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Minutes of the October 2, 2007 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the November 6, 2007 meeting.

Call to order

[7:09 pm] Chair Gregg Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. Present were four of the six ANC1D commissioners, Gregg, Dave Bosserman, Jack McKay, and Jane Zara, constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:09 pm] **Merid Admassu**, owner of the Raven, brought up the matter of his application for a zoning variance. **Andy Namrow** spoke, concerning his historic preservation permit application for 1823 Newton Street. **Tarek Bolden**, the new Ward One Planner, introduced himself. **Sherrill Berger** and **Dave Vacca** spoke. **Mark Givens** said that he was here for 1811 Kenyon Street. **Jonathan Mellon**, of the Historic Preservation Office, was present.

Raven BZA application

[7:51 pm] Jane introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to approve the enclosure of the space behind "The Raven" at 3125 Mt. Pleasant St., NW, Case # 17733.

Reason: Commissioners have examined the site and preliminary plans and see this as an improvement to the neighborhood, especially with regard to trash and rodent management, and in reducing opportunity for crime.

Jack moved that this resolution be tabled until the next meeting. There being no second, this motion failed.

Motion passed, 3 to 1 (Jack voting "no").

Financial reporting

[7:58 pm] The Commission agreed that Jack would work with Jane to address our overdue quarterly report for the third quarter of FY07, due to the auditor at the end of August.

October meeting minutes

[8:02 pm] Hearing no corrections offered to the October meeting minutes, Gregg pronounced them accepted.

ANC annual budget

[8:04 pm] Jack moved this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D continues the budget allocations and authorizations of FY07 provisionally, until such time as a revised budget and authorizations are approved.

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

Approve personal service providers

[8:06 pm] Dave moved the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D approves expenditures that have been and will be made made to the following contractors: Barbara S. Hayden, Bill Boteler, Dunstan Hayden, Ana Carrera, Maria Guzman, Andrew Lars Almquist, Ian K. Durkin, Daniel E. George

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

Consent items

[8:09 pm] By a vote of 4 to 0, the commission agreed to the following resolutions as “consent items”, unanimously adopted without discussion:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Council to approve the renomination of Mr. Tersh Boasberg to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

Rationale: Mr. Boasberg has lately endorsed flexibility in the interpretation of the historic preservation law, in particular allowing the legal requirement for compatibility to include modern structures, versus rigid adherence to period styles. This Commission senses a new spirit of collaboration from the Historic Preservation Office, and the Historic Preservation Review Board, and looks forward to working with Mr. Boasberg in the months to come.

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Council to confirm Peter Feather to be Chair of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board), and authorizes Gregg Edwards to testify at the hearing in support of confirmation.

Why: Long-time Board member Peter Feather has the experience, the judicial temperament, the deep roots among both residents and merchants, and a strong sense of fairness, innovation, and reform to be an outstanding Chair of the Board. We particularly note his interest and personal investigation into best practices for alcohol regulation, including those documented by the Responsible Hospitality Institute.

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Council to confirm Linda Argo to be Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

Why: As deputy director, and more recently as acting director, Linda Argo has been energetic in engaging with ANCs and neighborhood civic groups. For example, she set up

the office of ANC coordinator and found a highly knowledgeable and experienced commissioner, Eric Rogers, to work full time on establishing and maintaining good relations with ANCs.

As Acting Director, she has enlarged the scope of that office by adding responsibilities to engage with civic associations and other neighborhood groups. She has personally intervened to immediately implement improvements, for example, interpreting laws and regulations regarding nuisance properties to now include individual units in apartment buildings.

BZA application, 1811 Kenyon St

[8:12 pm] Dave introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve Application No. 17704 for 1811 Kenyon Street NW, increasing lot coverage to 70%. Commissioner David Bosserman, or his designee, is authorized to present this report to the Board.

Rationale: ANC1D has reviewed the plans and inspected the site, and has neither issues nor concerns with the proposed zoning variance.

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

HPRB application, 1811 Kenyon St

[8:20 pm] Dave introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to approve permits for 1811 Kenyon Street NW.

Rationale: ANC1D has reviewed the plans and inspected the site and has neither issues nor concerns with the proposed work believing the modifications will fit in with the site and the neighborhood. The design for the addition and the garage are considered compatible and harmonious with the surrounding architecture. ANC1D endorses the HPO recommendation that the alterations be permitted.

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

HPRB application, 1823 Newton St

[8:32 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board to approve permits for the proposed alterations at 1823 Newton Street NW, with the third floor setback of 10 feet, as proposed by the developer.

Rationale: the style of this additional level is compatible with the style of the neighborhood, with only the additional height seeming to be problematical. But this building is already distinctive, being much larger than the adjacent row houses, so additional height does not disrupt any significant pattern. Furthermore, the buildings directly across the street (the new wings of the Stoddard Baptist Home) are even larger and higher. The level added to 1823 Newton is, with a ten-foot setback, only marginally visible from Newton Street, and is not incompatible with the adjacent buildings, and so should be permitted.

Dave moved that this resolution be tabled until next month. *Motion to table passed, 3 to 1 (Jack voting "no").*

ANC1D protests the liquor license application of Marleny's Restaurant

[8:57 pm] Gregg, with Dave acting as chair, introduced this resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) that it protests the granting of a license to Marleny's Restaurant, and does so on the basis of improving the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood. The commission is amenable to negotiating a Cooperative Agreement, and apparently the restaurant is as well.

Why: Marleny's Restaurant, Inc. (license application # 77454; trading as Marleny's Restaurant and Carry Out) is applying for a Retail Class "D" Restaurant license to serve alcoholic beverages. It is located at 3201 Mt. Pleasant Street NW, within ANC1D04.

With many reports of declining business and economic vitality on Mt Pleasant's commercial corridor, with the appearance of gangs, increased danger to pedestrians walking on many blocks that are almost empty at night, a coordinated approach is needed to both revitalize the creative life and economic vitality of this corridor, while not tempting the growth of an alcohol-based strip. ANC1D has for over a year been working with a wide range of merchants, owners, residents, and civic groups to explore the implementation of a Responsible Hospitality Partnership Process. Despite the many cultural divergences, and polarizations of long standing, it appears that progress is being made. An example is the general agreements found in the Board sponsored mediation for four of the licensees last month, and in many recent conversations among the various parties.

By entering into the protest and mediation process sponsored by the Board, ANC1D testifies that the process begun with other licensees should continue with this application, with a good chance for progress.

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

Stipulated license for Marleny's Restaurant

[9:03 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

ANC1D agrees that, if a request for a stipulated license is received from Marleny's Restaurant, the chair is authorized to issue a letter indicating no objection to the stipulated license.

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

Permits for 1747 Kilbourne Place NW

[9:09 pm] Dave introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) and the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to approve the application for modifications at 1747 Kilbourne Place NW.

Rationale: ANC1D has reviewed the plans and inspected the site and has neither issues nor concerns with the proposed work believing the modifications will fit in with the site and the neighborhood.

Jack moved that this motion be tabled until the next meeting. *Motion to table until the next meeting passed 3 to 1 (Dave voting no).*

Traffic study alternatives

[9:21 pm] Gregg, with Dave acting as chair, introduced this resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Department of Transportation and Office of Planning to *non-exclusively* consider among its alternatives in the Mt Pleasant Traffic Study the following items, considering feasibility, benefits, deficits, and environmental impacts:

1. Bike route across Mount Pleasant Street using Lamont Street, included the unpaved part from 19th St to Adams Mill Road, with a connection to the bike networks in Rock Creek Park and west via Klinge Road to Porter St. This route would connect to Columbia Heights via a non-automobile reopening of the 1500 block of Lamont Street to Hiatt Place, also including width for pedestrians, some vendors, and emergency vehicles. It could also connect to a north-south bike and low-impact vehicle route using a multi-purpose lane for the 3100 and 3200 blocks of Mount Pleasant St, and a bike lane suitably complementing a one-way south (up-hill) automobile lane on the steep portions of 17th Street in the block intersecting Piney Branch Parkway.

2. Restore Irving in Mount Pleasant back to a two-way residential street, with parallel parking on both sides. Shift the east-bound cross-town arterial traffic from Irving to Harvard Street; this may require a study of how to retime the signal lights to assure smooth flow at the intersections of Columbia Road and Harvard St, 16th and both Columbia Road and Harvard.

3. Increased time length of green light for east-west traffic on Irving at Mount Pleasant Streets, 16th and 15th.

4. Combining Asbury and Rabaut Parks to form a new park space at the intersection of Harvard and 16th Streets that could be up to three times bigger. Consider the feasibility, benefits and detractions of converting to park space the current roadways that could be closed as a result of this, while leaving one-way access from Mount Pleasant St to Hobart St and the alley to its south, plus maintaining a pathway between Harvard St and Mount Pleasant St for pedestrians, bikes and other low-impact vehicles, and small low-speed shuttles.

5. Widening the sidewalks, and providing more space for trees, by using some or all of the public space adjacent to the sidewalks, without narrowing the street of the 1600 block of Park Road.

6. Feasibility of a pedestrian oriented plaza for the 3200 block of Mount Pleasant Street. Vehicular access would be maintained, with a low speed limit, including one-way south bus and truck traffic, and a multi-purpose lane for bikes or low-impact vehicles, and deliveries. Lamont Park could be expanded by extending it south by about forty feet, and east by 17 feet, while moving the bus stop to the north end, with room for three bus lengths, a mini-multi-modal center (bike racks or rentals), a kiosk minding a reasonably priced toilet, and space for a few movable tables and chairs. Extend the east sidewalk by eight feet to support a more usable public space, one that could sustain outdoor dining, vendors, public furniture, bigger trees or other amenities.

7. Feasibility of greatly expanded public space and pedestrian priority street for the 3100 block of Mount Pleasant Street. This would include more space for trees, expanded sidewalks for outdoor seating at restaurants, vendors, and outdoor furniture and gatherings. Consider the feasibility, benefits and detractions of at least two schemes: 1) Two lanes south bound, one restricted to low-speed traffic, the second on the west side as a multi-purpose lane to serve bikes, low-impact vehicles, shuttles and mass-transit, and deliveries. 2) Three

lanes, each of ten feet, adding a north bound lane at the cost of public space and narrower sidewalks.

8. A Gateway garage next to Harvard Towers, with additional revenues to support an access shuttle, rehab of HT, and additional low-income housing in Mount Pleasant.

9. Study the feasibility, benefits and detractions of introducing diagonal parking on newly designated one-way streets on the north side of Harvard Street, the south side of the 1800 and 1900 blocks of Park Road, the west side of the 3200 block of 17th Street, the east side of the 3100 block of Mount Pleasant St. Study the feasibility, benefits and detractions of the changed traffic patterns, especially the potential for a major decrease in cross-town arterial traffic using Mt Pleasant, and the 1600 blocks of Monroe and Lamont Streets.

Why: These topics have been raised in various meetings, including the commercial corridor committee of ANC1D, over the last three years. The details are provided for illustrative concreteness as a result of a suggestion from the study contractor. Other alternatives may arise in future meetings.

Motion passed, 4 to 0.

Curbside parking auctions

[9:45 pm] The following item was separated from the above list, leading to the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Department of Transportation and Office of Planning to *non-exclusively* consider among its alternatives in the Mt Pleasant Traffic Study the following items, considering feasibility, benefits, deficits, and environmental impacts:

Auctions on street parking, with an equitable credit for each current Mount Pleasant household applicable to hire-car, shuttle or mass transit.

Gregg moved that this be tabled. *Motion to table passed, 4 to 0.*

Adjournment

[9:52 pm] By a four to zero vote, the commission agreed to adjourn the meeting.