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## **Minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D**

*These minutes accepted at the December 15, 2009 meeting.*

### **Call to order**

[7:12 pm] Vice Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

### **Public discussion**

[7:13 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion. Lorena Mejia of the Latino Association of Mount Pleasant provided Spanish interpretation.

### **Secretary's report**

[7:18 pm] Jack noted that minutes of the October 20 meeting had been distributed on October 23. No corrections being offered, the minutes were declared accepted.

### **Treasurer's report**

[7:19 pm] Jack showed the proposed budget for FY2010, very slightly revised from the budget shown at the October 20 meeting:

La Casa rent:	\$600
Printing & copying:	\$400
Purchase of service:	\$7480
Office supplies:	\$75
Equipment purchase:	\$1200
Grants:	\$5000
Petty cash:	\$120
Bank charges:	\$60
Other:	\$1400
Total	\$16335.00

The “purchase of service” amount was increased by \$1200 to include \$100 per month for Spanish interpreting services. The sum of \$16335 is slightly in excess of the ANC1D annual allotment of \$16175. *Budget approved by 4 to 0 vote.*

Jack noted the following routine expenditures: Tony Grillo, posters: \$100 (Nov 3 & 17 meetings); Lorena Mejia, interpretation: \$100 (Nov 3 & 17 meetings).

Jack listed the following non-routine expenditures, requesting specific approvals:

- (1) Reimbursement to Jack for new laptop, printer, software: \$884.93 *No objections were raised, this expenditure having been explicitly authorized at the September 15 meeting (“up to \$1200”).*
- (2) Reimbursement to Gregg for HPRB transcript: \$435.00 *Approved by 3 to 1 vote, Phil voting “no”.*
- (3) Tony Grillo, distribution of meeting flyer for CM Graham (to be reimbursed): \$50 *Approved by 4 to 0 vote.*
- (4) Bill Boteler, staff support, through 11/17/09: \$407.40 *Approved by 4 to 0 vote.*

## **Commercial Corridor Committee**

[7:52 pm] Gregg proposed that the December 1 “informal” meeting have a “target topic” of “the plans to upgrade and to change Mount Pleasant Street, including a discussion with Mount Pleasant Main Street”, the last to include discussion of their Transportation Enhancement Grant from DDOT.

*Passed, 4 to 0.*

Gregg then proceeded with a Commercial Corridor Committee report.

## **Advising passage of Council acts to support low-income renters**

[8:14] Dave moved the following:

ANC1D advises the City Council to pass the the “Omnibus Rental Housing Amendment Act of 2009 (Bill 18-0092) and the “Tenant Protection Act of 2009” (Bill 18-0042) in order to maintain and improve quality accessible housing in the District of Columbia.

Why: Housing rules and regulations are a patchwork without enforcement that allow owners to ignore poor living conditions and to illegally rid their properties of tenants who do not know their rights. This legislation would require regular rental housing inspections and abatement of housing code violations by intentionally neglectful landlords, would give tenants the right to sue neglectful landlords in a “Landlord-Tenant Court,” and would require the city to use its “Repair Fund” to protect tenants against a landlord who intentionally creates unsafe conditions by not making timely repairs, sometimes to get tenants to leave.

*Passed, 3 to 0 (Jack abstaining).*

## **Endorsing DHCD loan to the 3121 Mt Pleasant Street Cooperative**

[8:27 pm] Gregg introduced the following resolution, for Stormy (absent):

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Department of Housing and Community Development to support a bridge loan sufficient for next steps for the 3121 Mount Pleasant Street Cooperative, Inc to purchase the building.

*Passed, 4 to 0.*

## **Next steps concerning the Mount Pleasant Library**

[8:31 pm] Gregg introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D authorizes its staff to advise on best next steps, and on the current legal situation with the MtP Library plans. If appropriate, then the staff may draft specific language to uphold 1D's resolutions. ANC1D budgets \$420 for this effort.

*Motion fails, 2 to 2 vote (Dave and Gregg "yes", Phil and Jack "no".)*

## **Legal memo concerning ANC resolutions**

[8:52 pm] Gregg introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D authorizes its legal staff to prepare a clear and brief memo, based upon research already completed, to DC agencies and ANC1D on the DC Code and case law handling of ANC resolutions, for an amount not to exceed \$420.

*Passed, 4 to 0.*

## **In Support of a D.C. Hatch Act Eliminating Restrictions on ANC Commissioner Political Activity**

[9:04] Jack introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Council of the District of Columbia, and Delegate to the House of Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton, that there should be a local DC Hatch Act that eliminates restrictions on political activity by Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. Furthermore, ANC1D advises Delegate Norton to support the addition of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners in the list of positions excluded from the restrictions of the Federal Hatch Act.

Why: the Hatch Act is intended to prevent government agencies from abusing their employees by compelling them to engage in political activity in support of the appointed heads of such agencies, as a condition of keeping their jobs. This is not at issue for the elected members of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, who are unpaid, and are freely elected by the public, independent of any political appointees. There is no good reason for denying elected Commissioners the right to engage in other political activities, any more than elected members of the Council of the District should be prohibited from engaging in political activities on behalf of candidates for other elective offices.

*Passed, 4 to 0.*

## **Adjournment**

[9:14 pm] The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.