



Foggy Bottom & West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

(www.anc2a.org) **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday July 18, 2012 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Court 725 24th Street, NW

Call to Order

Chair Florence Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. Commissioners Graham Galka, Rebecca Coder and Asher Corson were present, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Armando Irizarry arrived around 7:15pm. Commissioner David Lehrman was not present. Commissioners introduced themselves.

Chair Harmon stated the homeless item will be moved up on the agenda. She made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, and it was voted upon and passed.

General Agenda

Safety Report

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Lt. Donald Craig presented the safety report and distributed a data sheet containing information for June, and comparing data from last year. Total crime was down 18%, except for thefts and robberies committed with guns. Overall robberies are about the same. Thefts are up slightly. MPD is still continuing their education campaign. During the summer, Police Service Area (PSA) 207 is planning to assign special burglary and robbery units to patrol downtown areas and make arrests as needed. The robbery unit will patrol the area from 16th to 19th Streets, and the burglary unit will patrol the area between 20th to 24th Streets, and K to N Streets. Results will be available at the next ANC2A meeting.

Lt. Craig provided a photo of a GWU employee who was fired and has threatened to return to harm others. Lt. Craig recommended the community call 911 (stating sight of subject who has made threats on GWU campus) or GWU police. GWU has barred him from GWU campus.

Public Comments

Chair Remarks

Chair Harmon announced that she is holding a notebook which was left at the table at last month's ANC2A meeting.

July Grocery Shuttle Information and Schedule

Community member Marija Hughes stated the grocery shuttle bus was canceled on July 3, 2012. The community was not given any notice, resulting in many residents waiting at the bus stop. She requested that residents be notified of cancellation and that another bus be obtained for the community. Commissioner Irizarry said he will look into this and will

coordinate with community members to resolve the problem. Commissioner Irizarry stated that Council Member Jack Evans was willing and helpful in getting the grocery shuttle bus for the community.

Council Member Jack Evans Library Legislation

Sherri Kimbel (Constituent Services, Council Member Jack Evans) stated that Council Member Evans has introduced legislation to extend the library hours during the week and on Sundays.

She also added that Council Member Evans has received 100 tickets for “Ward Two Night at Shakespeare Theater”, which will be held on Sunday August 26, for the 7:30 p.m. performance of “All’s Well That Ends Well.” Community members interested in tickets should contact the Council member’s office or email skimbel@dc.gov.

Commissioner Irizarry noted that last year’s Ward Two Night was held the same day as the earthquake, forcing an evacuation. Nonetheless, he stated this event is a great pleasure and enjoyment.

Polling Location

Commissioner Corson stated he and community member Ellie Becker have been working on changing the polling location from School Without Walls to a more convenient place. The polling location at St. Mary’s Court was closed in the last election.

Latin American Youth Center

Courtney Coffey, from the Latin American Youth Center (1419 Columbia Road) for Ward 1 and 2, spoke on efforts to restrict and limit substance abuse, alcohol and tobacco to youths through education, prevention and advocacy. They are funded by ABRA.

She provided statistics regarding Ward 2: Ward 2 has 40% of DC’s licensed alcohol establishments – more than any other ward. Twelve percent of ABRA compliance checks in Ward 2 resulted in an illegal sale to a minor. She distributed flyers regarding the initiative..

Miscellaneous Items

Community member Ellie Becker asked that Council Member Evans transfer monies to DC Public School Libraries to keep school librarians instead of using it for extended hours.

Community members stated West End Library Friends (WELF) will meet this coming Saturday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the West End Library.

Updates

Stevens School Proposals and EastBanc Redevelopments of West End Library and Fire Station

Nimita Shaw of the office of the DC Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) stated that the proposals from developers and schools that were

presented at the July 10-11 special ANC2A meeting are available on the website of dmped.dc.gov. Public comment period lasts 30 days from the presentation but will be extended to include ANC2A special meeting on August 15th. Comments and questions should be sent to dcbiz@dc.gov.

ANC2A Special Meeting – August 15, 2012

Chair Harmon stated ANC2A will hold a special meeting on August 15th at Fungler Hall (22nd and G Street), Room 113 at 7pm, to discuss the Stevens School proposals. The second item will be discussions about a new location for the West End Fire Station.

Washington Circle Plans

Patrick Kennedy (GWU student) stated a working group met informally for the first time to discuss Ms. Iris Miller's plans (presented at the April 2012 ANC2A meeting) for beautifying Washington Circle. Community members interested in joining this group should contact Patrick Kennedy, Elizabeth Elliott or Iris Miller. The Washington Circle is NPS property, and some of the refuge islands surrounding the circle are DC DDOT property. DDOT has design plans for this Circle. Coordination between all parties will be necessary if a "Friends of Washington Circle" is created in the future.

Regulatory Agenda

Best Buddies Challenge Race

Julie Hanson presented information on the 3rd Best Buddies Challenge Race, scheduled for Saturday October 20, 2012. The mission of Best Buddies is to raise awareness and funds for people with intellectual and physical development disabilities.

The Challenge involves 4 events: 20 mile, 100 mile and a 100K bike rides and a 5K run/walk. The race course will be the same as last year's route through DC, MD and VA. The Challenge Race will begin at 7:45am and will be completed by 10:30am. It will start and finish at 15th Street between Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive, and proceed onto Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue. Buddies will ride on dual bikes. Approximately 2,650 participants are expected.

Chair Harmon made a motion for a resolution of no objection to Best Buddies Challenge. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted upon and passed. **(VOTE: 5-0) (Attachment #1)**

DDOT Public Space Committee

Plans re New Hampshire Avenue as two-way between Washington Circle and M Street and Dupont Circle

Gholan Agahi and Richard Kenney from DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) presented preliminary information regarding the reconstruction, resurfacing and lighting upgrades along New Hampshire Avenue from Dupont Circle to Juarez Circle. This project has been on the books for some time, and will begin in August. A contractor has been selected. A full presentation will be provided at the next ANC2A meeting on August 15th. Community members were invited to send concerns to Chair Harmon at florencecdc@comcast.net and gholan.agahi@dc.gov and Richard.Kenney@dc.gov. If

community members are interested in a morning meeting please let DDOT know so they can provide it.

In response to questions from the community and Commissioners, the presenters stated:

- New traffic signals and crosswalks signals will be added.
- Timing of crosswalks signals will increase.
- New bike lanes will be added.
- Islands will be removed.
- Potentially the Rasika West End valet could be moved to M Street.

Commissioner Irizarry reported that the curb on the median strip and the islands on New Hampshire Avenue, from I and K Street, need upkeep and repairs.

Miscellaneous Items

Homeless Encampments and related Mayor's Policies and Plans

Commissioner Corson stated the homeless encampments located on the north side of 26th and K Street have been a problem for more than six months, and that he has dealt with many DC and federal agencies. He read his resolution calling for DC to remove the encampments and to work with DHS and the DC call center to set up a system for residents to report. Currently, community members who have called 311 have not been referred to another DC agency, and the 311 system does not have a method to record such requests. He inquired why DC waited so long to respond to this problem.

Community members made suggestions to open more shelters and to also address other encampments on the western side and under the parkway.

Commissioner Corson made a motion to accept the resolution with suggested changes regarding homeless encampments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coder, and was voted upon and passed. **(VOTE: 5-0). (Attachment #2)**

Representatives from the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS), with contact information of 202-727-1751, discussed DC's Updated and Revised Protocol for Homeless Encampments. The change was a result of a lawsuit settlement twelve years ago that stated DC is liable for the personal property of the homeless that DC disposed of, and therefore it was mandated that DC provide storage for such items. Currently, the storage is unable for items given the impact of development projects on the facility near the baseball stadium. They stated it was not against the law to live on public property, only if an edifice is built.

The goals of the new protocol are: 1) streamline communications between Mayor's office and communities; 2) reduce response time; 3) provide focused human services and outreach to individuals prior to cleanups; and 4) provide stronger enforcement of cleaned sites.

All complaints to 311 will be directed to the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement (ONE), the first point of contact for neighborhood residents. Within one week, DC will add a service request for homeless encampments to the 311 system.

ONE will conduct an internal assessment to determine the ownership of the property and whether it presents a health or security risk. A standard response results in a conference call with primary agencies (DHS, DMH, DDOT, DPW and MPD) to establish and implement a date for cleanup. Once the cleanup date is set, DDOT will post signs on the encampment site informing individuals that DC will dispose of property remaining on the site after 14 days. During this time, DHS, DMH and other human service agencies will visit the individuals at the site to inform them of the upcoming cleanup and provide contact information for reclaiming their items. These DC agencies will also assess the individuals at the encampments for their well-being and assist them with housing solutions, public assistance and other support services.

After 14 days, DPW will clean the site and will dispose of items remaining at the site, except items of obvious value which will be stored for 60 days at a DHS warehouse. Following the cleanup, the site will be monitored and cleanup will be enforced. Follow-up cleanups can occur without the 14-day notice once there is an initial posting.

DDOT will post signs regarding upcoming cleanup of the 26th and K encampments, and the E St Corridor encampments.

In response to community questions and concerns, Lt. Craig stated he was aware of the encampments in the five locations discussed.

Commissioner Corson stated he was unaware of the legislative challenges and plans to work on second resolution stating the law is insufficient and offered the support of ANC2A to the agencies.

Matters before the DC Zoning Commission:

ANC2A minor modification to GW Campus Plan re GW Advisory Committee

Chair Harmon stated she is drafting a resolution on the minor modification to the GWU Campus Plan regarding the GWU Advisory Committee, which will clarify its role and activities, specifying that it will not replace the ANC, not take any formal actions, not have a required quorum, and not be a voting body.

In concert with the ANC's action, GWU has also proposed a minor modification to the GWU Campus Plan regarding the Advisory Committee, stating its purpose of providing a dialogue and more robust discussion with the community, so as not to take up time at the ANC meeting. The ANC will appoint five community members to be part of advisory committee. GWU submitted a draft of their letter to Anthony Hood (Chairperson of Zoning Commission) which will be reviewed at a public hearing in September.

Chair Harmon made a motion to have ANC2A Commission authorize her to sign GWU's letter regarding the proposed modifications. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion,

which was voted upon and passed. **(VOTE: 5-0)**. At the August or September ANC meeting a resolution will be presented, and will reference the history of this issue. GWU stated it will hold their letter until ANC2A Commission passes its resolution.

Commissioner Corson thanked GWU and Chair Harmon for their work as an example of a nice step forward in relations between the neighborhood and the University.

Matters before ABRA and ABC:

Resolution re Council Member Graham's Proposed Liquor Legislation

Chair Harmon discussed the proposed changes to liquor legislation that are in the works. She stated that ANC2A will not act on this item at this time, but she reviewed the resolution from the Dupont Circle ANC, which is overall supportive of the changes to the legislation, and suggests that the group of five protestants be limited to 600 feet instead of the current proposal of 400 feet as that is more consistent with other portions of the legislation. There is no reason to expedite a discussion or decision on this matter as the DC Council may not take this up until late 2012 or early 2013.

Marshall's Bar & Grill

This item will be discussed at a future ANC2A meeting.

DDOT Public Space Committee:

Plaza Condominium – Front Area Improvements (800 25th St)

Barry Barrett, General Manager of Plaza Condominium, presented the plans for the revitalization of the frontage of the Plaza Condominiums (800 25th Street). The Plaza, a brick building, was built in 1975 and has not undergone changes to its frontage. The revitalization plans affect the 6,000 sq ft portico area, part of which is DC public property, which is why it requires Public Space's review.

Plans involve changing the exterior finish and replacing it with like-kind material similar to a large tile format, and keeping the current color scheme and building's general look. Plans will not change curb cuts, sidewalks or the driveway, but will improve its access.

Changes will be done on the brick wall, ceiling elevation, lighting, center area and front entrance door and the finish on the columns. The cobblestone driveway (actually stamped concrete) will be cleaned. The landscape will be changed to include perennials.

During renovation, access to the garage will be available through the alley. The rehabilitation plans will begin March 2013 and will continue for 16-18 weeks.

The Plaza asked for a resolution of support for their hearings in front of HPRB, CFA and DDOT Public Space Committee.

Chair Harmon made a motion for a resolution supporting the renovation of the frontage to the Plaza Condominium. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, and it was voted upon and passed. **(VOTE: 5-0) (Attachment #3)**

Miscellaneous Items

Gerwitz Center on 23rd and H St

Chair Harmon stated that ANC2A Commission will not act or vote on this item, but invited the presenters as a start to the communication process. Gerwitz Center, built in 1985-1986, serves 3,000 Jewish GWU undergraduates. It is located next to a GWU dorm and a church. The Center is exploring its rehabilitation. It has not been maintained over the years and is need of minor modifications, some of which will need variances (rear yard variance, FAR variance, parking variance). The area has an allotment of 16,000sf. Plans include building 60 feet high (4 stories having same footprint), removing the driveway and building on it, changing the rear yard area and driveway, adding auditorium/theater and meeting spaces that would be accessible to the community. More information will be presented to the ANC in the future.

Resolution re DC Council Affordable Housing Funding

Commissioner Coder provided an update to the West End Library and West End Fire Station redevelopment projects related to the funds being provided by the City to fill the gap required to ensure the units above the fire station achieve the affordable housing levels desired (60% of Area Median Income). The funds have been identified, and the DC Council as part of the 2013 Budget Act took the first steps to approve. Commissioner Coder wants the ANC to send a message to the Council to complete the process to ensure the funding is in place.

Commissioner Coder proposed a motion in support of affordable housing funding, after reading the draft resolution. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted upon and passed. **VOTE: 5-0 (Attachment # 4)**

Resolution re DCPS Libraries

Chair Harmon stated a resolution supporting the DC Public Library will be transferred to the ANC2A's August meeting.

Seminar for GWU students living off-campus

Chair Harmon stated Georgetown University officials proposed seminars for their students living off-campus. GWU representatives stated they are working with GU and with their Dean of Students and the GWU Legal Department on this issue. An update will be provided at the next ANC2A meeting.

Administration

Adoption of ANC2A Minutes

Chair Harmon made a motion to approve the minutes of ANC2A of April 18, May 16 and June 20, subject to proof reading and minor edits. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted upon and passed. **(VOTE 5-0)**

Adoption of 3rd Quarter Financial Report 2012 (April – June 2012)

Commissioner Galka presented the 3rd Quarterl Financial Report, stating that most of the \$3600 expenses was spent on salaries, taxes, printing/copying and office supplies. About \$16,800 remains in the account, and the ANC is waiting for its allotment (\$3,000). Chair

Harmon made a motion to approve the 3rd Quarter Report. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted upon and passed. **(VOTES: 5-0)**

The ANC2A meeting was adjourned 9:20pm

Attachment 1: Best Buddies Challenge

July 18, 2012

Julie Hanson
Best Buddies International
5810 Kingstown Center Drive, #120
Alexandria, VA 22315

RE: Best Buddies Challenge

Dear Best Buddies International:

At its duly notice, regularly scheduled meeting on July 18, 2012, with 5 of the 6 commissioners present, constituting a quorum, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2A reviewed the request for a letter of non-objection regarding the Best Buddies Challenge. The ANC voted 5-0-0 to support the requested non objection.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions in the above-referenced matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION,

Attachment 2: Resolution regarding homeless encampments

July 23, 2012

Mr. David A. Berns
Department of Human Services
NEED ADDRESS

Re: Homeless Encampments in Foggy Bottom and West End Neighborhoods

Dear Mr. Solano:

At a duly noticed, regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2A discussed residents' concerns about homeless encampments in the Foggy Bottom and West End Neighborhoods. With 5 of 6 commissioners present, constituting a quorum, the ANC unanimously (5-0) passed the following resolution:

Whereas the parklands on the northern and western sides of 26th and K Streets, NW have been the home to a major encampment for over six months.

Whereas other areas of concern are across from the American Red Cross at 2025 E Street, NW and to the western part of Foggy Bottom on the Rock Creek Parkway;

Whereas the encampment has grown in both size and complexity to feature multiple pieces of furniture, appliances, carpet, razor wire fencing, and more.

Whereas the encampment dwellers have gained access to the sealed accessway of the adjacent overpass and are using it as either a living space or storage area.

Whereas the razor wire fencing, entry to an evacuation route overpass access door, trash, and sanitation issues are all serious health or safety concerns for surrounding neighbors, pets, and wildlife.

Whereas any efforts to remove the encampment will only succeed if there is ongoing follow up from District agencies to ensure that a new encampment is not erected on this site or near it.

Whereas there is no way for District residents to request abatement of a homeless encampment including reporting it to the Mayor's Citywide Call Center.

Therefore be it resolved that the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission strongly encourages that the District of Columbia remove the illegal encampment located on the northern side of 26th and K Streets, NW.

Be it further resolved that the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission requests that the Department Human Services work the Mayor's Citywide Call

Center to establish a standardized method for citizens to request the abatement of a particular encampment by calling 311.

cc:

Mayor Vincent Gray

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson

Councilman Jack Evans

Dept of Mental Health contact

Cathy Lanier, MPD

DPW contact

Francisco Fimbres, DDOT

Ariana Quinones-Miranda, Office of Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services

Patricia Handy, DHS

Attachment 3: Plaza Condominium

July 28, 2012

Katrina Harrison
Coordinator, DDOT Public Space Committee
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street S.W. / 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20024

Re: DDOT public space application for 800 25th Street (Square 17, Lot 41 –
The Plaza Condominium) – Repair and replace existing building
frontage.

Dear Ms. Harrison:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, of the Foggy Bottom & West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (ANC 2A), the Commission voted unanimously, a quorum of five of the six commissioners being present, to support the application from The Plaza Condominium for the improvements to their building frontage including new entry doors, resurfacing of the entry wall and columns, replacement of the portico drywall ceiling and lighting, new drive surfaces and replacement of the existing landscape bed fronting the community as presented in their drawings. We believe they will enhance the aesthetics of the corner at 25th & H Streets as well as provide better pedestrian access to the building.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION:

cc: ANC 2A Commissioners
Barry R. Barrett, General Manager, The Plaza Condominium

Attachment 4: West End Fire Station Affordable Housing

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chair, DC Council
The John A. Wilson Building, Suite 402
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: ANC 2A Resolution on West End Fire Station Affordable Housing

Dear Council Chair Mendelson:

At a duly noticed, regularly scheduled meeting on July 18, 2012, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A discussed the status of funding to be provided by the District of Columbia Government as part of the West End Fire Station Redevelopment project, and passed the following resolution to be transmitted to the DC Council.

WHEREAS, the community has worked with the city and the developer, EastBanc, over the past several years in order to see the sites containing the West End Library and West End Fire Station (Engine Co. 1) redeveloped through a public private partnership which would offer new public facilities, multi-family housing and neighborhood-servicing retail to the West End;

WHEREAS, as part of the redevelopment partnership, it was agreed that the land value would be leveraged to pay for a modern and efficient library and fire station first, and any remaining value would go towards the affordable housing planned for the fire station site;

WHEREAS, after allocating the land value towards the public facilities, there was a funding gap that the District agreed to fill in order to ensure that 100% of the housing at the fire station site would be affordable to those making 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) instead of the smaller percentage at 80% of AMI required through inclusionary zoning which would occur if the city did not provide the funding;

WHEREAS, the DC Council as part of the 2013 budget process took the first step to ensure that capital dollars are available to address this funding gap; however, there are still certain steps within the process that need to be completed by the Council;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 2A respectfully requests that the DC Council fulfill all the steps required to ensure that the affordable housing at the West End Fire Station is properly funded.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION,

CC: Michael Brown, Chair, Committee on Economic Development
Jack Evans, Council member, Ward 2
Rebecca Coder, ANC 2A-02