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Minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the July 21, 2009 meeting.

Call to order

[7:22 pm] Vice Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:23 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion. Tom Prassa, resident of 1927 Kenyon Street; Alberto Ferrufino, proprietor of Don Juan's Restaurant; Joe Palchikio(??) community representative from Mayor Fenty's office; and Bob Spencer, of the Stoddard Baptist Home, spoke.

Secretary's report

[7:40 pm] Jack noted that minutes of the May 19 meeting had been distributed. No corrections being offered, the minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:40 pm] Jack asked if there was any objection to the following payment: Tony Grillo, \$50 (postering for the June 16 meeting). No objections were voiced.

Commercial corridor committee report

[7:41 pm] Gregg presented a commercial corridor committee report.

Informal meeting

[7:47 pm] The commission agreed, with a 4 to 0 vote, to have no informal meeting in July.

Unfinished business: Add the power to assess fines on public utilities to the Public Service Commission

[7:48 pm] Gregg moved that this be tabled until the next business meeting. *Motion passed, 4 to 0.*

Public Space permit for a Sidewalk Café at Don Juan's Restaurant

[7:33 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs that it has no objection to the issuance of a permit for an unenclosed sidewalk café at Don Juan's Restaurant, at 1660 Lamont Street NW; further, ANC1D advises the Public Space Committee to approve the application, with the proviso that a suitable pedestrian passageway space be kept between the café and the bus shelter.

Why: Many residents of Mount Pleasant have expressed interest in sidewalk cafes in the Mount Pleasant Street commercial area. Such a café would promote a neighborly and pedestrian-friendly atmosphere on the street.

Motion passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Dave, Phil, and Gregg voting "yes").

Sidewalk Assurance Act

[8:03] Phil moved the following:

RESOLVED: ANC 1D advises Council Member Graham and the City Council as a whole that it supports Council Bill B18-0191, the "SIDEWALK ASSURANCE ACT OF 2009".

WHY: Pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks are vital to ensuring that all citizens have safe access to the public roadways. This legislation is needed to cement current policy at the District Department of Transportation.

After some discussion, Phil moved to table the motion until the next regular meeting. *Motion to table passed, 4 to 0.*

Library Design Tweaks For Fire Safety

[8:12] Gregg and Phil together introduced this resolution:

RESOLVED: ANC1D acknowledges the hard work and effort by DCPL design staff to make changes to the design of the Mt. Pleasant Library Renovation Plans, referred to as Design Scheme F and presented at the meeting on June 3rd at the Mount Pleasant Library and attended by Council Member Jim Graham and several members of ANC 1D.

ANC 1D advises the Mayor, DCPL, DCRA, and DCFEMS that despite great progress, we still have significant concern that the current designs of a patio, garden and access ramp along Lamont Street permanently forestall emergency access by large fire-fighting equipment, thereby potentially endangering many residents of the ten or more multi-story apartment buildings to the south. The first priority should be the safety of the residents in these buildings in case of fire. ANC1D requests the DC Council to assist in clarifying and in providing any law changes needed to secure an access route without serious blockages (no cars or masonry fences) that would be in keeping with Appendix A of the most recent International Fire Code.

WHY

Over a thousand residents are at risk in case of a fire spreading in one or several buildings in this closely packed area. Almost all of the buildings lack sprinklers and modern fire exits, so fires can quickly isolate and overwhelm many residents. It is essential that a ladder truck be able to reach residents from the space between the buildings. Given the condition of most buildings, a few minutes saved by removing blockages could mean saving many lives.

DCPL's current design should be modified to accommodate a minimal barrier along the South side of Lamont Street and the Library's Western property line. DCRA and the DC Council must work with DCPL and other property owners to accommodate an emergency path.

Motion passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Dave, Phil, and Gregg voting "yes").

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.