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| Yasmin Romero-Castillo, 1D01 yasminkiki@yahoo.com | Mount Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission | Gregg Edwards, 1D04 aaraeg@gmail.com |
| Laura Wilson Phelan, 1D02 Vice chair laurawilsonphelan@gmail.com |  | China Terrell, 1D05 china@chinaterrell.com |
| Jack McKay, 1D03 Secretary and Treasurer jack.mckay@verizon.net | 1380 Monroe St NW, #117, Washington DC 20010 Tel: 234-6646 Web: www.anc1d.org e-mail: anc1d@googlegroups.com | Angelia D. Scott, 1D06 Chair glorystorm55@yahoo.com |

Minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the October 16, 2012 meeting.

Call to order

[7:06 pm] Vice Chair Wilson Phelan called the September 18 meeting of ANC1D to order at 7:06 pm. Four commissioners were present: Laura, Gregg, Jack, and China, constituting a quorum. Julian Gonzalez of HearSay Interpreting provided simultaneous English-to-Spanish interpretation.

Public Discussion

[7:06 pm] The meeting proceeded with the public discussion period. Commissioner Romero-Castillo arrived at about 7:15 pm.

Secretary's report

[7:43 pm] Jack asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes of the July 17 meeting. No corrections were offered, and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:44 pm] Jack asked if there were any objections to the routine payments about to be made: \$50 to Tony Grillo, \$100 to Hearsay Interpreting, \$400 to Stand for our Neighbors for audio setup support.
Approved, 5 to 0.

Beau Thai Restaurant CR license

[7:45 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration to approve application ABRA-090308, by Beau Thai Mount Pleasant, LLC, for a Class C liquor license, with endorsement for a sidewalk café, at 3162-3164 Mount Pleasant Street NW.

Why: This restaurant is expected to be a benefit to the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. The CR liquor license is a routine necessity for restaurants, and the sidewalk café is expected to enhance the ambience of Mount Pleasant Street, as the existing sidewalk cafés (Don Juan's, Haydee's) have already shown.

Passed, 5 to 0.

Zoning variance for 3602 16th St NW (Laura)

[7:46 pm] Laura introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D agrees that zoning variance application 18421, for 3602 16th Street Northwest, concerning lot occupancy and rear yard dimensions, can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good.

Why: Because the original dimensions of the building will be unchanged, granting this variance will have no direct effect on the neighborhood. This advice is based on an understanding that the request for variance from the off-street parking requirement will have been deleted.

Meredith Moldenhauer of Griffin & Murphy, LLP, representing the owner, provided a Powerpoint review of the zoning variance request.

Gregg moved amendment, by substitution of this text:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises that zoning variance application 18421, for 3602 16th Street Northwest, concerning lot occupancy and rear yard dimensions, cannot be granted without substantial detriment to the public good.

Why: The extra density implicit in this proposal is well known to carry negative social impacts unless compensated by other public amenities. For example, there is a localized burden of extra parking that such units typically engender in neighborhoods after the kind of demographic changeover recently experienced by 1D. Indeed, it seems prudent that the many other thousands of opportunities for development of housing units without variances be dealt with first before adding more unbalanced density.

The amendment was rejected on a 1 to 4 vote, Gregg voting “yes”, China, Laura, Jack, and Yasmin voting “no”.

The main motion was then passed, 3 votes to 1 (Jack, China, Laura voting “yes”, Gregg voting “no”, Yasmin abstaining).

Adjournment

[8:21 pm] By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.