

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

February 27, 2007
Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Birch, Lewis, Lowenstein, and Solomon present, constituting a quorum.

POLICE REPORT

Lieutenant Lucas presented the police report for February 2007, comparing statistics on various categories of crimes with year-ago statistics. These statistics are available at <http://crimemap.dc.gov/presentation/query.asp> Lt. Lucas also reported on the arrest of suspects in a hardware store robbery on Wisconsin Avenue.

Commissioner Eason joined the meeting at this point.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on January 30, 2007 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Birch second) by a vote of 5-0.

Approval of Quarterly Financial Report

Commissioner Eason, Treasurer of ANC 2E, presented the quarterly financial report for October, November and December 2006. The quarterly financial report was approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Birch second) by a vote of 3-0 (Commissioners Lewis and Lowenstein, who were not Commissioners during the period covered by the report, abstaining).

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Report on Georgetown Visitation School Zoning Application. Commissioner Lewis reported that the Board of Zoning Adjustment approved the application of Georgetown Visitation School to increase its student and faculty/staff caps, conditioned as requested by the neighbors, the ANC, and the Citizens Association of Georgetown on the school entering into and adhering to a traffic management plan submitted by the ANC and the school.

DDOT Report on Snow Removal. John Deatrick, DDOT's Chief Engineer and Deputy Director, reported on snow removal efforts for two recent snow storms. He explained to the community why snow removal efforts did not go well for the first storm, noted that DDOT did much better for the second storm, and stated that the District government intends to be on top of this in the future. There was discussion also of the importance of

residents taking care of shoveling the snow on their sidewalks promptly after a snow storm ends.

Commissioner Starrels joined the meeting at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC Matters

Georgetown Wine and Spirits

A proposal was presented by Georgetown Wine and Spirits, 1500 27th Street, for a change in its license to increase the permitted hours of operation. Some concerns were raised about the proposed hours and also about an apparent inconsistency between the hours requested in the application and the hours requested by the applicant at the ANC meeting. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E **protests** the substantial change request of Georgetown Wine and Spirits located at 1500 27th Street for its hours of operation because of potential adverse effect on the peace, order and quiet of the community.

Special Items

Stop signs at 27th and Olive Streets

Alice Kelly representing DDOT requested the ANC's recommendation on a proposal to install all-way stop signs at the intersection of 27th and Olive Streets NW. After discussion, Commissioner Birch moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

In interest of pedestrian safety ANC 2E supports the proposed all-way stop signs at 27th and Olive Streets, NW.

Commissioner Skelsey joined the meeting at this point.

Driveway-parking pilot proposal

Alice Kelly, Program Manager, Office of the Assistant Director, Public Space Management Agency, DDOT, requested the recommendation of the ANC on whether a pilot program allowing certain residents with driveways to park in front of their driveways should be instituted in Georgetown. After considerable discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E recognizes and appreciates the sustained work of representatives of the Georgetown Kiwanis Club, the Georgetown Citizens Association, and others, as well as the D.C. Department of Transportation, in considering and analyzing the

details and the effects of a possible pilot program to allow parking in front of driveways.

ANC 2E is concerned that a number of difficult and troubling issues continue to arise in connection with this proposal and notes that there is significant community opposition to conducting any such pilot in ANC 2E. The issues include serious questions –

whether parking spaces would actually increase significantly and instead in some locations would decrease, based on current parking patterns;

whether private enforcement could be fair and accountable, and whether public enforcement could be timely, effective, and an appropriate use of scarce resources;

whether residents with driveways who do not want or need to park in front of their driveways would have effective recourse against uninvited cars parked in front of their driveways;

whether a resident with a driveway could cause a neighbor's car to be towed because of a relatively minor encroachment, setting neighbor against neighbor; and

whether taking away the public access now provided by spaces in front of driveways for loading and unloading cars, turning vehicles around, and other public uses, is the best utilization of these spaces in our neighborhood.

The significant issues connected with this proposal have not been resolved satisfactorily after lengthy analysis and discussion among interested parties. ANC 2E therefore does not support locating a driveway-parking pilot within ANC 2E.

University Run for Rigby Race

Jack Dealey and John Stebbins, representing the Friends of Rigby organization which sponsors Georgetown University's Run for Rigby Race, requested the ANC's support for running part of the third annual Run for Rigby race on 37th Street NW on April 15. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lowenstein moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the plans for the 3rd Annual Run for Rigby for April 15, 2007. We appreciate all efforts made to improve the safety of housing in Georgetown and Burleith through education and community awareness and believe this event is important in the ongoing efforts of Friends of Rigby to promote fire safety. Furthermore, we commend the Friends of Rigby for their success last year, and hope that this event will continue for years to come.

Zoning and Planning

3255 N Street (OGB 07-013): Revised plans were presented for the property. During discussion, concerns were again raised about the proposed height of the garage. After discussion by the Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E strongly objects to the proposed height of the garage due to its inappropriate scale relative to the alley as well as that it violates height restrictions with regard to accessory buildings.

3255 Prospect Street (OGB 06246): Revised plans were presented for the property. During discussion, concerns were again raised, particularly about the proposed massing, height, design and use of the property. After discussion by the Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Solomon not present):

ANC 2E strongly objects to the proposal as submitted in regard to the existence of what is effectively a fifth floor to the proposed building at 3255 Prospect Street. We have continued concerns about the impact of the massing of this structure on what is historically a 19th century residential block. ANC 2E has further concerns about the proposed fully occupied space at the fifth floor level and we take issue with the proposed roof top deck in the midst of a predominantly residential community.

1645 31st Street (OGB 06-214): Revised plans were presented for the property. During discussion, concerns were again raised, particularly about the proposed massing of the addition to the existing house and of the proposed new house, the appropriateness of a second house, and gaps in the available information. After discussion by the Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E with respect to the proposal submitted for 1645 31st Street continues to oppose the plans as presented with concerns about the necessary subdivision that would be required; the lack of information with regard to the proposed lot lines and therefore, lot coverage; the issue with respect to the Alley Dwelling Act; the massing of the proposed new house; and the inability to judge the design proposed with respect to the existing house given the lack of information with regard to the lot lines and subdivisions.

Commissioner Eason left the meeting at this point.

1626 34th Street (OGB 07-080): Plans were presented for proposed side and rear additions to the property. After discussion by the Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E has concerns about the possible adverse effects on the light and air available to the adjacent house of the proposed fill-in addition on the south side of the subject house and notes the immediate neighbor's objection to this aspect of the proposal. ANC 2E urges the neighbors to continue a constructive dialogue and requests that the Old Georgetown Board consider carefully the appropriateness and height of such an addition.

2800 Pennsylvania Avenue (Four Seasons Hotel) (OGB 07-77): Concept plans were presented for this proposal. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Lowenstein not present):

ANC 2E has no objections to the conceptual plans for the Four Seasons Hotel as presented.

2720 O Street (OGB 07-046): Concept development plans were presented for this proposal. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Birch moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the development of a house on this vacant property but does have concerns about the set back from the property line which distracts from the harmonious line of the rest of the block.

3034 M Street (OGB 07-079): Plans labeled a “permit” application were presented for this proposal. During discussion, it was observed that the proposed project had not received concept approval and concerns were raised about the height and the design. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E strongly objects to the proposed 3rd floor addition and alterations to 3034 M Street. We note that we have not seen a concept that has been approved as of this date. This M Street address is an historic corner in that it is directly across from the Old Stone House and just one-half block north of the historic C&O Canal. We object to the proposed height, its material, and the radical design that is contrary to its surroundings.

At 10:12 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Birch moved (Lowenstein second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Ron Lewis
Secretary, ANC 2E