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

These minutes accepted at the November 20, 2007 meeting.

Call to order

[7:02 pm] Chair Gregg Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Present were four of the six ANC1D commissioners, Gregg, Dave Bosserman, Jack McKay, and “Stormy” Scott, constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:02 pm] **Saskia van Groningen**, architect for a development at 3430-3432 Brown Street, provided a short introduction to the proposed work. Barbara Hayden spoke briefly. **Andrea Blatchford**, representing Hear Mount Pleasant, read a statement asking the ANC to withdraw its protests of the Mount Pleasant restaurants seeking liquor license renewals but not interested in offering live music.

Minutes of previous meetings

[7:11 pm] No corrections being offered by any commissioners, the minutes of the October 2, 15, and 24 meetings were declared accepted.

Treasurer’s report

[7:12 pm] Jane Zara arrived at this time, and a discussion of the ANC financial reports followed.

Consent items

[7:25 pm] By a vote of 5 to 0, the commission agreed to the following resolutions as “consent items”, unanimously adopted without discussion:

(1) Publish Historic Preservation Office staff reports

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Office to publish staff reports in the DC Register, and to post staff reports on its Web site.

Rationale: First, these staff reports provide informative guidance as to the standards and practices of the HPO in evaluating permit applications. This is helpful to future applicants, and to ANC commissioners for dealing with permit applications similar in nature.

Second, HPRB decisions frequently cite these staff reports as "approved", or "approved with modifications". Those decisions are unintelligible if the staff report is not accessible.

Third, there are instances when the actual construction deviates from the staff report, though that report is incorporated in the HPRB approval. Only if the staff report is accessible is it possible to identify construction discrepancies.

(2) Eliminate HPRB – Public Space Committee schedule conflict

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Department of Transportation Public Space Committee to revise their monthly meeting schedules, beginning in 2008, to eliminate the conflict between the two.

Rationale: The HPRB and the Public Space Committee currently meet on perfectly identical schedules: "on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in November and December, when the meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month". This presents difficulties to ANC commissioners attempting to monitor permit proceedings in their districts, as they must choose which meeting to attend. The meetings are in different locations, so it is not even possible to go quickly from one meeting to another.

Since these bodies meet only once a month, surely it is possible to choose meeting dates that do not conflict. Even if Thursdays are for some reason preferred by both committees, there are four Thursdays to choose from, every month.

Consent items passed, 5 to 0.

Twice-monthly meetings

[7:39 pm] Gregg then asked that this topic, removed from the "consent" agenda, be considered:

Resolved, henceforth ANC1D will hold its regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7pm.

The exception for meetings critical to apartment dwellers still continues.

Motion passed, 4 to 1 (Jane voting "no").

Voluntary agreements

[7:42 pm] Jack introduced this motion:

In the case of the three restaurant license renewals protested by Hear Mount Pleasant, namely Don Juan's, Don Jaime's, and Haydee's, ANC1D agrees to withdraw its protest upon the acceptance of version A of the ANC1D cooperative agreement by the licensee and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. For other restaurant license renewals, and new license applications, ANC1D agrees to withdraw its protest upon the acceptance of either version ANC1D cooperative agreement by the licensee alone.

Passed 4 to 1 (Jane voting "no").

Lamont Park

[8:22 pm] Gregg offered this resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Department of Transportation (dDoT) to include a strong focus on Lamont Park in its current transportation plan, and to strongly involve the following agencies and groups: DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); ANC 1-D. the Mt. Pleasant Business Association, Mt. Pleasant Main Street (MPMS), All-ways Mt. Pleasant Neighbors

Association (AMP), the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance, residents, schools, community-based organizations, bicycling clubs, housing, recreational and ethnic advocacy groups. ANC1D advises DPR and WMATA to allocate immediate and substantial resources to seize this small window of opportunity with the Mount Pleasant transportation study and prepare for major improvements.

Why: Lamont Park is a major focal point for the economic and social life of Mount Pleasant. Yet, it has been neglected for almost two decades, and has fallen into disrepair. Many local groups have proposed specific and thoughtful plans for renovation, including ANC1D, AMP, and MPMS (in the form of two charrette reports).

Only with a specific concentration on developing this area, with full collaboration by DPR and WMATA in the form of their technical staffs and executives, plus engagement with local groups, can we hope to proceed with a plan that integrates the necessary components in a form suitable for a long-term capital commitment from the DC government.

Jack moved that this resolution be tabled until the next meeting. *Motion to table passed, 3 to 2 (Dave, Gregg voting no).*

Permits for 1747 Kilbourne Place NW

[8:34 pm] Dave's resolution of the October 2 meeting, tabled at that time, was brought to the floor:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) 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.

Passed by unanimous vote, 5 to 0.

HPRB application, 1823 Newton Street NW

[8:41 pm] Jack's resolution of the October 2 meeting, tabled at that time, was brought to the floor:

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. The setback of the additional level preserves the continuity of rooflines, while the greater size does not disrupt any pattern, this building already being much larger than the adjacent row houses. 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. The additional units provided by this additional level, with the 10-foot setback, allows the building to have 10 units, whereas a 30-foot setback would reduce the number to eight. This would reduce significantly the housing capacity of the building, which currently has 14 apartments. Mount Pleasant is in need of apartments affordable to residents of relatively modest means, given the enormous price escalation of row houses in recent years. This ANC advises that this proposal, with the 10-foot setback, be permitted.

Passed by 4 to 0 vote (Jane abstaining).

Adjournment

[8:55 pm] By a five to zero vote, the commission agreed to adjourn the meeting.