

FOGGY BOTTOM & WEST END
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2011
ST. MARY'S COURT
725 24TH ST. NW

Call to order

Chair Rebecca Coder called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M. Commissioners Coder, Lehrman, Harmon, Malinen, Corson and Irizarry introduced themselves. The draft agenda was adopted with one item being deleted.

General Agenda

Public Comments

Susan Haight of West End Library Friends announced that the library would be closed for the week of February 6-13. She also announced March 12 as the date of the spring book sale and described a lecture series beginning on Fridays on January 28.

Safety Report

Kevin Hay, Chief of Police for George Washington University introduced himself and commended Mike Reed, newly appointed commander of the Metropolitan Police Department Second District to the community. Ms. Coder announced that Cdr. Reed would be invited to an upcoming ANC meeting.

Stevens School Visioning Committee

Commissioner Harmon announced the creation of an "interim committee tasked with crafting a vision for Stevens" and read a draft resolution constituting the committee and naming its members. Commissioner Irizarry added friendly amendments that required the ANC's acceptance of its report prior to recommendations being forwarded to the Mayor's office and asked that a time frame for its deliberations be established. The resolution as amended was adopted by a vote of 5-0, Commissioner Corson having recused and absented himself from the meeting during this discussion. A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes as Appendix I.

Regulatory agenda

GWU

Three items concerning campus development at George Washington University were presented by a team led by Susan Cora and David Avitabile. The first item repeated the presentation of the Law Learning Center parking garage and associated structures and landscaping that was discussed during the December 15, 2010 ANC meeting. This presentation constitutes a Second Stage PUD envisioned by the First-Stage Campus Plan established in 2007 and includes a “minor modification” of the First-Stage PUD, discussed below.

Commissioner Corson cited an article published in the student newspaper that in his view called into question the university’s commitment to the enrollment caps of the 2007 plan and raised the issue of who spoke for GW in dealings with the new mayoral administration. Other commissioners spoke to redirect attention to the proposal for Square 103. A brief reprise of the traffic management issues discussed on December 15 was followed by a discussion of pedestrian safety and of landscape and streetscape design. After extended discussion, Commissioner Coder introduced a resolution raising no objection to the Law Learning Center facilities as proposed; Commissioner Corson’s motion to amend the resolution to one of objection failed by a vote of 2 to 3, with one abstention. Commissioner Lehrman moved to change the action in the resolution to “takes no position,” which Ms. Coder accepted as a friendly amendment. The resolution as amended was approved by a vote of 4-0, with two abstentions. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

The “minor modification” of the Campus Plan proposed by GW representatives incorporates three recently acquired properties – 2004 G St., N.W. and 2121 and 2123 F St., N.W. – into the Campus Plan. Discussion focused on the intended uses of the three houses and in particular on whether the F Street houses could be used to house fraternities now residing off-campus. Commissioner Coder introduced a resolution that, after modification to incorporate the concern about moving fraternities on campus, was adopted by a vote of 5-0, with one abstention. A copy of the resolution can be found as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

The third matter put forward by GWU concerned plans to restore and renovate the 2004 G St. house and two adjacent properties extending to 2000 G St. Patrick Burkhart, an architect for Shalom Baranes Architects, presented the design. Discussion focused on the landmark status of 2000 G St. and the Historic Preservation Review Board’s review of the proposal. Commissioner Coder introduced a motion to send a letter to the HPRB stating that the ANC has no objection to the proposal. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. A copy of the letter can be found as Appendix 4 of these minutes.

Public Space

Mike Tyler of Allstate Hotel Corporation and design consultants to his firm presented plans for public space uses at a Marriott Courtyard hotel to be constructed at 522 20th St., N.W. Because of the lack of timely notice and because the Public Space Management Branch acted on this application on January 6, 2011, the ANC after brief discussion decided to take no action on this application.

A representative of Litestars Restaurant, 2103 L St. N.W., presented plans for a sidewalk café at the restaurant involving 28 spaces, with all equipment to be removable during periods of non-use and no amplified music to be performed in this outdoor space. On motion of Commissioner Coder the ANC voted to make no objection to the restaurant's application to the Public Space Permit Office.

ABRA

Bo Blair and Jason York, owners of The Rookery, now doing business as Bayou, appeared to defend their application for a renewed liquor license, which the ANC voted to protest at its December meeting. Commissioner Coder explained the basis of the protest, which was the excessive noise and other objectionable outdoor activities associated with the club's music programs. The owners described the ameliorative impact of adding new soundproofing material and to a change in programming to emphasize jazz rather than rock music. Neighbors who live in the vicinity of the club augmented the complaints previously received about the club. Commissioner Harmon asked about hours for the club, to which Mr. Blair indicated they are typically open until 12:30 am weekdays and 1:30 am weekends although their license provides for full hours under the law. On motion of Commissioner Coder, the ANC voted to provide up to \$5,000 to cover any legal expenses and any research costs attendant upon pursuing the protest of the license renewal. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Harmon updated the circumstances of the ANC's unsuccessful protest of the liquor license issued to Panutat Ltd., dba Sanctuary 21, and on the current protest for Shadow Room. On motion of Ms. Harmon, the ANC approved by a vote of 6-0 an expenditure of \$2,425.50 to cover expenses incurred in pursuit of the protests related to both establishments.

Administrative Agenda

1st Quarter Financial Report

Commissioner Malinen presented the financial report for the 1st quarter of FY 2011. Commissioner Coder moved approval of the report, which passed by a vote of 6-0.

Adoption of Minutes

Seeing no objection, Commissioner Coder moved adoption of the November 10, 2010 meeting minutes, and moved adoption of the December 10, 2010 minutes, which passed by a vote of 6-0.

Participation in ANC Security Fund

On motion of Commissioner Coder, the ANC voted to participate in the 2011 ANC Security Fund, which passed by a vote of 6-0.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected by acclamation: Rebecca Coder, Chair (nominated by Commissioner Harmon); Armando Irizarry, Vice-Chair (nominated by Commissioner Coder); David Lehrman, Secretary (nominated by Commissioner Harmon); Eric Malinen, Treasurer (nominated by Commissioner Irizarry).

There being no further business, the ANC adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Appendix 1

A committee is established regarding Stevens School and tasked with crafting a vision for Stevens. This vision contemplates continuing use of Stevens as a school the renovation and viability of which will be capitalized through the private development of the surrounding District of Columbia-owned land.

The vision statement should be based on input from the Foggy Bottom and West End community, civic associations and other key stakeholders. ANC2A, once having accepted the committee's report, will then provide the statement to Mayor Vincent Gray and his economic development team.

The committee will be chaired by Commissioner Florence Harmon and will report its progress to the ANC at its next meeting.

Members of the committee will include, in addition to Commission Harmon representing Single Member District 2A-06:

Don McGovern, West End resident and member, Ritz Carlton Resident Association

Susan Trinter, Foggy Bottom resident and editor, FBA News

Ruth Schimel, West End resident

Mary Lord, Member, DC Board of Education for Ward 2

Richard Trogisch, Pincipal, School Without Walls

Desiree McCoy, Parent-Teacher Liaison, Francis-Stevens Education Center

Todd Determan, parent, Francis-Stevens Education Center

Stakeholders to be consulted include:

Councilmember Jack Evans

Foggy Bottom Association

Washington Circle Business Association

West End Citizens Association

West End Friends (Friends of Francis Field)

West End Library Friends

George Washington University

Appendix 2

**Re: Z.C. Czse No. 06-11/06/12
Application of The George Washington University
(GWU) for Approval of Second Stage PUD, modification
of a First Stage PUD, and Further Processing Approval
of an Approved Campus Plan
Square 103, lots 13, 14, 18, 809, 912, 813, 814, 819, and 820**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2A has examined the above-referenced application and has also heard both informal and formal presentation of the application by GWU officials at regularly scheduled ANC meeting with quorums present, most recently on December 15, 2010 and again on January 19, 2011, at which last meeting, with six of six commissioners present, ANC2A adopted the following resolution by a vote of 4 to 0, with two commissioners abstaining.

RESOLVED that ANC2A takes no position on the application and requests that the Zoning Commission review and approval be conditioned upon the following:

Given a construction plan calling for demolition work extending over 24 months and for the excavation of nearly 34,000 cubic yards of material [Exhibit A. C3], that the applicant present and share a construction management plan with nearby residents and businesses in order to mitigate the effect of the attendant noise and traffic disturbance.

Based on concerns raised by surrounding residents, the ANC wishes to see a transportation management plan that addresses pedestrian safety, particularly as it relates to mid-block ingress and egress of automobile traffic.

Although the Campus Plan calls for a management plan “to meet campus parking demands during construction” [quoted in Exhibit H, p. 6; see also Exhibit M, Condition C-14g, p. M-1], the application’s focus is on an eventual gain in the number of on-campus parking spaces, which obscures the negative impact upon the neighborhood of the short-term diminution of on-campus parking spaces likely to occur during a construction period that may extend over several years. The application should demonstrate how this interim problem will be monitored and managed so as not to impact negatively an already restrictive access to on-street parking in the surrounding neighborhood.

The application promises numerous environmental benefits but overlooks the environmental consequences of one problem that is identified in Exhibit H, pp. 20-21, esp Table 1, namely the queuing that is likely to occur during peak morning and afternoon traffic hours in the Public Alley for vehicles exiting the new underground garage. A plan for mitigating the impact on neighborhood air quality should be incorporated into the application.

The application proposes the acquisition by GWU of Lot 18 in Square 103 a modification of the first-stage PUD, through an exchange for the university-owned property at 524-526 22nd St. N.W., which will then become a fraternity house for Delta Tau Delta. Based on news reports, the ANC understands that the DTD-owned property was sub-leased to a second fraternity. The Commission would like clarity on where the second fraternity will be relocated within the campus boundaries.

And in conclusion, given that this is the first of sixteen proposed developments as part of the approved First Stage PUD, the ANC would like further clarification on the net effect of the final development planned for this specific site – the addition of classroom space, any net increase in students served, and any net increase in staffing. Specifically, the ANC wants to understand how this net increase will impact the caps of the Campus Plan in place through 2025, and how the University plans to manage to those caps.

The ANC designates any of its commission members to represent it before the Zoning Commission as it relates to this report.

Appendix 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Foggy Bottom and West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A



c/o West End Library 1101 24th St., N.W. Washington DC 20037

January xx, 2011

Anthony Hood, Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St., N.W. Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Minor Modification xx-xx/xx-xx

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

At its regular monthly meeting on January 19, 2011, with 6 of 6 commissioners present constituting a quorum, ANC2A heard a presentation by representatives of George Washington University asking for support of its application to the Zoning Commission for a minor modification to the first stage PUD related to its Campus Plan. The modification would allow the incorporation into the plan of three newly acquired properties, to be used for academic or residential purposes already authorized by the existing PUD.

ANC2A resolved to make no objection to this minor modification as it relates to the properties at 2004 G St., N.W., 2121 F St., N.W. and 2123 F St. N.W. given that these properties are located within the campus boundaries and the proposed uses consistent with the 2007 Campus Plan. The ANC respectfully requests that the university consider using the F Street properties for the purpose of housing fraternities now housed off-campus.

The ANC designates the chair to transmit this resolution in the form of a letter to the Zoning Commission upon receipt of a minor modification notice from the commission. However, the ANC reserves the right to reconsider this resolution should there be any material discrepancies between the modification presented to the ANC and the proposal submitted to the Zoning Commission.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Coder
Chair

Cc: David Avitabile, Goulston & Storrs

Appendix 4

Government of the District of Columbia
Foggy Bottom and West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A



c/o West End Library

1101 24th St., N.W.

Washington DC 20037

January 21, 2011

Catherine V. Buell, Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
1100 4th St., S.W. Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chair Buell and Members of the Board:

At its regular monthly meeting on January 19, 2011, with 6 of the 6 commissioners present constituting a quorum, ANC2A heard a presentation by representatives of George Washington University asking for support of its plan to restore and renovate the historic properties at 2000-2004 G St., N.W. on its Foggy Bottom campus.

The ANC reviewed the proposed project for these properties and does not have any objection. The Commission designated the chair to submit this resolution to HPRB in the form of a letter. If there should be any material discrepancies between the proposal as reviewed by ANC2A and what is submitted to HPRB, ANC2A reserves the right to reconsider this support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Coder
Chair