

Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A



Meeting notes, March 16, 2011

The ANC meeting scheduled for this date at St. Mary's Court, 725 24th St., NW at 7:30 PM could not be held, due to the absence of a quorum. However, Chair Rebecca Coder invited informal discussion of items on the draft agenda that did not require a vote of the commission and/or which were of particular interest to attendees.

Chair Coder called the meeting to order at 7:41 and she and commissioners Irizarry and Harmon introduced themselves. The chair announced that two agenda items put forward by Commissioner Corson would not be considered, since word of his plan not to attend the meeting was received at 6:45 pm. Raeisha "Ra" Williams, newly appointed Ward 2 liaison in the office of the Mayor, introduced herself and gave her contact information (raeisha.williams@dc.gov). Ms. Coder announced meeting sites for the remainder of calendar year 2011 and a special meeting on April 25 to hear a status report on the West End redevelopment project being undertaken by EastBanc and a presentation by the project architect Enrique Norton. The site of the special meeting will be announced later.

At 7:45 pm, Officer Clemmons gave the public safety report: crimes are down in PSA 207, particularly burglaries and robberies. Most burglaries occur in George Washington University dormitories or in underground parking lots and involve cameras, laptops, and small electronics left in unlocked dorm rooms or in open view in parked cars. One suspect has been arrested in connection with theft from autos and two others in connection with burglaries at GWU.

Commissioner Irizarry invited comment on the question of whether a "village" organization to promote "aging in place" should be created for Foggy Bottom. Commissioner Coder reported that the Foggy Bottom Association was considering this issue.

Isabelle Thompson and John DeLacy were present to discuss the Martine Corps Marathon, planned for October 30. 30,000 runners have signed on for the event, which includes 10k and wheelchair components as well as the marathon. They were invited to return to the April 20 ANC meeting to secure a letter of support.

Leona Agourdis, representing the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District, discussed the maintenance and improvements undertaken by the BID in Duke Ellington Park. She was invited to return to the April 20 ANC meeting to secure a letter of support from the ANC for a renewal of the BID's maintenance contract by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Christy Shiker, representing the owner of 1200 New Hampshire Avenue, an office building with retail and restaurant operations on its ground floor, explained renovations planned in the building to increase ground floor area. This minor modification of the building's PUD required no action by the ANC as long as there were no objections. Discussion focused on whether or not the absence of official action could be stated in a letter. (Robert's Rules of Order, while stating that the only action possible in the absence of a quorum is adjournment, is silent on the issue of whether or not a formal statement describing inaction in fact constitutes an official action.)

Commissioner Coder drew attention to liquor license applications pending from the Wine Specialist, and established business moving within the neighborhood to 2120 L St., N.W., and the American Foreign Service Club on E Street, which is seeking a license renewal.

Commissioner Harmon recognized attendees who had come hoping for a resolution supporting the redevelopment of the Stevens School property along lines envisioned by a "visioning committee" composed of parents, educators and neighborhood residents. Discussion focused on the best way of bringing the committee's concerns, embodied in an ANC resolution, to the attention of the new mayoral administration. Barbara Kahlow suggested using the confirmation hearing on the appointment of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development as an occasion to make neighborhood views on the property's future known; she also urged a unified view on what was wanted and not wanted on the site. Don McGovern stated that "There is some urgency here" and described the need to do research to clarify a vision of what a charter school is.

At 8:40 PM, Commissioner Coder drew attention to the delegation from George Washington University attending the meeting and described ongoing issues relating to the University's plans for Square 55, particularly the issue of a second Metro entrance. She and Commissioner Harmon plan to attend the hearing on March 24 taking up these issues. Ms. Coder also described the cooperative agreement reached with the owners of Bayou (formerly The Rookery.)

Elizabeth Elliott expressed concern about the Zoning Commission acting on Square 55 before the impact of Square 54's redevelopment has been assessed. She also suggested that a second Metro Entrance at Foggy Bottom would be more appropriately located west of 24th St., which would improve Georgetown connections to the system.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.