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## Minutes of the July 10, 2006 monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

*These minutes approved at the xxxxx, 2006 meeting.*

### Call to order

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Present were Commissioners Gregg Edwards, Mitchell Backfield, Wayne Kahn, and Jack McKay, making a quorum.

### Public discussion

The meeting was opened to public discussion. **Jean Carpenter**, a resident of 18th Street, mentioned problems of graffiti in the alley between 18th and Mount Pleasant Street, and the two derelict houses on Newton. (Commissioner Wysocki arrived during this discussion, at 7:07 pm.)

### Approval of minutes

Wayne moved that the June 6 meeting minutes, as revised by Gregg, be approved. Gregg declared the minutes approved, in the absence of any objection.

### Treasurer's report

Rich showed the financial report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2006. The report was formally accepted by a five to zero vote.

### Public Safety and Security Committee report

Mitchell reported on activities of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

### Agenda organization

Gregg proposed that the matters of the 1834 Park Road BZA filing, and new signature cards, be considered as "consent" items; that foot patrols, the traffic study, and bulk trash collection be on a "priority" agenda, with 15 minutes allocated to each "priority" topic.

## Unfinished business

Rich moved to table indefinitely Gregg's previous motion concerning non-voting ANC delegates, carried forward from the December meeting. *Motion approved by unanimous vote.*

## Consent item: 1834 Park Road

Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC 1D agrees, after reviewing the minor changes to the Board of Zoning Adjustment filing for 1834 Park Road NW, that its report of "no objection" to BZA Application No. 17506, passed at the April monthly meeting, remains valid.

*Passed by five to zero vote.*

## Change of Commission Secretary

Wayne Kahn offered his resignation as Secretary of ANC 1D. Rich nominated Jack McKay as his successor. There were no other nominations, and this selection was approved by a five to zero vote.

## Consent item: signature cards

Rich moved the following:

Resolved: That ANC 1D submits the following changes to the existing bank signature card with the Bank of America: Gregg Edwards, Chairperson, Angelia D. Scott, Vice Chairperson, Jack McKay, Secretary, Richard Wysocki, Treasurer.

*Passed by five to zero vote.*

## Priority item: Mount Pleasant foot patrols

Jack introduced a resolution concerning Metropolitan Police foot patrols, and the MPNA-sponsored LiveLink program. Because the discussion ran well beyond the allotted time, Mitchell moved that this resolution be tabled until the end of the meeting. *Motion to table to the end of the meeting approved by a three to two vote, Gregg, Mitchell, and Wayne voting "yes", Jack and Rich voting "no".*

## Priority item: Mount Pleasant traffic study

Rich moved that "each commissioner within ANC 1D may separately provide input to the proposed DDOT Traffic Study to the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood. Input from various Mount Pleasant neighborhood organizations is encouraged." *Motion passed by five to zero vote.*

## Priority item: bulk trash collection

Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Department of Public Works to reconsider its new policy of bulk trash collection from in front of residences, instead of from alleys behind residences.

**Why:** As of this past March, DPW instructs residents requesting bulk trash collection "to place the items in front of their property only". This new policy has led to a number of complaints from Mount Pleasant residents, who object to unsightly bulk trash being deposited in front of homes on our residential streets. Besides being unsightly, the bulk trash clutters sidewalks and damages cultivated treeboxes. Where parking is permitted on the street, the parked cars will interfere with collection of the bulk trash. Where parking is not allowed, because the curb lane is a traffic lane, bulk trash collection will block traffic.

The new policy is based on the thesis that “the large trucks used to pick up bulk items are too big or too ungainly to fit through narrow alleys”. But the regular trash collection trucks, which are quite large, manage to maneuver through our alleys. ANC1D advises DPW to identify alleys which are especially problematical, and to limit the new policy to residents along those alleys, while restoring the previous policy of bulk trash pickup from alleys where the alleys are not especially narrow.

*Resolution approved by five to zero vote.*

### **Priority item: live music and voluntary agreements**

Wayne introduced this resolution:

*Resolved*, that ANC 1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to delete the complete and absolute prohibition clause of live music, live entertainment, and disk jockeys from voluntary agreements attached to Class CR licenses in Mount Pleasant.

**Why:** The Mount Pleasant commercial strip is all too quiet at night, so quiet that people returning home late at night, from the bus stop or the Metro station, are concerned about having to walk nearly deserted streets. Doing away with the absolute ban should bring more patrons to Mt. Pleasant Street. In addition, elimination of the absolute ban will allow for a fair, case by case review of license applications.

The number of restaurants that would be capable of offering live music or entertainment in Mount Pleasant is small, and their dimensions are also small, so any increase in patronage of Mount Pleasant restaurants due to the added attraction of entertainment would be modest. Excessively loud music, which can be caused by recorded audio systems as well as live bands, is limited by existing noise regulations, and so is not a valid objection to live music in restaurants. Residents of Mount Pleasant have complained that, if they want live music or entertainment with their meals, they must trek all the way to Adams Morgan, or to the U Street corridor. Some Mount Pleasant residents want live music and entertainment here. Our restaurants should be permitted to serve those residents, so long as the effect on "peace, order and quiet" in this neighborhood is modest and tolerable. ANC 1D will continue to work with the business community to help assure that is the case.

ANC 1D believes that permitting live entertainment and live music will significantly enhance the economic viability of businesses along Mt. Pleasant Street, which have reported substantial losses of patronage and revenue in recent years. Furthermore, the ethnic flavor and cultural diversity of Mt. Pleasant are suppressed by these prohibitions.

*Resolution passed by five to zero vote.*

### **Priority item: Mount Pleasant foot patrols**

This being the end of the meeting, Jack's foot patrol motion was brought back to the floor. After some revision, the text of this resolution was:

*Resolved*, that ANC1D advises the Metropolitan Police Department to provide adequate personnel for continuation of its Mount Pleasant foot patrols.

**Why:** Residents have observed a decline in the presence of foot patrol officers in recent months. The Metropolitan Police have indicated that shortfalls in the support of foot patrols have come about because of staff shortages and an internal policy of giving priority to officers sitting in patrol cars awaiting calls for service.

ANC1D asserts that this is a misplacing of police priorities. The foot patrol officers have been very effective at reducing disorderly conduct and harassment of residents by certain street people, and at reducing intimidation of residents by gang members. The cutback in foot patrols has led to a resurgence of these problems, which have a substantial effect on the lives of Mount Pleasant residents.

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department to give officers sitting in squad cars awaiting radio calls for service is an inferior use of limited personnel resources. In most cases, officers responding to calls arrive long after the incident in question, and can do little but take a report. This is ineffectual in deterring crime or capturing offenders. Conversely, police officers can be very effective at deterring bad behavior on the street, by creating an atmosphere of discipline on the street, persuading would-be offenders to cease their bad conduct, or go elsewhere. Furthermore, officers put in close contact with the residents, rather than sitting in isolation inside a squad car, create an atmosphere of trust and legitimacy with the residents, including some who tend to distrust authorities.

ANC1D asserts that it is in the interest of the police, as well as the neighborhood, to assure full staffing of the foot patrol effort in Mount Pleasant.

*Passed by five to zero vote.*

## **Adjournment**

Rich moved adjournment, passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.