


<p>Jane Zara, 1D01 jjzara@aol.com</p>	<p>Mount Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission</p>	<p>Gregg Edwards, 1D04 Vice Chair g@ge1.org</p>
<p>Oliver Tunda, 1D02 tunda21@hotmail.com</p>		<p>Dave Bosserman, 1D05 orilla@comcast.net</p>
<p>Jack McKay, 1D03 Secretary and Treasurer jack.mckay@verizon.net</p>	<p>P.O. Box 43529, Washington, DC 20010 Tel: 234-6646 Web: www.anc1d.org e-mail: anc1d@googlegroups.com</p>	<p>Angelia Scott, 1D06 Chair pastorascott@yahoo.com</p>

Minutes of the July 1, 2008 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the July 23, 2008 meeting.

Call to order

[7:13 pm] Vice Chair Gregg Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm, in the absence of Chair Scott. Present were ANC1D commissioners Edwards, Bosserman, and McKay, not constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:14 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion. At 7:16 pm, Oliver Tunda arrived, bringing about a quorum. At 7:26, Jane Zara arrived.

Minutes of previous meetings

[7:34 pm] No corrections to the minutes of the June 3 meeting were offered by the commissioners, so these minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:36 pm] Jack reported that the ANC had received on June 24 an allotment of \$7,861.45, which was the total for two quarters, with \$901.85 withheld due to expenditures disallowed for lack of proper documentation. Together with the allotment received in January, this ANC has received a year's allotment, less disallowances. Expenditures to date this calendar year total \$4,540.14, which amounts to about one-third of the annual allotment.

Nothing has yet been heard from the auditor concerning the audit of our finances.

Jack noted that checks totalling \$1810 were to be written after the meeting. No objections were voiced.

Jack presented the quarterly report for the third quarter of FY08, a period which had ended the day before. Immediate handling of this report was necessary because it would ordinarily be reviewed and due in August, but no business meetings are currently planned for August. Jack showed the cover page for the quarterly report, listing all of the documents on the CD. The Commission offered no objection to this quarterly fiscal report.

Gregg asked that the Commission offer special thanks to Jack for his work at developing new systems of accounting and reporting. *Approved, by unanimous vote.*

Jack asked that the budget, given preliminary approval at the June meeting, be given formal approval, as a Commission planning document. *Approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

Executive Director's Report

[7:44 pm] Neil reported on his work for the month.

Gregg moved that "ANC1D accepts the revised draft previously distributed by Neil, our executive director, as the basis for advertising the position and authorizes him to choose the best candidate so that we can move forward both of these activities with expedition." *Approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

[For reference, this is the "revised draft" cited above:

ANC 1D is requesting support from the Multicultural Community Service (MCS) to support our efforts to oversee a revived grants program that will allow Mount Pleasant residents to design and implement community inspired projects and manage basic bookkeeping responsibilities. ANC 1D is committed to sustaining and providing opportunities for a sustained civic engagement process working closely with the MCC and other local partners.

ANC 1D is seeking a highly qualified, detail-oriented and organized individual/s within MCS to perform the following functions in regards to a grant making program:

1. Responsible for tracking and maintaining electronic filing system to ensure the integrity of the grants process including easy oversight for the ANC and public. System will include creating new records, data entry of all grants, proposals and contact information.
2. Ensure that all contact information is current and accurate.
3. Maintain accurate and up-to-date information in the database of all reporting requirements for ANC grants.
4. Prepare monthly reconciliation of grants and provide this information to the ANC grant committee prior to monthly ANC meeting.
5. Prepare and coordinate the timely submission of acknowledgements of grants, gifts and pledges.
6. Generate routine financial reports.

We expect the total time commitment to be less than 3 hours per week.

Bookkeeper:

Additionally, ANC 1D is seeking support in (very) light bookkeeping including:

1. Working closely with ANC 1D Treasurer to maintain and balance finances/checkbook
2. Preparation of ANC 1D checks for signature and tracking accounts payable/receivable.

We expect the total time commitment for the bookkeeper to be less than 3 hours per month.]

Report accepted, 5 to 0 vote.

Committee Reports

[7:53 pm] The topic of low-cost or affordable housing was brought up, and it was proposed that the July mid-month meeting focus on that topic.

New Business:

Support and encourage ANC1D's midmonth neighborhood meetings

[8:04 pm] Gregg moved the following:

ANC1D authorizes the expenditure of up to \$200 each for its midmonth meetings (exception: \$400 for the first meeting), the funds to be spent for advertising, extra staff support including translators, and snacks. These meetings are a priority for the staff which should advertise for and select consultant services to assist towards the success of the meetings. Posted announcements must be in Spanish as well as English.

Why: These funds are intended to encourage greater neighborhood participation in a continuing series of ANC1D's meetings.

The recommendation for this emerged from the June meeting of the Committee for Planning and Consultation.

Approved, 5 to 0.

ANC1D advises dDoT to give priority to repairing sidewalks on the east side of 3400 Brown St NW

[8:11 pm] Oliver and Gregg together introduced this resolution:

ANC1D advises the DC Department of Transportation (dDoT) to give priority to repairing sidewalks on the east side of the 3400 block of Brown St NW, from Newton Street to Oak Street NW. These repairs should be given a much higher priority over that of the 1600 block of Park Rd NW, where the residents strongly prefer waiting for a design that meets their needs.

Why: Residents of this block of Brown St NW have complained for years about their troubles with this stretch of sidewalk. It would be a far better use of scarce public funds at this time to make repairs where residents need them, than to operate via a schedule set abstractly without regard for the interests and concerns of the people of the District of Columbia.

Approved, 5 to 0.

ANC1D advises dDoT to stop its plan to replace the street and sidewalks of 1600 Park Rd NW & instead devise a plan with MtP.

[8:17 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

ANC1D advises the DC Department of Transportation (dDoT) to stop its plan to replace the street and sidewalks of 1600 Park Rd NW, and instead devise a plan with Mount Pleasant residents that will better meet local needs. ANC1D asks for intervention from the DC Council and the Mayor to require dDoT to follow the ANC laws and the Mayor's Executive Order and engage with ANC1D and Mount Pleasant residents.

Why: The interested people in and around this block – with over 1200 adjoining residents, two schools, and a cross-town arterial – have hardly been consulted on the planned work. This is against almost all tenets of public policy, any legitimate practices of a non-dictatorial regime, and the ANC law - because dDoT has failed to follow the ANC law in providing adequate notice, in acknowledging ANC1D resolutions, and in answering ANC1D and neighbor's concerns in their particulars. dDoT is breaking the law, and an Executive Order.

Besides, local residents observe that the street and sidewalks are not in bad shape, and in small surveys have unanimously stated their preference for a delay so that the many deeper issues with the block can be constructively addressed.

Some of the sidewalks are very narrow, especially on the south side of the block.

In stark contrast to the blocks of Park Road immediately to the west, the streetscape on the east side is barren, with little support for large trees that would reduce the oppression of summer heat and would break up winter winds. Many of the few trees on the block are of nuisance varieties.

The approaches to the block are difficult, and the confusion over the turn from northbound 16th Street may have contributed to a pedestrian fatality, Carla Lopez, about a year ago. There are good arguments to suggest that this death might have been avoided if dDoT had been willing to discuss local resident concerns. These concerns apparently still have not been addressed in dDoT plans. What are they waiting for?

Currently underway is an expensive Transportation Study by dDoT; an immediate replacement would render useless a substantial part of this investment, and appear to constitute a misuse of scarce government funds.

These, and many other arguments, have been addressed to dDoT both by ANC1D and local civic groups. dDoT essentially has ignored them all.

There is still time for dDoT to stop ignoring residents' interests and needs, public policy, and the mandates of the law. This is the moment when dDoT could decide to do the right thing, and not just carelessly pour concrete.

Approved, 5 to 0.

(A short period of public discussion was invoked here while the following resolution was manually transcribed.)

Support overhaul of DC response to the bedbug problem

[8:43 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

ANC1D authorizes the expenditure of up to \$5000 and sets a high priority for Executive Director to formulate recommendations to deal with the bedbug problem, using Mount Pleasant as a “test bed” for an initial program. This project is a priority for the staff which should advertise for and select consultant services to assist toward resolving this problem.

Why: Since it is a basic function for ANCs to monitor the delivery of government services, and to initiate inquiries, and since Mount Pleasant is impacted by this problem, apparently ANC1D is left with defending the health interests of its many residents.

Approved, 5 to 0.

ANC1D Asks the DC Council and Mayor to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and Insist on Local Engagement

[8:57 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

ANC1D resolves to ask the DC Council, DC Public Libraries and Mayor to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and Insist on Local Engagement.

Further, ANC1D asks that the ANC law mandating acknowledgement and response to ANC1D resolutions be adhered to.

ANC1D advises the DC Council, the Mayor, the DC Public Library (DCPL) Board and administration to assure that DCPL changes its misleading practice of holding "community design" meetings that do not seriously engage residents and other users (like schools) in finding needs and interests.

ANC1D authorizes its staff to set a high priority for these changes, and authorizes an expenditure of up to \$3000 to clarify the legal situation sufficiently so that users can decide upon appropriate legal responses. The staff should advertise for and select consultant services to assist towards the success of this project, and seek other partners (on a matching fund basis) and participants.

Why: DCPL has ignored its duty and the law by not responding to ANC1D resolutions on this matter. Instead, DCPL at great expense has put on so-called "community design" meetings which have mostly been top-down lectures with negligible participation by users and residents, and with small and unrepresentative response from local residents. At the second such meeting, June 10th, Director Cooper noted that almost all of the decisions had already been made, and that much of the presentation by the architects had already been ruled out by her decisions. Similarly, there has been no response to the petitions by local civic groups.

This kind of pseudo public meetings appears Machiavellian and would be a farce except for the expense, and for the distraction away from a sincere effort at understanding and providing for the needs of potential users.

ANC1D notes that this misbehavior by DCPL seems to be part of a larger pattern around five branches and not just Mount Pleasant, a pattern that has aroused law suits, protests by other ANCs, and the mobilization of neighborhood groups.

ANC1D invites participation by other ANCs and civic groups to encourage or force DCPL to obey the law, and start to reap the benefits from a more progressive policy: Encouraging participation from all parts of the city towards greater literacy, public education, and an imaginative engagement in a creative civilization.

DCPL's current behavior belies its intended public purpose. We call on other organs of government and civic groups to persuade DCPL away from its patterns of misbehavior that so misrepresent the ideals of civilization supposedly carried in its collections and by its dedicated staff.

Approved, 5 to 0.

Support surveys of neighborhood interests and concerns

[9:06 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

ANC1D authorizes the expenditure of up to \$5000 to establish several prototype surveys of neighborhood interests and concerns as support and information inputs for ANC1D's series of neighborhood meetings and for setting priorities. This project is a priority for the staff which should advertise for and select consultant services to assist towards the success of the meetings.

Why: ANCs have a fundamental role in evaluating the quality and sufficiency of government services delivered within a neighborhood, and in originating recommendations for government actions that will better meet the needs of the people of a neighborhood.

For almost a century, surveys have been recognized as a fair, efficient and effective means of finding credible indicators of needs and interests. ANC1D currently has an unusually skilled Executive Director with notable experience in the field of assaying needs and interests.

This project could begin the formulation of neighborhood surveys that are relatively small and inexpensive, but highly insightful. After the methods are better proven, further operations should be much less expensive, so this expenditure should be considered to be a capital investment.

If successful, these methods should challenge agencies to think about applying modern means to assess their own effectiveness, and provide all ANCs with tools to more effectively fulfill its roles as advisors with the evidence and arguments the law requires.

Indeed, once a baseline of data and indicators has been established, it should be possible to greatly increase efficiency by judicious use of web-based assays as part of the gathering of information.

Approved, 4 to 1 (Jack voting "no").

ANC1D advises dDoT to design the Harvard Triangle Intersection to allow a later diversion of cross-town traffic to Harvard St.

[9:22 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution, stating that Stormy was a co-sponsor:

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Department of Transportation (dDoT) to design the Harvard Triangle Intersection to allow a later diversion of cross-town traffic to Harvard Street NW. ANC1D does not wish this change to delay the current schedule of work on this intersection.

Why: Irving Street NW throughout Mount Pleasant (save 60 yards) is both a narrow one lane street that is residential on both sides, and a cross-town arterial. It often backs up because at the eastern end in Mount Pleasant it must traverse in short order several often congested north-south streets: Mount Pleasant, 16th, 15th, and then 14th. The residences on Irving Street are thus afflicted with heavy traffic along with its dangers, noise, congestion, and increasingly, pollution.

Harvard Street offers an attractive alternative for cross-town traffic because it is much wider, the residences are set up on a bluff or are much further from the street. Further, this realignment of traffic could be part of a realignment of park space that would triple the size of Rabaut Park and create the largest contiguous DC park within Ward One, and at the four-corners intersection of the four ANC districts so that it would likely serve the whole ward. This larger park, at the base of Mount Pleasant Street could also help make Mount Pleasant's commercial corridor into a more attractive destination with many other benefits deriving from that.

Thus, a design that does not permit the alternative of diverting cross-town traffic onto Harvard could also preclude the possibility of many benefits, because it would cost many millions of dollars to change.

Approved, 5 to 0.

Adjournment

[9:38 pm] Dave moved adjournment. *Approved by 4 to 1 vote (Gregg opposed).*