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

These minutes accepted at the April 21, 2009 meeting.

Call to order

[7:10 pm] Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Scott, Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:10 pm] Given the pressure to handle routine business before the arrival of Councilmember Graham, the commission agreed to postpone public discussion until later, and deal immediately with ANC business.

Secretary's report

[7:11 pm] No corrections being offered to the February 17 meeting minutes, those minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:11 pm] Jack reported that the 2005-2008 audit had yet to be delivered by the auditor, and that this delay was an indication that the auditor saw no substantial problems with our ANC, and thus felt no need to hurry delivery.

The new checks, required to replace the old checks, voided as a result of the check fraud incident, have yet to arrive. Twice they have been ordered, and twice no checks have been delivered. Hence the ANC is not yet able to write checks.

Jack requested approval for issuing the following routine payments: Adebisi Odegbile \$61.20; Tony Grillo \$100 (March 3, March 17 mtgs); Albert Varela \$50 (March 17 mtg). The commission agreed to these payments.

Jack asked also that the ANC pay for Gregg Edwards to attend the Urban Land Institute Washington Real Estate Trends Conference, \$150. *Approved, 5 to 0.*

(Councilmember Graham arrived at this moment, at 7:14 pm.)

Jack asked for permission to spend about \$160 for a portable screen, because using the wall for a projection screen was becoming problematical. Barbara Hayden said that there were plans for the meeting room to have a retracting screen installed. Jack withdrew his request.

Jack proposed that his draft budget be adopted as the preliminary budget for public presentation now, as required by law, then to be taken up and finalized at the next meeting. *Approved, 5 to 0.*

Library needs study

[7:18 pm] Gregg and Jack together offered this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Mayor, the DCPL and Board of Library Trustees, the DC Council, and CMs Thomas and Graham to intervene so that 1) the Office of Planning contracts for a short independent study of Ward One library-related needs and alternative means to meet those needs; 2) all current work by DCPL is suspended in the meantime.

Why: No orderly needs assessment, nor consideration of alternatives to meet the needs of ward one residents and businesses has been presented, and apparently no careful study has been performed. There are rough indications that the same resources now held for DCPL's plan could reach twice or even four times the number of contacts a month, and perhaps with even greater quality. The current plan seems to leave the eastern side of Ward One underserved, and much of Adams-Morgan.

Since geographic location of facilities is just one factor in likely changes in usage and impacts on users, the study should also address degree of need for access to information, adult education, and opportunities for economic development, and social and cultural barriers. Similarly, alternatives should be evaluated in terms of likely impacts on users, with greater weight on improvements for those now relatively disadvantaged in economic and social participation.

At this point the meeting was turned over to Councilmember Graham for a discussion of the library renovation plans.

Pedro Avilés and Sam Broeksmit presented reports.

The commission agreed to consider the following resolution as a substitute for the above:

Resolved, that ANC1D will work with Council Member Graham to present the concerns of the Mt. Pleasant and Greater Ward 1 Communities to the Library Board of Trustees and entreat them to come to the March 26, 2009 meeting to discuss with great forthrightness and earnestness, the following:

- 1) To abandon any consideration of expansion or additions to the existing Mt. Pleasant Library, except possibly to accommodate mechanical upgrades.
- 2) To restore and renovate the library within the existing walls
- 3) To examine the question of where else in Ward 1 library services are needed and might be located;
- 4) To consider alternative design concepts that might meet the needs of Ward 1.

It is the intent of the Commission that points 1 & 2 occur simultaneously with points 3 & 4.

Passed, 4 to 0 (Scott, Edwards, Bosserman, and McKay voting "yes", Lepanto abstaining).

Approve the zoning variance for 3150 17th St NW

[9:07 pm] The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve Application No. 17919 for 3150 17th Street NW, increasing lot coverage to 88.7%, decreasing the rear yard depth to 16 feet, to allow a rear addition on an existing building. Commissioner David Bosserman, or his designee, is authorized to present this report to the Board.

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

Jack moved that this be tabled until the April meeting. *Motion to table approved, 5 to 0.*

ANC Contractor hire

[9:10 pm] Gregg offered this resolution:

ANC1D resolves to engage Lina Parikh as an independent contractor under the oversight of the 1D Staff Group for three months, up to \$25/hour, and an average of three days a week. The initial focus will be the grants program and other administrative support tasks.

Motion passed, 3 votes to 1, one abstention (Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto voting "yes", Scott "no", McKay abstaining).

Truck access to Mount Pleasant Street

[9:14 pm] Gregg offered this resolution:

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Department of Transportation to provide a turning radius for a 75 foot truck from the 1600 block of Park Road onto the 3200 block of Mt Pleasant St, NW.

Why: The US Postal Service reports that this capability is required for the establishment of a service center. An Urban Land Institute on what makes for successful urban centers reported that this facility is required if retail is not to be at a competitive disadvantage for transportation services and costs. Thus, without this facility it seems likely that future prospects for 1D's commercial corridor will be substantially constrained, and even dimmed.

Passed, 5 to 0.

Grants policy review

[9:21 pm] Gregg moved that the commission take up the review of grants policy at the April business meeting. *Passed, 5 to 0.*

Adjournment

[9:22 pm] Stormy moved adjournment. *Approved by general consent.*