements. The work is estimated to last about 18 months, beginning in the late summer of 2010, lasting from 7 am to 8 pm on Monday through Saturday. The project will most likely begin in the west and move eastward and will maintain a 10 foot-wide lane for emergency access during work hours, and traffic will be able to pass after work hours. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained at all times. Pedestrian access will be maintained to the best extent possible. After discussion by Commissioners and community members which focused on the design issues of the project, Commissioner Skelsey made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E enthusiastically supports the progression of the design of this project and welcomes the opportunity to continue to interact with DDOT over the next few months in order to refine the details of the design.

There was also a discussion about the establishment of a community relations team, to be chaired by Commissioner Solomon, to help DDOT and the community with this project. Interested community members should contact Commissioner Solomon.

Private Projects

1249 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 10-109 (HPA 10-195), Commercial:

Representatives from UGG Australia presented concept plans to alter the storefront and install a sign. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the “UGG” sign proposed recognizing that the OGB may choose to make a special exception in this case for the three letters that are over the 12 inch limit. We do however oppose the addition of a blade sign because it does not conform to our criteria for blades signs as it does not advertise a second-story business nor is it for a business located on a side street off of Wisconsin Avenue, NW or M Street, NW.

1063 31st Street, NW, OG 10-108 (HPA 10-194), Restaurant:

Concept plans were presented for an awning, signs, and a sidewalk café at the property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the desires of the restaurant, but we would like, as the concept progresses, the restaurant to pay attention to the historic character of the block and its proximity to the canal. We would like OGB to pay attention to the proposed outside lighting scheme.

3249 M Street, NW, OG 10-102 (HPA 10-188), Commercial:

Permit plans were presented for the Historic Preservation Review Board for the addition of a rear fence. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion which was tabled without objection when the applicant agreed to remove the item from HPRB’s upcoming agenda:

ANC 2E withholds consent to this application pending negotiation and resolution regarding outstanding issues regarding the fence (tabled).

1513 30th Street, NW, OG 10-103 (HPA 10-189), Residence:

Concept plans were presented for a rear addition. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E supports the concept of the rear addition to 1513 30th Street, NW and has no objection to the proposed bay window or pergola. However, we encourage the OGB to take into consideration the minimizing of the height of the roofline to have the least negative effect on the neighboring properties, to consider the appropriateness of the windows on the end of the north and south facades on the bathroom, and we also would support a relocation of the HVAC to the uppermost portion of the roof.

3018 Dumbarton Street, NW, OG 10-100 (HPA 10-185), Residence:

Permit plans were presented for a rear addition at the third floor level. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the proposal to the rear third floor of 3018 Dumbarton Street, NW and we feel that the impact of this addition on the adjacent apartment building will be minimal.

2511 Q Street, NW, OG 10-097 (HPA 10-171), Rock Creek Gardens West:

Permit plans were presented to remove a canopy and replace windows. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the project.

3014 Dent Place, NW, OG 10-106 (HPA 10-192), Dent Place Condominiums:

Permit plans were presented for a rooftop antenna including cabinet space and a dish for Sprint. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch made the following motion (Commissioner Solomon seconded) which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to the proposed roof antenna and other additional equipment at 3014 Dent Place, NW in view of the failure of the applicant to appear at our public meeting to review.

At 9:27 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Commissioner Birch seconded) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Aaron Golds
Secretary, ANC 2E