

1D01: Jon Stewart Chairperson jonstewart.anc1d01@gmail.com	<p style="text-align: center;">Mount Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1380 Monroe St NW, #117 Washington DC 20010</p>	1D04: Yasmin Romero-Latin Vice Chairperson yasminkikiANC1D04@yahoo.com
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Minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

These minutes accepted at the _____, 2018 meeting.

Meeting call to order

[7:09 pm] At 7:09 pm, Chair Stewart called the meeting to order. Present were four Commissioners, Stewart, McKay, Karaffa, and Romero-Latin, constituting a quorum. Julio Gonzalez provided simultaneous Spanish interpretation.

Agenda agreement

[7:11 pm] The commission agreed on the agenda for the evening.

Public discussion

[7:11 pm] The meeting continued with the mandatory Public Discussion period.

Chair's report

[7:24 pm] Jon reported on possible support for Sanctuary DMV in response to the ICE raids here.

Vice chair's report

[7:25 pm] Yasmin spoke briefly about Mount Pleasant Street.

Committee reports

[7:26 pm] Jon provided a brief overview of DDOT proposals for the 2000 block of Park Road.

Secretary's report

[7:34 pm] No corrections were noted for the draft minutes of the June meeting, which were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:34 pm] Treasurer Stuart Karaffa reviewed the Q3FY2018 report to the Auditor. *Quarterly report approved, 4 to 0 vote.*

Speaking for Yasmin, Stuart moved that the commission authorize an expenditure of up to \$5700 in support of La Clínica del Pueblo and their Fiesta del Barrio. *Approved, 3 to 0 vote (Jack recused).*

Condemn ICE Detention Activities; Support the Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program

[7:41 pm] Stuart moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1D:

* Condemns the deportation and detainment activities of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency;

* Advises the District of Columbia Council to increase funding for the Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program; and

* Advises the Mayor of the District of Columbia to increase outreach efforts to better publicize the services offered by the Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program.

Why:

Mount Pleasant has one of the largest communities of foreign-born residents in the District of Columbia. That so many newcomers to the U.S. choose to settle in Mount Pleasant is a testament to our neighborhood's inclusiveness and diversity.

However, recent activities by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency threaten to instill fear in our community. According to reports from the news media, eye witnesses, and the D.C. Attorney General's office, ICE agents recently conducted immigration detention activities in and around Mount Pleasant.

In a letter to ICE requesting more information about these activities, the D.C. Attorney General, Karl Racine, provided background of these events:

"Between Monday, July 9, and Thursday, July 12, 2018, as many as twelve District residents were taken into custody by ICE in predominantly Latino communities. Disturbingly, some reports suggest that individuals may have been apprehended indiscriminately or as a result of racial or ethnic profiling."

We applaud Attorney General Racine for seeking more transparency about ICE activities in the District. The Council and Mayor should also bolster existing programs that assist and protect immigrant residents in their dealings with ICE. Our city leaders must do everything that they can to support residents when faced with ICE detentions.

Passed, 4 to 0 vote.

Reject security measures at the Zoo

[7:44 pm] Stuart offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1D:

(1) Advises the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to reject the Smithsonian Institution's request (NPC file #7986) to install additional security measures at the National Zoological Park; and

(2) Advises the Smithsonian Institution to hold regular community outreach meetings (at least once every three months) to gather input from residents, city agencies, and other organizations on topics that affect the neighborhoods adjacent to the Zoo, including, but not limited to, traffic issues, planned closures, or new construction.

Why:

Mount Pleasant residents are concerned regarding a proposal by the Smithsonian Institution to install additional security measures – which include new fencing, the barricading of existing pedestrian entrances, and security checkpoints – at the National Zoological Park.

We are concerned because this proposal stands to impede critical pedestrian thoroughfares between Mount Pleasant and points west of Rock Creek Park. This proposal also represents a stark deviation from the inclusive and approachable atmosphere that we seek to foster in our community.

To our knowledge, the Smithsonian Institution has not sought the input of residents in the adjacent Mount Pleasant, Woodley Park, or Cleveland Park neighborhoods regarding this security proposal. The Smithsonian Institution has also not provided a clear rationale as to why the Zoo needs new security measures. Therefore, until the Smithsonian conducts community outreach and clearly outlines what credible security risks the new security measures will mitigate, we advise the NCPC to reject this proposal from the Smithsonian Institution.

Regular community outreach could have mitigated our concerns about the proposed security measures. Additionally, community outreach conducted by the Smithsonian could also help the Zoo gather input or solve problems in partnership with residents, city agencies, and other organizations. For instance, regarding the need for sustainable transportation, the Zoo's site admittedly does not align perfectly with current mass transit options. Traffic congestion on Connecticut Avenue and Beach Drive is already bad and the new parking garage may trigger induced demand of further car traffic, which will detract from the experience of visiting the Zoo (or just driving and walking near the Zoo). However, the Zoo is a vital and well-loved neighbor, and District government entities can help it integrate alternative transportation systems, like shuttle buses, rideshare, and bicycles.

Simply put, as Mount Pleasant residents, we value the inclusiveness and walkability of our community. We reject the notion that our built environment needs more security theater at the expense of our quality of life. We ask the Smithsonian and the Zoo to consider regular community outreach meetings as a way of resolving these issues.

Passed, 4 to 0.

Advising HPRB Approval for 1900 Lamont St, HPA 18-501

[7:52 pm] Jack moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board to approve the proposal for mounting a utility cabinet on the exterior of Randall Mansions, at 1900 Lamont Street NW.

Why: ANC1D understands that indoor mounting of such hardware is preferable, but respects the reasons given by the applicant for the impracticality of indoor mounting. The staff report suggests an approach to outside mounting, devised with the assistance of Historic Mount Pleasant, and this commission advises approval of the applicant's design based on that approach. Due to the topography of the site, and the partial concealment of the location by a retaining wall, visibility of this utility box from the public space will be minimal. This is compliant with the Utility Meter Design Guidelines 1.2, "If located on the exterior of property, utility meters should be located where they are not prominently visible from public view".

Passed, 4 to 0 vote.

PSA 408 meeting

[8:06 pm] Captain Juanita Mitchell of the MPD conducted the quarterly PSA 408 meeting.

Concerning HPO's Draft Guidelines for Door Repair and Replacement

[8:14 pm] Jon introduced this resolution:

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Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Historic Preservation Office to amend the Door Repair and Replacement Preservation and Design Guidelines in keeping with the following feedback:

RE: 1.1, documentation that repair is not feasible should not be required for replacement doors that are compatible and substantially similar.

RE: 1.4, further qualification should be added regarding what is meant by “reasonable” and “special,” to prevent the overbroad application of this guideline in the future.

RE: 2.1, HPO may encourage owners to repair doors rather than replace them, but the owner should be free to replace the door without justification so long as the replacement door replicates the character of the historic door.

RE: requirements for HPO permit review on page 21, deterioration need not be documented by photograph so long as the replacement door is compatible and substantially similar. Further, dimensioned drawings should not be required for replacing a door if the dimensions of the replacement door are the same as the replaced door.

Why: This updated guideline document is informative and helpful, and the effort HPO has put into it is commendable. ANC 1D anticipates most homeowners who need or want to replace a door in the Mount Pleasant Historic District will naturally choose a compatible replacement. In particular, most of Mount Pleasant’s houses were mass-produced according to standards of the day and compatible replacement doors remain readily available. These cases should be handled with a minimum of hassle and documentation to ensure that living in the Mount Pleasant Historic District is neither financially nor administratively more burdensome than necessary.

Passed, 4 to 0.

Concerning HPO's Draft Sustainability Guide of Existing and Historic Properties

[8:21 pm] Jon introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Historic Preservation Office that the Draft Sustainability Guide of Existing and Historic Properties is not yet suitable for adoption and it should make substantial revisions to the guide for clarity and to better reflect the central importance of sustainability to historic preservation, collaborating as closely with Department of Energy and Environment staff and environmental organizations and advocates on these revisions as it would with preservation groups. Further, ANC 1D advises the Mayor and the Committee of the Whole of the DC Council to pay close attention to this matter in their oversight of the Office of Planning.

Why: Faced with certain climate change, updated guidelines concerning sustainability are critically important and HPO is absolutely right to devote considerable resources to this effort, especially considering the large proportion of DC protected by historic preservation designation. However, these guidelines must go further. Without greater sustainability, preservation of historic properties is doomed in the long-term.

In particular, the invisibility of sustainability features must not be required. Rooftop solar panels will likely not be a permanent solution to renewable energy, but they represent an important bridge technology to widespread carbon-free energy, and they also pass the reversibility test in most circumstances. This rationale applies even more strongly to rain barrels, whose installation is subsidized by DOEE. With greater variance in the amount of rain the District receives and the environmental deficit of the Chesapeake Bay that must be reversed, rain barrels are a cheap and important feature for managing stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is especially vital to historic preservation in Mount Pleasant as the foundations of many homes have shifted over the past century. HPO must find ways to permit wider use of these and other sustainability measures, and the issue of visibility alone must not trump their use.

Additionally, the guide spends several pages devoted to the sustainability benefits of preservation over new

construction, but this treatment is misleading and self-serving. It ignores population growth and the enormous opportunity costs, both to affordability and sustainability, that come with restrictive land use. On a per-capita basis, dense cities are unmatched at minimizing environmental impact. Until the Office of Planning fully accounts for such opportunity costs in its designation process and offsets them, historic preservation designation will be inherently detrimental to sustainability.

Passed, 4 to 0.

Concerning Final Plans for the 16th St Bus Lanes Project

[8:28 pm] Jon introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D thanks the District Department of Transportation for preserving the local Newton Street bus stop and advises it to consider the following points concerning the 16th Street bus lanes project:

- * The “jughead turn” at Park Rd should be optimized to ease traffic backup on Park Rd between 14th and 16th Streets and ensure smooth flow from northbound 16th St to westbound Park Rd.
- * The northbound Park Rd bus stop also needs improvements similar to the northbound Irving St stop, particularly concerning the sidewalk for bus offboarding.
- * It would be a good idea to discuss Pine St pedestrian improvements with the Department of Parks and Recreation as they prepare to renovate Powell Park.
- * The southbound streetlight at the Argonne Pl intersection is difficult to notice and should have a side extension installed.
- * With the exception of Sunday, midday parking restrictions should also be added in the southbound direction from Newton St to Park Rd, as these parking spots are underutilized at midday but can cause significant bottlenecks due to the shortness of these blocks.
- * There is significant benefit to implementing elements as early as possible. What can be done now should be implemented now.
- * As part of a subsequent project, please prepare and seek funding for the necessary NEPA impact assessment pursuant to the originally envisioned overhead lane signals in order to provide for a full-length dedicated bus lane during the evening rush hour.

Why: The finalized plans have several new elements and many of the above items are tweaks and considerations which should improve the delivered project. ANC 1D understands the significant constraints related to the northbound section of 16th St between U St and Irving St, but this final plan falls short of the ultimate goal of delivering rush-hour bus lanes to 16th St commuters (many of whom are Mount Pleasant residents). If a NEPA assessment is necessary, so be it. This plan can be delivered in 2020, and a subsequent plan can be developed.

Passed, 4 to 0.

HPO Participation in DDOT’s Section 106 Meetings for the 16th St Bus Lanes Project

[8:37 pm] Jon introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D seeks a detailed and thorough explanation from the Historic Preservation Office concerning its participation in the Section 106 meetings held by DDOT related to the proposed overhead reversible lane signals for the 16th St bus lanes project, especially as to whether HPO offered its own opinion to DDOT and, if so, how it came to such an opinion, including applicable standards and policies. Further, ANC 1D advises the DC Council that this matter warrants thorough consideration in its oversight of the

Office of Planning.

Why: Traffic congestion on 16th St has a severely negative impact on Mount Pleasant residents, including our enjoyment of its historic character. Traffic congestion from cars is not compatible with the historic character of Mount Pleasant, especially as its present development was designed to take advantage of the sadly dismantled streetcar network. Any action taken by HPO at the Section 106 meetings to obstruct DDOT's plans to improve mass transit service and alleviate congestion on 16th St would have been contrary to historic preservation, and Mount Pleasant residents deserve to know what role HPO played, considering DDOT concluded from these meetings that the use of overhead lane signals would require a NEPA-required impact assessment.

Passed, 4 to 0.

Adjournment

[8:39 pm] The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.