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Minutes of the December 5, 2006 regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes approved at the _____, 2007 meeting.

Call to order

[7:08 pm] Secretary McKay called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Present were four of the six ANC 1D Commissioners: Wayne Kahn, Mitchell Backfield, Stormy Scott, and Jack McKay.

Public discussion

[7:08 pm] **Mario Cristaldo** spoke in support of a Manna project at 3125 Mount Pleasant Street. (Chair Edwards arrived as Mario began to speak, at 7:09 pm.) **Mohamed Shafi** said that he was a former tenant of this building, which was vacated after a fire, and hoped to return to it. **Elinor Hart** spoke in support of the Manna project. (Rich Wysocki arrived during the public discussion, at 7:15 pm.) **Ryan Justis** spoke in support as well. Two others, names unintelligible, also spoke in support. **Dave Bosserman**, commissioner-elect for 1D05, described the planting of trees in "Mount Pleasant Park". **Jim Dickerson**, president of Manna, spoke concerning the 3125 Mount Pleasant Street project. **Gladys Mitchell** spoke about bike lanes, and a traffic light at 18th and Kilbourne. (Jack responded that there are no plans for a traffic light at that intersection, there is only an outstanding ANC request for a four-way stop.) **Wayne Kahn**, speaking as a resident, mentioned the Christmas tree sale set for Bancroft the following weekend. (Mrs. Mitchell complained that the signs for the sale were only in Spanish; Wayne denied that that was the case.) **Barbara Hayden** announced the Mount Pleasant Main Street annual meeting, the following Thursday. **Joe Martin**, now Ward One Services Coordinator, said he was working hard on the problem of street and alley lights being out. **Alberto Ferrufino** described his problems in getting an entertainment endorsement to his liquor license, and the recent visit from an ABRA inspector demanding its return. He said that, on the advice of his lawyer, he would not surrender the endorsement without a written request, and explanation, from ABRA. Gregg agreed to attend a meeting at Don Juan's on this issue as the representative of the ANC. **Steve Mudd** read several resolutions from All-Ways Mount Pleasant.

Secretary's report

[7:41 pm] Jack noted that the draft minutes of the November meeting had been distributed to the commissioners, and asked if the commissioners had corrections to offer. Gregg asked that the text of a resolution be changed, to be consistent with the discussion on the audio recording. Jack objected, noting

that the text as displayed by the projector was that which had been voted on, and approved, by the commission. After considerable debate of the question of which record of a meeting was authoritative, the commission agreed to accept the minutes as Jack had prepared them.

Treasurer's report

[7:56 pm] Rich Wysocki said that the second quarter financial report had been accepted, and our fourth quarter allotment released. The third quarter report has been submitted, and Rich offered copies of the fourth quarter report. *The fourth quarter financial report was formally accepted by a unanimous vote of the commission.*

Agenda prioritization

[7:59 pm] Gregg initiated a discussion of the agenda items, and time allocations, for the evening, with a request for two changes to the agenda determination procedure. First, when the time for any one element is extended, the consequences of that extension must be specified, as either time taken from new business, or an extension of the duration of the meeting. Second, any commissioner can propose any item to the priority agenda, with the overall list of priority items subject to majority vote of the commission. These changes were accepted by general consent of the commission.

Consent item: Petty cash replenishment

[8:03 pm] Jack moved that the commission provide a check for \$118.21 to replenish the petty cash fund, that amount equaling the total for which petty cash claim forms were in the Treasurer's records. *Approved by six to zero vote.*

Agenda prioritization (continued)

[8:05 pm] Gregg requested that the commission select priority items for the meeting. Four were selected, including the entertainment endorsement for Don Juan's, funds to attract broader participation in the "TransSummit", the support of Manna's development at 3125 Mount Pleasant Street, and the question of Historic Preservation Office approval of a ramp at a Walbridge Place residence. The commission agreed to deal with all four, with the duration of the meeting extended as necessary.

Priority item: Don Juan's entertainment endorsement

[8:09 pm] Gregg moved this resolution concerning the entertainment endorsement for Don Juan's Restaurant:

It would be unfair and a loss to our neighborhood if ABRA pulls the entertainment endorsement of Don Juan's.

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) to approve the application of Don Juan's Restaurant for an Entertainment Endorsement to its liquor license for karaoke, and advises ABRA furthermore to issue a stipulated license to Don Juan's Restaurant without delay. If this issue does require placarding, then the current endorsement should not be pulled until there is a decision to the contrary.

Why: Karaoke is a form of activity that is welcomed and desired by a significant number of Mount Pleasant residents, and the provision of karaoke at Don Juan's Restaurant will not interfere with the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

While the recent issuance of an entertainment endorsement might have some element of administrative defect, this is not the fault of the licensee, and so it is unfair to the licensee to pull the endorsement while the matter is being decided. The very fact that there have been no

unresolved problems with the use of the current endorsement argues that the only substantial loss if the license is pulled would be to our neighbors who patronize the restaurant, as well as the licensee.

Passed 4 to 0 with Rich and Mitchell abstaining.

Priority item: Support of Manna's Development of 3125 Mount Pleasant Street

[8:29 pm] Stormy moved this resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D advises the Department of Housing and Community Development to support the redevelopment of 3125 Mount Pleasant Street NW by Manna, Inc.

Why: ANC1D considers affordable homeownership one mechanism for protecting long-term residents from being displaced from the neighborhood. Stakeholders including Manna, the developer, have worked hard to secure all necessary funding for the project. Neighborhood residents want to see this building renovated and occupied to be part of a vibrant business corridor.

Passed 5 to 1, Gregg voting "no".

Historic Preservation Office, Walbridge Place ramp

[8:48 pm] Jack moved this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Office to allow permits for the construction of a wheelchair ramp at 3228 Walbridge Place, including modifications to the porch to permit clear passage.

Why: The special need for this ramp is compelling, namely that a longtime resident of this home suffers from limited mobility due to advanced age and strokes, and needs this ramp as an emergency exit. The resident is virtually confined to the basement by her disabilities. With only one exit to the outdoors, this basement is a fire trap, and presents a life-threatening hazard to this occupant that would not be tolerated in other circumstances. These special needs far outweigh the esthetic value of architectural uniformity of front porch structures along this row.

Passed unanimously, 6 to 0.

Priority item: Authorize funds to attract and support broader participation in tranSummit.

[8:50 pm] Gregg moved this resolution:

Resolved that ANC1D authorizes the expenditure of up to \$500 in expenses to support the provision of facilities that will attract and allow greater participation in the tranSummit scheduled for 13 December 2006, and designates Commissioners Edwards and Scott to jointly make the necessary arrangements.

Why: The prime intent is to provide funds for extra space, chairs, hall-time (if the meeting runs over), translators, and outreach so that this critically important meeting can engage a much larger portion of our neighbors than ordinarily attend our meetings.

Passed 4 to 0, Jack and Mitchell abstaining.

Unfinished business: postal service

[8:57 pm] Wayne moved that the postal service resolution be withdrawn. *Approved by 5 to 0 vote, Gregg abstaining.*

Unfinished business: Exploration of alley & courtyard-oriented development

[8:59 pm] Gregg's resolution from the September meeting was brought up for discussion. After some discussion, Jack moved that this item be tabled and an item from the New Business list be brought up, after which discussion of this item could resume. *Motion to table passed by general consent.*

New business: Invite Fiesta DC to make Mount Pleasant its long-term home

[9:11 pm] Gregg moved that "ANC1D resolves to invite Fiesta DC to make Mount Pleasant its long-term home."

Passed unanimously, 6 to 0.

Unfinished business: Exploration of alley & courtyard-oriented development

[9:14 pm] Discussion of the alley and courtyard-oriented development resolution resumed. The commission agreed to separate out this element for consideration:

ANC1D asks the Department of Public Works to prohibit dumpsters within three (3) feet of the alley or the right-of-way of Alley ID = 6253260801.

Why: The narrowing of the alley by dumpsters can effectively close the alley to access by delivery cars, trucks, and emergency vehicles.

Passed unanimously, 6 to 0.

Unfinished business: Exploration of alley & courtyard-oriented development

[9:22 pm] The commission agreed to the separation of this additional element of the resolution:

ANC1D asks the Office of the City Administrator and the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development to support the improvement of the area around Alley ID = 6253260801 to explore community, cultural, and economic development via encouragement of innovative uses of the alley (called here zAlley) and a former cul-de-sac (called here ZaPlaZa) by supporting formation, and when deserved, start-up funding of a not-for-profit corporation – with membership broadly open to residents, property owners, and merchants of the block – to develop this area.

Why: DC has generously funded the Main Streets and Great Streets programs. For a very small fraction of that cost, it may be possible to open an even greater resource for creating good and meaningful jobs.

Passed 5 to 1, Rich opposing.

Announcements

[9:36 pm] The floor was opened for closing statements, given that this was the final meeting for three of the six commissioners.

Adjournment

[9:44 pm] By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.