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## Minutes of the February 6, 2007 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes approved at the \_\_\_\_\_, 2007 meeting.

### Call to order

[7:07 pm] Gregg Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Present were five of the six ANC 1D Commissioners: Gregg Edwards, Joe Esparza, Dave Bosserman, Jane Zara, and Jack McKay.

### Public discussion

[7:08 pm] An extended public discussion session followed, with interest concentrated on the issues of historic preservation regulation in Mount Pleasant. **Tersh Boasberg** and **Kathy Henderson** of the Historic Preservation Review Board participated, and **Tim Denée** of the Historic Preservation Office. **Richard Lucas** spoke of the problem of the front exit and ramp for his aging parents on Walbridge Place. **Alberto Ferrufino** mentioned his historic preservation problems with signs for Don Juan's Restaurant. **Fay Armstrong** and **Jim Barnett** represented Historic Mount Pleasant at this meeting, while **Rebecca Miller** represented the DC Preservation League. **Barbara Flood**, a resident of Lamont Street, noted that she had purchased her home long before Mount Pleasant was declared a historic district. **Roberta Stewart**, a resident of Monroe Street, spoke as a handicapped resident of Mount Pleasant. Due to the high interest in this topic, the public discussion period was continued for over an hour, as these and other residents and visitors were given time to speak.

### Secretary's report

[8:22 pm] Jack asked for corrections to the minutes of the January meeting. No corrections were offered, and Gregg declared the minutes accepted.

### Treasurer's report

[8:23 pm] Joe said that, since he had not yet been through the financial training session, he would have no report to offer at this meeting. Joe offered a resolution stating that "the four officers of the commission are authorized to have their signatures on the bank signature card". *Resolution passed, five to zero.*

## Unfinished business

[8:27 pm] Jack moved that the unfinished business from previous meetings be tabled. *Motion passed.*

## Commissioner contact information

[8:28 pm] Jack moved “that the Commissioners can choose to have their email addresses and links to personal websites on the ANC1D website”. *Approved 5 to 0.*

## Historic preservation meetings

[8:31 pm] Jack moved that Jane Zara be named chair of an *ad hoc* committee to set up one or more forums investigating historic preservation. *Approved 4 to 0, one abstention (Gregg)*. Jane offered this resolution, after amendment: “ANC1D resolves to hold a public forum to evaluate Historic District regulation and operations. Further, a budget of \$1000 is appropriated to execute this meeting, with the discretion to hold further forums, a fund to be administered by the Chair (Jane Zara) of the committee.” *Motion passed, 5 to 0.*

## ABC Board hearing

[9:07 pm] Jack read this resolution as a priority item:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to approve the application of Don Juan's Restaurant for an entertainment endorsement to its liquor license; and that ANC1D Chairperson Edwards is appointed to represent this ANC to this effect at the public hearing scheduled for February 28, 2007.

Rationale: Karaoke is a form of activity that is welcomed and desired by a significant number of Mount Pleasant residents, and the provision of karaoke at Don Juan's Restaurant will not interfere with the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

*Motion passed, 5 to 0.*

## Restaurant voluntary agreements

[9:09 pm] Jack read this resolution as a priority item: “Resolved that ANC1D suggests to the restaurant owners that their applications for renewal of liquor licenses include statements of intent to rewrite their voluntary agreements.” *Motion passed, 5 to 0.*

## Intersection of 16th Street and Park Road

[9:14 pm] The commission considered this resolution:

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Department of Transportation that a left turn from northbound 16<sup>th</sup> St onto Park Rd be permitted for cars and busses with a left turn signal, with southbound 16<sup>th</sup> St traffic stopping at a red signal during phase of left turn. Additionally, a pedestrian light which signals “DO NOT WALK” during the left turn phase is needed.

Why: This is a deadly intersection, with one death in the last month. This change was recommended in the Columbia Heights traffic study.

Jack moved that this resolution be tabled until next month. *Motion to table passed, 4 to 1 (Gregg opposing).*

## Historic district legislation

[9:25 pm] Two resolutions were brought to the floor concerning historic district legislation. The first:

On expanding the interpretation of historic districting to allow for human need and comfort.

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Council to pass legislation that the Historic Preservation Office and the Historic Preservation Review Board, in balancing the considerations on approval of permits and negotiating changes in Mount Pleasant, give great weight to accommodating issues of human need, comfort, ethnic diversity and progress. More specifically:

1. The above factors shall be considered as trumping small changes in the overall design elements within historic preservation, or in upgrading features of secondary importance. Examples are sheltering overhangs to protect people from inclement weather, use of high quality and lower price elements version the original materials, and accessibility for the seniors and disabled.
2. Hardship cases (those involving substantial risk to life and limb, or risk major changes in life as needing to move residence) to should be allowed to changes major components (like the porch line in some row house streets) in Historic Preservation for up to 15 years renewable upon evidence of continuing hardship. If not renewed then those major elements would be restored at owners expense.
3. In the interest of diversity, grand-fathered elements within the historic district could be allowed to be maintained and improved within the same framework of design. For example, signage.

Why: Human life, comfort, and progress is more important that bricks and decoration.

The second:

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Council of the District of Columbia to add a personal hardship clause to the Historic Preservation law, possibly modeled on the policy of Cambridge, Massachusetts, namely that "the work may be approved without substantial detriment to the district or the building", and exceptions allowed "on a temporary basis and for the life of a particular applicant's use of the property, such as for the installation of features related to accessibility for persons with disabilities in a private residence."

Rationale: Many Mount Pleasant homes present difficulties in access to the disabled, front and back. As residents become physically limited due to age, illness, or accident, modifications to their homes may become necessary if they are to continue living in comfort and safety in their own homes. In some cases those modifications may fail the historic preservation test of being "compatible with the character of the historic district". There exists at this time no provision for deviating from that regulation, no matter the hardships that may be imposed on the residents. A more flexible policy, such as that which prevails in historic cities such as Cambridge, Massachusetts, is needed to provide relief to such residents.

Gregg moved that these resolutions be tabled until after our first public forum on this topic. *Motion passed by general consent.*

## Adjournment

[9:34 pm] Jack moved to adjourn. *Motion passed by general consent.*