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## Minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

*These minutes approved at the August 7, 2007 meeting.*

### Call to order

[7:28 pm] Gregg Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:28 pm. Present were three of the six ANC 1D Commissioners: Gregg Edwards, Angelia “Stormy” Scott, and Jack McKay. Gregg noted that this was not a quorum, so no official business could be transacted.

### Public discussion

[7:29 pm] **Mr. Sahr Bockai** described his problems with the property at 3130 16th Street, which he wants to raze in order to make way for a new building. He asked for ANC endorsement of a raze permit, so that he could put a stop to abuse of the property by vandals and vagrants. (At 7:38 pm, Joe Esparza arrived, bringing about a meeting quorum.)

### 3130 16th Street raze permit (1)

[7:54 pm] Jack moved that the rules be suspended so that the matter of a raze permit for 3130 16th Street could be considered immediately, rather than waiting until New Business was taken up. *Motion approved, three to zero (Gregg abstaining)*. Gregg asked Jack to formulate a suitable resolution; Jack suggested that the public discussion continue while he did so.

### Public discussion (continued)

[7:55 pm] **David Ahn** reported on the status of the Bestway. **David Vacca** reported on Council activities. **Steve Mudd** said that he was pleased to see more Mount Pleasant restaurants prepared to challenge their “voluntary agreements”.

### 3130 16th Street raze permit (2)

[8:08 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the DCRA to issue a raze permit for 3130 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

Gregg noted that the motion would require four votes for passage, according to our by-laws, and so would fail. Jack then moved that the motion be tabled until the August meeting. *Motion to table passed, four to zero.*

## **Bestway negotiations**

[8:12 pm] Jack moved that we take up a motion concerning negotiations for a Public Space permit for the Bestway Market at this time, out of the regular order. *Motion approved, four to zero.*

The following resolution was read by Jack, at Gregg's request:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Public Space Administration to refrain from action on the Bestway/Zion Holdings property in Mount Pleasant until discussions between Zion Holdings and the Mayor's Office are complete.

Why: critical discussions between the applicant and the Mayor's Office have been delayed by difficulties in scheduling times.

This market provides a vital service to many low-income Mount Pleasant residents, and harsh action by the Public Space Administration would cause substantial neighborhood difficulties. It is best to allow the ongoing discussions, necessary to resolve remaining questions, continue to completion before taking any severe action.

*Resolution approved, four to zero.*

## **Secretary's report**

[8:22 pm] Jack asked for corrections to the minutes of the June 5 and June 19 meetings. No corrections were offered, and Gregg declared both sets of minutes accepted.

## **Treasurer's report**

[8:23 pm] Joe said that he had no treasurer's report, and proposed that he meet with Jack over the coming weekend to deal with the overdue quarterly reports.

## **Web and Internet Coordination Committee report**

[8:24 pm] Joe reported that progress was being made on sample pages of an improved ANC1D Web site.

## **Commercial Corridor Committee report**

[8:25 pm] With Jack as acting Chair, Gregg reported on the extensive activities of the Commercial Corridor Committee, concerning liquor license voluntary agreements, and parking and transportation issues.

## **Permit the demolition of the front porch at 1816 Ingleside Terrace NW**

[8:47 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board to permit the demolition of the covered front porch at 1816 Ingleside Terrace NW.

Why: This row is already characterized by an almost complete absence of covered front porches. This particular dwelling is the second in a row of 16 homes, 15 of which have no covered porches, those porches having been removed long ago. The removal of the porch of

1816 makes that dwelling consistent with all of its neighbors, now Federal-style "flat front" houses.

The wood frame porches of these north-facing houses have been especially susceptible to wood rot and decay, leading to their removal years ago. This last remaining covered porch was in very poor shape, and would have required much more than simple repairs for its retention. Given that all the neighboring houses are without covered front porches, the removal of this last remaining one is not unreasonable.

*Passed by four to zero vote.*

### **ANC1D advises the ABC Board to accept the petition of CR licensees to terminate old VAs**

[8:48 pm] With Stormy as acting Chair, Gregg introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to accept the petitions of CR licensees in Mt Pleasant to terminate their old VAs, in order to end the restrictions on live music and live entertainment imposed by those VAs, and to bring about in their place a Responsible Hospitality Partnership.

Why: Circumstances and demographics in Mt Pleasant have greatly changed over the last ten years, and concerns about peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood no longer warrant restrictions on live music and other cultural expression. These restrictions have suppressed the multiethnic vitality of our varied neighborhood.

Furthermore, property values are threatened by a moribund commercial corridor. Increased activity in the commercial corridor, attracted by live music and entertainment, will enhance the vitality of the district and increase safety and security as well. The current absence of a healthy flow of people and traffic provides an opportunity for violence and crime, and there have recently been incidents of gang conflict on this corridor.

When people's cultural expression in an area is suppressed, they move elsewhere.

*Passed by four to zero vote.*

### **A moratorium, to allow preparation of a policy on facades in our commercial corridor.**

[9:12 pm] With Stormy continuing as acting Chair, Gregg introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Office and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to impose a moratorium on penalties and fines for failures to meet historic demands on already installed signs and other items on facades, whether permitted or not. ANC1D will generally support plans that involve all major affected parties to come up with new techniques and innovative approaches to be compatible with the historic feel of our commercial corridor, as well as to better deal with changing functional needs, and to express our resolve to operate as an innovation zone.

Why: Now merchants and some residents feel that they are being picked off one by one with little understanding of how they can cooperate with their neighbors while retaining significant participation in innovation and economic advancement. A more integrated approach should both improve the design quality of the neighborhood while providing incentives for investment and innovation by merchants and residents.

After some discussion, Gregg moved that this resolution be tabled until the next meeting, so that it could be considered at an upcoming Commercial Corridor Committee meeting. *Motion to table passed, three to zero (Gregg abstaining).*

## **ANC1D supports a policy for a Responsible Hospitality Initiative for alcohol licensees.**

[9:24 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D supports a policy for handling alcohol and related issues via the following scheme, temporarily called RHAMP, or Responsible Hospitality Allies for Mount Pleasant)

*VA's are handled via a democratically elected local council representing both business & residents.*

\* The de facto VA is based on the decisions of a local council selected by and overseen by an assembly that is democratically elected by licensees, merchants, property owners and residents, with divisions to assure that no one group can control the board. The elections are conducted by the local ANC, which participates only by oversight.

\* The 20 members of the assembly are allocated by the following percentages (5% means one rep);

15% CR and CT licenses, with votes allocated by the number of seats approved by the fire marshal.

10% A and B licenses, with votes allocated equally among licensees.

10% merchants holding retail licenses and leases with addresses on Mount Pleasant Street between Hobart and Park Road., NW.

40% residents of housing units whose property lines touch or lie within a 600 foot radius of a CR or CT license.

15% for resident of other housing units within ANC1D.

*VA's can be changed & can build common understandings.*

\* The single, simple voluntary agreement for all licensees within a license class will only contain a few stipulations. These will include the purposes, already passed by ANC1D resolution, plus an agreement to give full good faith efforts to engage employees, contractors, and entertainers first within a ANC1D or a neighboring ANC area, with second priority for DC residents.

\* The council will operate by statements and applications of policy. A statement or an application of policy will occur no sooner than six months after a similar one.

\* Policies should apply equitably to all, and be stated in ways that all can understand, and that form a comprehensive whole

*The focus is on both improvements & solving problems, both handled quickly, locally, informally.*

\* Instead of just focusing on nuisances, RHAMP can give equal priority to improvements that benefit both business interests and residents as well. This should encourage cooperation for a more vibrant commercial zone.

\* Complaints go to one local point rather than to the understaffed DC Board's office. If not resolved, the remediation can be decided by a local group quickly, informally, and at low cost.

\* Licensees, or residents that disagree with RHAMP, can appeal to the city agency with notice within a thirty day period at the end of one year, and thereafter at the three year renewal period. We expect almost all decisions to be settled quickly or locally amongst neighbors. With this system, the licensees or residents will seldom need to hire lawyers. Because we have to make this work, collegiality and trust tends to grow out of actual experience with real issues.

After some discussion, Gregg moved that the resolution be tabled. *Motion to table passed, four to zero.*

### **Authorization for CD purchase**

[9:35 pm] Jack requested approval for an expenditure of \$24.98 for blank compact disks and envelopes. *Request approved, four to zero.*

### **Authorization for membership fee**

[9:36 pm] Gregg requested authorization for \$300 for a one-year membership for himself in the Urban Land Institute. *Request approved, four to zero.*

### **Adjournment**

[9:42 pm] Jack moved that the commission adjourn. *Motion passed by unanimous vote.*