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Minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the March 17, 2009 meeting.

Call to order

[7:17 pm] Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Scott, Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto, Tunda, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:17 pm] Meredith Begin, chair of the Bicycle Advisory Council, spoke. Residents Bob Dixon, Sherrill Berger, Joel Gwadz, Fay Armstrong, and Alice Kelly spoke.

Secretary's report

[7:25 pm] No corrections being offered to the January 6 and February 3 meeting minutes, those minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:25 pm] Jack reported that the Q1FY09 report had been turned in to the auditor, and then reported on the problem of bogus checks written on our account by somebody in Alabama. The sum taken with these fraudulent checks, totalling over \$1000, has been refunded by the bank. Correcting the problem required closing our account and opening a new account, for which a signature sheet was prepared earlier in the evening, with the assistance of Amy Kunz, a resident who is a notary public.

Jack reported on the preparation of 1099s for our contractors: \$1125 to Laticia, \$700 to Albert, \$14,556.46 to Neil.

Jack requested explicit approval for our reserving La Casa for two meetings a month, costing us \$50 a month, whether we use the room or not. *Consented to by the Commission.*

Jack noted that the following payments were due, and asked if there was any objection: Adebisi Odegbile \$54, Tony Grillo \$100, Albert Varela \$50, Gregg Edwards \$47.78 for refreshments (for the Feb 17 meeting). *No objections were stated.*

Jack noted that our annual allotment for the current fiscal year, \$17,526.80, was specified at the ANC Treasurer training session on February 7, so we are required to prepare our FY09 budget by the end of March.

Committee reports:

[7:30 pm] Gregg reported on the Commercial Corridor Committee. Gregg proposed that the informal meeting of March 3 have the Mount Pleasant Library as the stated topic, and that the meeting be held at the library. The commission agreed to that topic.

Gregg said that the meeting to start off the grants program has been shifted to March 9, at La Casa.

Unfinished business:

Gain easements, establish better trees on 1600 block of Park Rd NW

[7:36 pm] Gregg asked that he be permitted to withdraw this motion. *Permission granted, by unanimous consent.*

New business:

Extend weekend closures of Beach Drive

[7:38 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the National Park Service to extend the weekend closure of Beach Drive until approximately sunset on Sunday evenings; and further, ANC1D asks Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton to support this request.

Rationale: Current practice is to reopen the closed segments of Beach Drive to traffic at 7:00 pm on Sunday evening. By the end of April, sunset is an hour later than that, and by midsummer, daylight will continue until almost 9 pm. The opening of Beach Drive to traffic at 7 pm results in unexpected encounters of automobile drivers with bicyclists, walkers, and children on the road. This sudden mixing of cars and people on the pavement creates an obviously dangerous situation, and substantially degrades the recreational atmosphere of the park. It would be safer for people using the park for recreational purposes if the opening to traffic could be delayed during the months of daylight saving time until 8:00 pm or later, until recreational use of Beach Drive is naturally terminated by darkness.

Passed, 5 to 1 vote (Phil voting "no").

Approve Harvard Triangle Intersection project

[7:40 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D has no objection to the current plans for the Harvard Triangle Intersection Improvement project, as shown in the drawings dated January 21, 2009, and advises the District Department of Transportation to proceed with this project as expeditiously as possible.

Passed, 6 to 0.

Mount Pleasant Should Be In The Next Round Of Smart Bike Station Deployments

[7:42 pm] Phil moved the following:

Resolved: ANC1D urges DDOT to include the Mount Pleasant neighborhood in the next expansion round for the Smart Bike system. The Commission endorses "Lamont Park" (that public space bounded by Mt. Pleasant Street, 17th Street, and Lamont Street) as an excellent site for the station, but cautions that the Station should minimally encroach upon use of that space for public concerts, events, or open air markets. ANC1D advises that the rack be located north of the bus cut-through lane.

Rationale: Washington's D.C.'s nationally acclaimed Smart Bike bicycle sharing program has been a great success since it began operation on August 13, 2008. Many members of the Mount Pleasant community would like to have a Smart Bike location added to our neighborhood as described in the Lamont Park Concept in Volume 2 of the Mt. Pleasant Transportation Study conducted by DDOT.

As noted in the September 2008 Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is identifying 20 more locations around the District of the next expansion of the SmartBike program for 2009, with a possible deployment of 10 stations in the Spring and 10 stations in the Fall.

The proposed location of the Mount Pleasant station fits within the current network of approximately 1 mile between stations and it is close to the top three most utilized Smart Bike Stations (Dupont Circle, Reeves Center, and Logan Circle). Most of the subscribers of SmartBike are located in the North West Quadrant. The Mount Pleasant neighborhood has recently been identified by the DC Circulation Study as having poor connectivity and slower transit speeds than other nearby neighborhoods. The Mount Pleasant Neighborhood is an area of moderate employment area in close proximity to several high employment areas (Adams Morgan, Columbia Heights, Uptown Destination Area [Mid-City], and Woodley Park).

Providing a bicycle sharing station will immediately provide connectivity improvement and reduce transit times of members of the Mount Pleasant Community. Increasing utilization of the Bike Sharing network by connecting Mt. Pleasant residents to a network node benefits the entire city by providing alternatives that promote a healthy lifestyle, and reduces congestion and pollution.

Passed, 5 to 1 (Oliver voting "no")

Establish An ANC-1d Hospitality Committee

[7:49 pm] Phil introduced this resolution:

Resolved: ANC 1D establishes a Hospitality Committee for the following purposes:

1. Provide a regular forum for interaction between community groups, Mount Pleasant residents, business owners, and others who are concerned or interested in issues related to the hospitality industry in Mount Pleasant. The Committee will have a public meeting at least four times a year, which may be in conjunction with other hospitality-linked meetings.
2. Provide recommendations and advice to the Commissioners on issues related to Hospitality, ABC licenses, "Voluntary Agreements", stipulated licenses, and other Hospitality matters in Mount Pleasant.

3. Meet with all license applicants and work with them to receive timely approval for license applications and changes.
4. Advocate ANC1D's defined positions on managing alcohol-related issues in Mt Pleasant before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, the City Council, and other DC organizations.

The Committee will be chaired by ANC Commissioner Phil Lepanto, ANC 1D-01. Members of the Committee will be appointed by the Commission. All Commissioners may become members of the Committee by request. Commissioners may appoint two members from their Single Member District. The term of this Committee shall not exceed December 31, 2010. Establishment of this Committee requires a two-thirds majority of the Commission. If the Commission chooses to disband the Committee, a two-thirds majority must vote in favor.

Rationale: Many different neighborhood groups, business owners and this ANC spent a great deal of time over alcoholic licensing issues in Mount Pleasant. Discussions of these issues should not be relegated to discussions of specific licensing changes. Instead, the ANC should foster an ongoing dialog among stakeholders to address issues proactively and to learn about best practices in the Hospitality Industry across the country.

Furthermore, the ANC as a whole should not allow its regular meeting agendas to be overwhelmed by public input on these questions or by arguing over details of resolutions dealing with ABC issues each time they arise. Instead, this Committee can record public input and engage more of the community. Current Business Owners and entrepreneur's that wish to open businesses in Mount Pleasant crave consistency and certainty in process and procedure. This Committee would help ANC1D to provide that consistency and certainty.

After some discussion, Phil moved that this resolution be tabled indefinitely. *Motion to table passed, 6 to 0.*

Adjournment

[7:59 pm] Jack moved adjournment. *Approved by general consent.*