

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

August 29, 2011
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Commissioner Lewis, Chair, with Commissioners Solomon, Lewis, Starrels, Jones, Sticka, and Eason present, constituting a quorum.

Administrative

Approval of August 29 Agenda

The agenda for the August 29, 2011 ANC 2E public meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Starrels seconded) by a vote of 6-0.

Approval of July 5 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July 5, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lewis (Commissioner Eason seconded), by a vote of 6-0.

Public Safety and Police Report

Commissioner Solomon introduced Commander Michael Reese of Metropolitan Police Department, District 2, who gave a public safety report.

According to Commander Reese, property crime continues to be the primary increase in crime in our area. Commander Reese also spoke about an assault in the area which was quickly solved.

Commissioner Starrels asked about bike thefts and Commander Reese reported that these crimes continue to be an issue. Commissioner Solomon also thanked Commander Reese for Metropolitan Police Department's commitment to public safety during and after Hurricane Irene.

Financial Report

Commissioner Solomon reported on ANC 2E's third quarter. Commissioner Solomon also thanked Executive Director Melanie Gisler for her preparation of the financial reports.

The third quarter 2011 financial report was adopted on a motion by Commissioner Solomon (Commissioner Sticka second) by a vote of 5-0.

Transportation Report

Commissioner Jones updated the community on O & P Streets rehabilitation project. Representatives from the project reported that closures at the intersection of 35th Street and P Street would be rotating around the block on a weekly basis for the next month. Commissioner Jones also reported that parking has been a problem but that solutions to this problem are being worked on with the District Department of Transportation.

Public Works

Commissioner Jones reported that the Department of Public Works will be clearing debris caused by Hurricane Irene by request. Individuals are encouraged to sweep this debris to their tree box.

Community Comment

Ruth Werner from Councilmember Jack Evans' office reported that the Council was on summer recess. Commissioner Solomon noted a Council roundtable on funding for reimbursable MPD details at ABRA-licensed establishments that would be taking place in the near future.

A neighborhood advisor from Georgetown University introduced himself to the community.

A representative from the Georgetown BID spoke to the community about Fashion's Night Out, announcing that it would take place on September 8, 2011.

Commissioner Lewis presented the redistricting plan the ANC 2E working group proposed, explaining the rationale behind the plan. After discussion amongst Commissioners on how to allocate time to speak on redistricting, organizations were given five minutes apiece to present their comments.

A student representing the Georgetown University Student Association and a student representing the Georgetown University Graduate Student Association spoke their opposition to the plan. A representative from the Burlieth Citizens Association and a representative from the Hillandale Citizens Association spoke in support of the plan. Three individuals in support and opposition also spoke on the proposed plan.

Kidney Walk for the National Kidney Foundation

A representative from the National Kidney Foundation spoke about their proposal for use of sidewalks for the Kidney Walk on October 15, 2011, noting that vehicular traffic would not be affected.

After discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E endorses the Kidney Walk for October 15, 2011 with the stipulations that there be minimal noise in setup and that they coordinate with the Georgetown BID for timing and setup.

ABC

3401 K Street, NW, License No. ABRA-085367, Case No. 10-PRO-00132

Commissioner Starrels introduced the Malmaison project and its history with ANC 2E. A representative from CAG said that they support the project.

After discussion, Commissioner Starrels made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E endorses the license and voluntary agreement for Malmaison.

Zoning and Planning

1328, 1330, 1332 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, BZA Application No. 18273:

The applicant spoke about changes to the proposal made since the last presentation. Commissioner Jones made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E finds this proposal would benefit the character and use of the existing space. As such, ANC 2E supports the request for variances for Lot Occupancy, Rear Yard Setback, and Floor Area Ratio.

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 Jones chaired the meeting for consideration of the following OGB-related matters.

Regular Calendar

Private Projects

With regard to 1700 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-191 (HPA 11-307):

The applicant spoke about changes that have been made to their project since going before the Old Georgetown Board. After speaking with neighbors, the Dumbarton Oaks project plan has moved a majority of its massing to Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

After discussion, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E is supportive of the changes made to reduce massing and ANC 2E also notes that there are no neighbors here in opposition to the changes in the plan. ANC 2E has concerns about the sightlines, but would prefer that the Old Georgetown Board use its expertise on this matter.

With regard to 1726 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, OG 11-157 (HPA 11-246):

A representative from the property spoke about the addition of a bay window and a new sign scheme for their property.

After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object to the signage and window alterations as proposed.

With regard to 1235 31st Street, NW OG 11-271 (HPA 11-453):

A representative from the property spoke about the alternations to openings that they are proposing. The representative also spoke about their desire to add a new conservatory at the rear of the third floor.

After discussion by Commissioners and the representative, Commissioner Solomon made the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the plan as proposed.

With regard to 3100 P Street, NW, OG 11-1246 (HPA 11-424):

A representative from the property spoke about their application for the addition of a lattice on top of an existing brick garden wall.

After discussion, Commissioner Solomon proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E has initial concerns about the fact that this work was done without a permit.
We would ask the Old Georgetown Board to look at the height regarding whether this project meets Old Georgetown Board standards.

With regard to 2908 Dumbarton Street, NW, OG 11-235 (HPA 11-388):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed 2-story rear addition and the manner in which these plans have been scaled back since last month. Two neighbors spoke in support of the applicant responding to their concerns. Another spoke in opposition to the plan.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Solomon proposed the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed 5-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the reduction in the massing and the removal of third floor addition. Some neighbors remain concerned about the materials and views along 29th

Street. We urge Old Georgetown Board to take a close look at the materials and sightlines.

With regard to 1335 Wisconsin Street, NW, OG 11-267 (HPA 11-449):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed signage changes to their property. After discussion by Commissioners, Commissioner Jones proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E has objections to the proposed signage due to the repetitious amount of the Five Guys logo in the windows and on the awning. ANC 2E would like to see the number of “Five Guys” reduced. The material used on the awning is also of concern.

With regard to 2907 Q Street, NW, OG 11-275 (HPA 11-458):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed roof deck over the rear wing.

After discussion, Commissioner Eason proposed the following motion (Commissioner Sticka seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E refers this matter to the Old Georgetown Board without objection.

With regard to 3254 O Street, NW, OG 11-162 (HPA 11-255):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed addition of a second floor garage off of the alley.

After discussion by the Commissioners, Commissioner Jones proposed the following motion (Commissioner Starrels seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E strongly objects to the concept as proposed. ANC 2E has strong concerns that it does not provide reasonable protection to the stability of the surrounding neighborhood. The flat roof height of the two-story structure creates a residential character that is incompatible with the historic character of the service buildings along this alley.

With regard to 3000 K Street, NW, OG 11-252 (HPA 11-433):

A representative from Washington Harbour spoke about their proposal for a re-design for the property. They proposed new windows, a new type of fountain design, and the addition of a seasonal ice-skating rink. The architect who designed the original Washington Harbour complex gave a presentation in opposition to the changes.

After discussion by the representative and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Jones seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E generally approves of the conceptual upgrades to Washington Harbour. We would like the Old Georgetown Board to consider all the design aspects of the project, including the lighting, the tower and its base, balance of design elements (including the railings), and the size of the fountain and walking areas around the fountain. We are also concerned about visuals from all sides, including from the water to the south and from the upper plaza from the north.

ANC 2E appreciates the upgrading of the outdoor bars and upgrades to the fountain. Grade "A" fountains will enhance the waterfront elegance of the Harbour and ANC 2E is excited about these plans. The walking area around the fountain should be enlarged, as suggested in the plans and should not be obstructed by overly large amounts of tables or standing areas.

Finally, ANC 2E believes that the ice skating rink could either be a pleasant addition or a major deterrent to the overall design aspects and usage of the Harbour. We need to make sure that the Old Georgetown Board examine all aspects of the rink and its design and usage. We would also like the Old Georgetown Board to look at how the rink impacts the quality of life for the condominium residents of Washington Harbour.

ANC 2E also encourages all of the stakeholders to continue to work together.

With regard to 3249 M Street, NW, OG 11-251 (HPA 11-431):

A representative from the property spoke about the proposed addition of a four-story rear addition and alterations to the storefront.

After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E objects to the concept as presented. Specifically, we object out of concern for the preservation of the present height variation we have in this area. We believe that this increase in height sets a bad precedent for this historical area of Georgetown.

With regard to Grace Street and Cecil Place, NW, OG 11-268 (HPA 11-450):

A representative from the property spoke about a proposed new four-story residential building. After discussion by the representative as well as neighbors and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E objects to the concept as presented for this project. We object to the elimination of the rear-yard due to its affect on the nearby rowhouses. The design of the exterior of the building does not fit with the historical character of Cecil Place to the south and the building next to the C&O Canal to the north. We are also concerned by the lack of parking and an elevator in this project. ANC 2E also objects to the positioning of the building and the positioning of its entrance, as it is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.

With regard to 3249 M Street, NW, OG 11-251 (HPA 11-431):

A representative from the property spoke about proposed new signage.

After discussion by the representative and Commissioners, Commissioner Starrels proposed the following motion (Commissioner Eason seconded), which passed 4-0:

ANC 2E has no objection to the lower sign facing the street above the entrance.
However, ANC 2E questions the blade signs as it is ground floor store and generally
blade signs are not approved in these circumstances.

At 9:52 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Lewis moved (Commissioner Sticka seconded) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Jake Sticka
Secretary, ANC 2E