

**FOGGY BOTTOM & WEST END
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2010
WEST END LIBRARY
1101 24TH ST. NW**

Call to order

Chair Rebecca Coder called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. Commissioners Coder, Lehrman and Malinen introduced themselves. Commissioner Harmon arrived at 7:25 PM, making a quorum present. An item on public space was added to the agenda without objection.

General Agenda

Public Comments

Roland Roebuck made a presentation and distributed information on a DC Public Charter School Recruitment Expo planned for the Washington Convention Center for January 8, 2011.

Safety Report

Officer Clemmons of the Metropolitan Police Department 2nd District presented the public safety report for Public Safety Area 207. He pointed out that incidents of crime in most categories in 2010 have tracked the same incidence as in 2009, the exception being thefts from automobiles, which have declined by nearly half. He reported on a mugger who targets passers by from an alley near 24th and I sts., N.W., and noted that police have targeted this area.

WMATA

Robin McElheney and John Magarelli, representing the planning division of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA), reported on a Station Planning Study carried out for the Foggy Bottom station. Currently there are 22,300 boardings per day at

the station, the eighth highest number of daily riders in the system. It is thus approaching capacity. Three alternatives have been investigated for a second entrance; the recommended alternative is at the southeast corner of 22nd and I streets. Design concepts will be refined in consultation with George Washington University. The project is not in WMATA's capital budget. Funding must therefore come from the District, or a private entity, possibly GWU.

State Department Security Perimeter

Eric Feldman of Rhodeside & Harwell presented information on plans to extend the State Department's "security perimeter" to the American Pharmacists Association building, where the Department has leased space in the building's new addition. Discussion focused on three alternative plans and the no-build option, of which the planners prefer alternative 2, a compromise in terms of the loss of public space to the project. Discussion focused on the potential loss of public space and mature trees as well as on public access to planning documents as the project evolves. Documents will be placed in West End Library and online during a comment period.

Stevens School

Commissioner Coder updated the status of Stevens School and invited comments on next steps to be taken in the matter of its future development. Commissioner Malinen emphasized the importance of retaining the building for educational purposes. Audience comments emphasized the importance of a "vision plan" that reflected neighborhood concerns. There was some difference of opinion as to the urgency of the matter. Ms. Coder raised the possibility of a committee to deal with these issues and asked for volunteers.

Regulatory agenda

ABRA

Bethany Kuechenmeister, store manager of the Walgreens Company store at 1217 22nd St., N.W., distributed copies of a draft voluntary agreement with a neighborhood group protesting Walgreens application for a license to sell beer and wine. Separately, Ms. Kuechenmeister worked with the designated protestant representative to address the appearance of its windows fronting 22nd and M streets.

Gary Griffith, one of the protestants, commented that the agreement was “virtually there.” Commissioner Coder reported on the protest filed against renewal of The Rookery liquor license and announced ABRA hearing dates on its application. Audience members mentioned that advertisements in the Current indicate that the Rookery is now a new concept called Bayou. Commissioner Harmon announced the failure of mediation in the case of the Shadow Room liquor license.

GWU Law Learning Center Garage (Square 103)

Susan Cora of George Washington University summarized an interim report on the GWU Campus Plan that can be found on the university website and stated that the university was currently in compliance with the limits and procedures established in the plan.

Brittany Waddell distributed information on all GWU construction projects now underway or in the planning stage and introduced David Avitabile of Goulston & Storrs, who presented plans for the second stage PUD for Square 103. This includes the underground parking garage for the GWU Law Learning Center, an aboveground entrance and service building and the incorporation of two G St. properties not previously owned by GWU into the Campus Plan. A Zoning Commission hearing on the university’s application will be held on February 3, 2011. Both speakers emphasized the proposed structure’s role in the “migration” of parking from the central parking structure now in use to a decentralized system including the new spaces to be made available by the Law Learning Center garage.

Discussion focused on the impact of traffic exiting the proposed garage on the public alley between 20th and 21st streets, particularly during evening rush hours. Commissioner Harmon and other speakers pressed for alternative of exits onto G St., N.W., but Ms. Cora reported that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) rejected this alternative. Michael Akin argued that “evaluation of this proposal should not turn on” this issue. Discussion continued along these lines until the meeting was ended by the pending closing of the Library and the resolution was postponed until the January 2011 meeting.

2011 Meeting Schedule

Upon motion of Commissioner Harmon, the commission unanimously approved the 2011 regular meeting schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.