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Minutes of the April 4, 2006 monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes approved at the May 2, 2006 meeting.

Call to order

Chair Jack McKay called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 pm, noting the presence of five of the six ANC 1D Commissioners, Wayne, Gregg, Mitchell, Stormy, and himself, declared a quorum.

Chad Williams introduction

After some discussion of the limitations on ANCs in providing time for candidates for political office to speak, the commission agreed to allow Mr. Chad Williams three minutes, not for a political statement, but to introduce himself to the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Mr. Williams, a candidate for Ward One City Council, presented a short biography of himself.

Approval of minutes

Gregg moved approval of the meeting minutes for the March 7 meeting. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's report

Rich was absent, so there was no report from the Treasurer. (Rich arrived later, but the Commission was too much engaged in New Business to return to the Treasurer's Report.)

Public discussion

Ranjit Babra, arborist for the District Department of Transportation, Urban Forestry Administration, spoke concerning an elm tree at 3131 Adams Mill Road, 28 inches in diameter and healthy. The proposed repair of the collapsing retaining wall may require removal of this tree. The immediate issue is the funding of manual removal of the wall, which could be done without removing the tree, as opposed to using heavy machinery to take down the wall, which would entail destroying the tree. The additional cost of the manual procedure would be ten to twelve thousand dollars. The new wall would go 4.5 feet below the surface, and any roots extending under the present wall would have to be cut, potentially destabilizing the tree. **Alice Kelly**, also speaking for DDOT, said that the funds would be available for this process of exploration the saving of the tree. **Jennifer** (surname inaudible), a nearby resident, but not a property owner, spoke in favor of saving the tree. **Dave Bosserman** also supported the

preservation of the tree. **Dennis Marvich** recommended that this exploratory work be done as quickly as possible, in the interest of the homeowners who will be paying for the repair of the wall. Ranjit said that they had an estimate from the contractor for \$12,500 to manually remove the wall, and excavate the base so that the root structure of the tree could be determined.

Dora Johnson raised the issue of the proposal by WMATA to reduce east-west bus service in this area. **Alberto Ferufino** expressed his concern about people in the neighborhood able to force changes, the example being the destruction of the Bestway driveway. He reported that the ABC Board had sent him a letter stating that, in order for his restaurant to offer karaoke, an entertainment endorsement to his liquor license would have to be acquired.

Standing committee report: Commercial Corridor

Gregg reported on the April 5 meeting of the Commercial Corridor Committee, which he said was well attended. He requested a midmonth meeting of the ANC to deal with some of the issues raised in this committee, and the Long Range Planning committee. This special meeting might be preceded by a neighborhood meeting. Stormy agreed that most of the issues raised might be dealt with in a special midmonth meeting, while at this meeting we take immediate action in support of Alberto Ferufino for karaoke. Mitchell called for greater effort to bring other views into committee meetings.

Special committee report: Open Resource Web Site

Gregg provided a short report on the Web site.

Special committee report: Long Range Planning

Gregg said that he had circulated an extensive draft of a report to the Office of Planning. He requested that the commissioners review this draft and suggest changes. He said that he would e-mail this report, and that replies were needed by next week.

1834 Park Road zoning variation request

Gregg moved, after friendly amendment, that “this Commission advises the Office of Zoning that it has no objection to the issuance of these permits. We have no issues or concerns with this application, number 17506, for the enclosure of a porch at 1834 Park Road.” *Passed unanimously.*

Increase of authorization for Kenyon/Irving bus stop bench

Stormy moved that the previous authorization for the purchase of a bench be increased to as much as \$600 total, for the purchase of a six-foot bench for the Kenyon/Irving bus stop. *Passed unanimously.*

Storage cabinet purchase

Gregg moved that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$700 the purchase of a lockable cabinet for secure storage of the ANC electronic equipment, to fit inside a closet at La Casa. The motion was amended to include a formal letter of request from the chair of the ANC for storage space inside La Casa, Gregg and Jack to collectively agree on a suitable cabinet. *Passed unanimously.*

(Rich Wysocki arrived at this point, at about 8:40 pm.)

Adams Mill/Irving/Kenyon Bus Stop

Gregg introduced a motion which read, after considerable modification, that the ANC “call on DDOT to implement immediate measures to enhance the safety of pedestrians walking in the bike lane between the rear of Harvard Towers and the Kenyon/Irving bus stop.” *Passed unanimously.*

3131 Adams Mill Road elm tree

Mitchell moved a resolution concerning the elm tree at 3131 Adams Mill Road:

ANC 1D resolves to support DDOT/UFA's proposal to manually take down the wall at 3131 Adams Mill Road NW in order to study the feasibility of preserving the large elm tree in the public space in front of the property.

Why: a comprehensive study of the removal and the ultimate fate of the tree will contribute to a full range of constructive options in order for this ANC, Mount Pleasant, and the District of Columbia to make an informed decision. Since the tree is situated on public space but also resides in front of residential property a proper review is necessary in order to avoid the conflicts of individual interests with the neighborhood and the District of Columbia's interests. Therefore the consequences of this decision merit the development of an impact study before a decision by this ANC can be rendered. *Motion passed, four votes for (Wayne, Mitchell, Rich, Jack), one abstention (Gregg).*

(Stormy left during the discussion of this resolution, before the vote.)

Proposed reductions in Metrobus service

Gregg moved the following resolution:

ANC1D resolves: If there are no alternative public transit services to major employment centers along the routes of the current H series, then WMATA should provide at least one bus per two hours until 2 AM on weeknights.

Why: We have many local residents that depend upon these routes for their economic viability.

Motion passed unanimously.

Don Juan Restaurant entertainment endorsement

Gregg introduced the following resolution:

ANC1D resolves to advise the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration to approve an application for an entertainment endorsement from Don Juan Restaurant, Inc. to permit the use of karaoke. It further advises the approval of any application for live music and dancing.

Why: The requested uses will not significantly disrupt the peace, quiet, and order of Mt. Pleasant since noise is covered by other regulations, and especially because the owner has a record of prompt handling of complaints.

Passed unanimously.

Adjournment

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 pm, after two hours and twenty minutes.