

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

Government of the District of Columbia

Columbia Heights / LeDroit Park / Shaw / University Heights

MINUTES

6 February 2003, True Reformer Building, 1200 U Street, NW.

Attending: Commissioners Guyot, Spalding, Hammonds, Thomas, Houston, ~~Butler~~, ;
Glover, Skinner, Esters

Absent: Commissioners Wilson, Littlepage

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thomas at approximately 7:10 PM

Minutes of the October and November meeting have still not been presented for approval

Minutes of the January 2003 meeting were adopted (7-0-0)

In the Treasurer's Report Commissioner Glover requested permission to change signatories on financial instruments (passed 7-0-0) and for payment for the ANC Security Fund (passed 7-0-0) and for a service fee of \$3.00 (passed 7-0-0) and for reimbursement to Secretary Spalding for office supplies \$105.36 (passed 8-0-0).

Discussion of the Committee on Public Services questionnaire and hearing. Commissioners Glover, Thomas and Spalding agreed to fill out the form and attend the hearing.

Commissioner Esters offered a resolution to support continuing the position of Community Outreach Coordinator for PSA 414 currently held by Yvonne Smith, and it was passed (7-0-0)

Norman Beeke of Urban Development Solutions, LLC gave a presentation of initial designs for development of WMATA Parcels 1 & 9 (14th between V and W). He was questioned on affordability of the residential units, and his response was that it was too early in the process to estimate final pricing, however, it was their intention to include a percentage of units for affordability and FHA financing. Two designs were presented, one in the southwest corner of the block, and one including the current Galish properties in the northwest corner and interior. Questions were raised in regard to remediation of the plating chemicals on site.

Presentation by Donatelli & Klein in regard to alley relocations for Parcels 15 & 26. These are just outside the boundaries of ANC1B, but since we have been asked to participate in the ongoing process, we were asked to support the changes before the BZA.

These variances were combined in a resolution by Commissioner Guyot to support the changes before the BZA and Office of Zoning (passed 8-0-0).

Presentation by Gloria DuBissette regarding the DC Taekwondo Association. Thanks for past support from ANC1B was followed by a request for ongoing support. Treasurer Glover asked that the Grant Request be postponed to the March meeting to clarify details of the request (passed 8-0-0); Letters were requested to support DC Taekwondo to DC Sport, and the Weed & Seed Program. Commissioner Glover offered a motion to support writing the letters (passed 8-0-0).

Commissioner Houston requested support and participation in the Issues Forum to be held at Howard University on 12 February at 7:30 PM (passed 8-0-0).

BZA Case No. 16986, Loder & Gravett, LLC, requesting variances (403.2, 402.4, 404.1, and 406.1) in constructing a four unit apartment building on the southeast corner of 10th and W Streets NW. Currently an abandoned auto repair business the lot is just 27'x50', which presented constraints in designs leading to the BZA variance requests. The

existing curb cuts were questioned. Affordability was questioned. In both cases the design difficulties with the lot size limited developer's response. ~~Commissioner Spalding requested support (passed 8-0-0)~~

BZA amended application No. 16938, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge requesting permission for a surface parking lot at their existing parking lot in Square 333 Lot 827. Attorney for and officers of the Lodge spoke to the history of the Lodge and the need for their continuing use of the lot for member parking. Commissioner Guyot questioned the Lodge on their previous agreement with ANC1B from our June 2002 meeting, and the representatives of the Lodge said that the agreement was impractical and moot under the amended application. Tania Shand of the Westminster Neighborhood Association detailed their opposition to the request for exception. Commissioner Guyot presented a motion to oppose the application, and it was agreed to by a vote of (7-0-2)

BZA application No. 16988 from the OCTO to replace telecommunications tower. Terry Cook, William Kramer and Lavelle Saunders spoke to the need for more reliable emergency communications links. A number of Commissioners questioned the safety of the installation to nearby residents, and were told that the microwave system would be a point to point system and no danger to community members. Mr. Kramer of FEMS indicated that this was a very important improvement over the current system, and would help secure the safety of residents by allowing more consistent communications connections. Commissioner Esters offered a resolution to support the application. Commissioner Guyot added a friendly amendment requesting that BZA expedite this application, and motion to support was passed (9-0-0). Within the discussion with Mr. Kramer, Scott Palmer of the 14th & U Main Street initiative asked for information on the housing of FEMS and the disposition of Grimke School. Commissioner Guyot requested that a letter from ANC1B be sent asking for clarification in regard to FEMS and the Grimke School property, and it was adopted (9-0-0)

BZA case No. 16987, application of Pablo Martinez for a special exception allowing a rear deck addition at 1207 Clifton St. NW. Mr. Martinez detailed the renovations by previous owner/contractor and consequent actions of building inspectors. ~~Commissioner Glover offered a resolution to support the application, and it was agreed to (8-0-1)~~

DDOT request for approval of Traffic Control Plan for Langston Lofts development at 1390 V St. NW. Metropolis Development Co. explained the sidewalk closings and traffic routing necessitated by the building process. Commissioner Spalding offered a resolution to support the application, and it was agreed to (9-0-0)

DDOT request for approval of Public Space Permit for Café St. Ex (1847 14th St. NW) for outdoor café seating. Owner explained that this is the official permitting of the design presented to ANC1B in St. Ex's application for ABC licensing in the summer of 2002. Commissioner Spalding offered a resolution to support, and it was agreed to (9-0-0)

DDOT request for approval of Public Space Permit for Camino Real was postponed to the March meeting, or when designs were forwarded by DC Public Space Division.

ABC application No. 50220 from La Casona for a Temporary Stipulated License towards application for full CR license. Owner of La Casona described a new Mexican/Salvadorian restaurant on 11th Street NW; No negative comments were offered by Commissioners or community members. Commissioner Spalding offered a resolution to support the application, and it was agreed to (9-0-0)

ABC application No. 34195 from Roha Restaurant asking for substantial changes to their CR license, approved by ANC1B in January 2003, to allow "Dancing and Ethiopian music & jazz provided by three piece band". Commissioner Spalding offered a resolution to support the application, and it was agreed to (9-0-0)

ABC application No. 27664 from Republic Gardens to change license class from CR to CN; Representative from Republic Gardens was asked about the need for the class change, what the vision was for a reopened facility, and why they had not consulted with community members regarding the license change request. Commissioner Spalding offered a resolution to table, specifically requesting Republic Gardens to supply ANC1B with more detailed information and more time for community members to consider the requested change, and the motion was tabled (7-0-0)

ABC application of Euphoria Restaurant at 1905 9th St. NW for Temporary Stipulated License. Owner of Euphoria explained that they are a currently operating second story restaurant and are currently in process of applying for ABC licensing. Commissioner Spalding asked if they have completed ABC paperwork and have placarded, and the representative explained that ABC had directed them to proceed with ANC approval as part of the process. Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution to support the application, and it was agreed to (6-0-1).

ABC applications for (1) College Café, 1346 T Street NW for a CT license, and (2) Enkutatash Ethiopian Restaurant, 1909th Street NW for a CR license were both withdrawn by Commissioner Guyot.

Consideration was given to Manna's project called University Place Housing, and it was agreed (7-0-0) to send a letter of support for the project.

A presentation was made by Bozzuto Development showing changes in their designs for Meridian Hill Condominiums on Belmont Street. They indicated that they have met with community members and have used the input to refine their design for the project. Affordability of the units was discussed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guyot in regard to the closings proposed by the Washington Gas & Light Co. Commissioner Spalding asked that the reference to the main office on H Street be deleted, and the amended resolution called on WGL to keep open the payment center on Martin Luther King Ave. SE, and the resolution was adopted unanimously (6-0-0)

Motion was offered by Commissioner Spalding to request that the DC Office of Planning expedite the hiring of a Planner for Ward 1, and it was adopted unanimously (6-0-0)

Commissioner Skinner offered a motion requesting that the WMATA Board include affordable housing as an important consideration in its decision making regarding the dispersal of Parcels 1 & 9 (14th St. between V and W Streets), and it was agreed to unanimously (6-0-0)

Motion was discussed to request office space from the Mayor's office. There was a discussion of whether ANC1B actually had an agreement for space in the Reeves Center. Commissioner Thomas offered a resolution to support the request, and it was adopted unanimously (6-0-0)

Commissioner Guyot offered a motion to support advancing the District's Presidential Primary. There was discussion of who controlled the decision, and whether notbeing a state excluded the District from restrictive language in the political parties regulations. Commissioner Guyot moved the question, and it was adopted by a vote of (5-1-0)

Commissioner Guyot offered a motion to oppose the District's Primary Amendment Act of 2002, and it was adopted (5-0-1)

Commissioner Guyot offered a motion to oppose elimination of the nominating petition process in lieu of endorsements by the political parties. Discussion centered on the manner in which nominating candidates could be accomplished, and it was agreed that continuing with gathering of signatures was preferred. Motion to support the resolution was offered and it was adopted (5-0-1)

Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution to remove the one way signs on the segment of U Street that ANC1B had voted to support in 2002. Commissioner Guyot explained that this was the request of the Ledroit Park Civic Association, and it was agreed to by the commissioners unanimously (6-0-0)

Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution to support the reappointment of Steve Callas to the DC Board of Elections. Commissioner Guyot explained that the Councilmembers had failed to act in a timely manner, and that Mr. Callas had the support of the Council.

The motion was agreed to unanimously (6-0-0)

Commissioner Skinner offered a resolution to support an ANC1B newsletter. Commissioner Skinner explained that community members were unaware of the actions of ANC1B, and that a tri-annual publication might help the community understand the concerns and actions of their elected commissioners. Combining efforts with other community groups and associations was raised, but Commissioner Skinner indicated that diluting the message might be counterproductive. The resolution was adopted by a vote of (5-1-0)

Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution to endorse the “Leave No Child Behind” Comprehensive Act. A representative read the Proclamation, and there was discussion of the confusion in the language and its similarity to the US Department of Education’s language. The resolution was agreed to by a unanimous vote of (6-0-0)

Sylvia Robinson of Emergence Inc. asked the Commission for support of a special exception before the Board of Zoning Adjustment to allow a community service center in a building designated as R4. The property is located at 733 Euclid Street NW, and was previously used as a day care center. Commissioner Skinner explained that the property was located across the street from a school, that it was currently vacant and being illegally used for noxious activities. Commissioner Skinner offered a resolution to support the request for special exception, and it was adopted unanimously (6-0-0)

Resolution to adjourn was offered and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 PM.