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Minutes of the May 15, 2012 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the June __, 2012 meeting.

Call to order

[7:16 pm] Commission Secretary Jack McKay called the May business meeting of ANC1D to order at 7:16 pm. Four commissioners were present: Gregg, Jack, Yasmin, and China, constituting a quorum. Julian Gonzalez of HearSay Interpreting provided simultaneous English-to-Spanish interpretation.

Public Discussion

[7:16 pm] The meeting proceeded with the public discussion period. Laura arrived at 7:26 pm, and assumed the duties of chairperson.

Secretary's report

[7:45 pm] Jack asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes of the April 17, 2012 meeting. There being no corrections, the minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:48 pm] Jack noted the following expenditures, as consent items: \$50 to Tony Grillo for March 20 meeting postering. \$100 to Hearsay Interpreting for Spanish interpretation at this meeting. No objections were stated.

Jack asked if the commission would be amenable to purchasing printer supplies for Gregg Edwards, as compensation for his extensive printing on his personal printer, in preparing documents for the Mount Pleasant Library matter. The commission agreed to this in principle. Jack said that he would provide a specific proposal for commission approval at the June meeting.

Do not designate 3145 Mount Pleasant Street as blighted, or vacant

[7:54 pm-] Jack offered this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), and the DC Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), not to designate as "blighted" the property located at 3145 Mount Pleasant Street, NW; and advises the DC Department of

Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to exempt 3145 Mount Pleasant Street, NW, the apartment building formerly known as the Deauville, from the vacant building registration requirements of the D.C. Official Code 42-3131, and specifically to remove it and exempt it from the vacant building lists compiled pursuant to D.C. Official Code 42-3131.16 and 42-3131.16a.

Why: Removing the "blight" designation and approving the exemption from the vacant-building registration requirements will allow the current plans for restoration and rebuilding to proceed. The heavy tax increase on the property would only prolong the time that the building remains in its current condition.

As this ANC stated in its resolution of November, 2010, "the surcharge does not serve the intent of the law to discourage owners from holding land vacant for speculation. Indeed, in this case the surcharge goes against public policy, and the explicit intent of the Mayor and DC Council to transfer buildings to the ownership of residents."

ANC1D recognizes that this property has lain vacant for a long time, ever since the Deauville Apartments were destroyed by a massive fire of March, 2008. This is not due to lack of effort for its reconstruction, but to the difficulties in arranging funding for a large project, in a very challenging fiscal environment.

Passed by 5 to 0 vote.

Approve application for Low Income Housing Tax Credits for 3145 Mount Pleasant Street

[7:55 pm] Jack offered this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to approve the application for Federal 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits being submitted on or before May 30, 2012 by the National Housing Trust/Enterprise Preservation Corporation and the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association, Inc. to provide financing for the redevelopment of affordable housing to be called the Monseñor Romero Apartments.

Why: This building was destroyed by the largest fire in the District in the past 30 years, which displaced many longstanding members of the Mount Pleasant community. They have been working diligently over the past four years to acquire the building and to return it to affordable housing. With a DHCD acquisition loan, the Tenants' Association acquired the building in 2010, selected an affordable-housing development partner (who recently redeveloped the St. Denis Apartments as greatly needed affordable housing less than one block away), and now are being provided their first opportunity to apply for the tax-credit financing necessary to rebuild the property with rents that the displaced low-income residents can afford.

This provides the best opportunity to restore this critical property at the center of our neighborhood to productive use, which will improve the community for both residents and businesses.

Passed by 4 to 0 vote, with one abstention. Voting "yes": China, Laura, Yasmin, Jack. Abstaining: Gregg.

Authorizing letter to DHCD

[7:56 pm] Jack offered the following motion:

Resolved, that ANC1D instructs the Secretary to prepare a letter to the Department of Housing and Community Development, advising DHCD of our unconditional support for the allocation of tax credits to the National Housing Trust/Enterprise Preservation Corporation, and the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association, for the redevelopment of affordable housing on that site, as indicated by the resolution passed by this ANC on May 15, 2012. Furthermore, ANC1D requests that Councilmember Jim Graham be a co-signer of this letter.

Passed by 4 to 0 vote, with one abstention. Voting "yes": China, Laura, Yasmin, Jack. Abstaining: Gregg.

Supporting the application to ABRA by Haydee's for addition of the sidewalk cafe to the liquor license

[8:01 pm] China offered this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration to approve the application by the NHV Corporation, trading as Haydee's Restaurant, License No. ABRA-024663, for a Sidewalk Cafe.

Why: Sidewalk cafes enhance the atmosphere of this commercial street, promoting an environment of safety and pleasant activity. The existing sidewalk cafe at Don Juan's Restaurant, two blocks to the north, has been very successful and enhances the environment of a street that can sometimes seem desolate, or even threatening. This sidewalk cafe will provide a similar benefit at the south end of the commercial strip.

Passed, 5 to 0.

Supporting the application to ABRA by Don Juan's for change to sidewalk cafe hours

[8:02 pm] Gregg offered this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration to approve the application by Don Juan's Restaurant, License No. ABRA-015934, for changing the hours of alcoholic beverage operation/sales for the Sidewalk Cafe.

Why: Public safety is enhanced by having people on the street, providing watchful eyes on streets that might otherwise be deserted. This is a significant consideration especially for working people arriving home by bus or Metro late at night, and walking to their homes. The sidewalk cafe operating into the night will promote a safe street environment, and noise from people patronizing the cafe is not expected to be troublesome.

Passed, 5 to 0.

Allow Sunday sales by alcoholic beverage retailers

[8:06 pm] Jack offered this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Council of the District of Columbia to eliminate the ban on Sunday sales by Class A liquor licensees, imposed by DC Code 25-722(a), as recommended by the ABC Working Group of the Committee on Human Services, May 3, 2012.

Why: the Sunday ban on the sale of alcoholic beverages by retail liquor stores is an antiquated remnant of "blue laws", imposed as measures tantamount to an establishment of religion. Residents should be free to patronize liquor retailers on Sunday, if that is their preference.

Passed, 5 to 0.

[8:15 pm] Gregg moved that ANC1D authorize the officers to call a special meeting to deal with alcoholic beverage regulation issues. *Passed, 5 to 0.*

Direction signs to Rock Creek Park

[8:18 pm] Laura offered this resolution:

Resolved, ANC 1D recommends that DDoT post signs in Mt. Pleasant pointing to Rock Creek Park and Peirce Mill, to be installed at Park Road and 17th Street NW and the intersection of Mount Pleasant Street, 16th Street and Columbia Road NW.

Justification: There are no street signs in Mt. Pleasant pointing to Rock Creek Park and Peirce Mill. The park is a key feature of the Mt. Pleasant area, tied historically to our neighborhood, and an amenity available to all. Over the course of your time living here, I'm sure many of you have been asked how to get to the park from Mt. Pleasant.

Jack moved that this resolution be tabled until the regular June meeting. *Motion to table passed, 3 to 2 vote. Voting "yes": Jack, Gregg, China. Voting "no": Laura, Yasmin.*

Adjournment

At 8:37 pm, the meeting was adjourned.