

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

Government of the District of Columbia

Columbia Heights / LeDroit Park / Shaw / University Heights

MINUTES

5 June 2003, True Reformer Building, 1200 U Street NW

Attending: Commissioners Spalding, Hammonds, Thomas, Butler, Glover, Skinner, Wright

Absent: Commissioners Guyot, Houston, Wilson, Esters

Quorum was achieved and meeting began at 7:20PM. Per the requirements of the DC Board of Elections & Ethics Mr. Raymond Wright was appointed to fill the vacant office in 1B11. Minutes of the May 1st meeting were adopted by a unanimous vote (6-0-0). In the Treasurer's Report Commissioner Glover stated that two checks had been drawn. The first (#1515) was to the Cardozo Shaw Neighborhood Association in fulfillment of grant #0304 for \$1,800.00, and the second (#1516) was to the Howard University Community Association in fulfillment of grant #0303 for \$637.86. Our current account balance is \$85,590.59. Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0).

Commissioner Skinner's report on developments regarding the proposed ANC1B Town Hall Meeting was tabled.

John Farmer of Bozzuto Construction presented an update on the Meridian Hill Condominiums PUD. In response to ANC1B's original comments Bozzuto is working with the DC Office of Planning and expects to be including one unit of each type of housing incorporated in the project for a total of four units. The PUD would be in Commissioner Butler's single member district, and Commissioner Butler stated that

community members and Bozzuto have worked together and that the community is supportive of the design. Commissioner Butler moved that ANC1B support the Meridian Hill Condominium project to the Zoning Commission, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0).

Rosalynn Frazier (Office of Planning Neighborhood Coordinator for Ward 4) gave a presentation regarding the current status of the Georgia Avenue Corridor Plan. The Corridor Plan runs along Georgia Ave. from Euclid north to Decatur St. The Georgia Ave/Petworth Metro station and its development is central to the discussions and designs for the changes planned along the corridor, however, there are few other governmentally controlled parcels along Georgia Avenue, so much of the scope of the project involves working with private owners. Currently, the Metro development is envisaged as one hundred residential units (20% of which are scheduled to be affordable units) and retail development. Commissioner Skinner expressed two concerns with the ongoing process: first that there is no Ward 1 Planner, and that the façade program has been inconsistent in its dealing with the businesses along Georgia Avenue. Ms. Frazier stated that the Office of Planning has interviewed for the Ward 1 Planner position, and that the position should be filled in the next few months. Ms. Frazier indicated that DCHCD was committed to finishing the work of the current façade program, but that contractual problems had temporarily stalled the process. Commissioner Skinner stated that out of the twenty-five business participating in the façade improvement program three are currently complete, and that the delays were a burden on the other participating businesses. Commissioner Skinner moved that ANC1B request that the ongoing façade program be expedited to completion, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0). A community member question Ms. Frazier about the Office of Planning's vision for the future of the Georgia Avenue Corridor, and Ms. Frazier responded that the Office of Planning is building its vision from the direct input of the residents and businesses along the corridor.

Lt. Durand and Sgt. Wilkins from MPD 3rd District and PSA 306 spoke to the current situation in regard to crime in the southern portion of ANC1B. Lt. Durand indicated that the future boundaries of the PSA's would be changing, and that it is expected that 3D and Ward 1 would be more closely aligned. Lt. Durand indicated that ongoing crime patterns in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of V & W Streets are demanding increased attention from the 3rd District. The ongoing difficulty with charged individuals being released back into the affected communities represents a particular problem for both the police and the community. Commissioner Skinner asked about the perceived imbalance in policing efforts, and Lt. Durand agreed that communities with vocal political clout often swayed decisions on staffing. Commissioner Thomas commented on the need for a stronger effort on the part of community members in supporting the justice systems programs. Lt. Durand stated that deployment is driven by reported crime statistics.

Gregory Thomas from CSOSA (Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia) gave an overview of the current programs and services provided by the agency. Mr. Thomas asked for community input in the development of their "Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia." Everyone was invited to participate in a planning meeting to be held on June 12 at 6:30PM at 633 Indiana Ave. NW. Commissioner Skinner asked for CSOSA's evaluation of the current status inside the boundaries of ANC1B. Mr. Thomas indicated that CSOSA's computerized systems are still being developed, but that he would attempt to determine whether a more specific geographic breakdown of the statistics was possible. Commissioner Skinner requested that ANC1B send a letter to CSOSA asking for a community breakdown of their statistical base.

William Shortinghouse presented his case (BZA Case No. 17026) for a variance under section 404 at 1326 Girard Street. Commissioner Glover lauded Mr. Shortinghouse for the outstanding work that he has done in restoring a derelict property. A rear deck/carport has been designed for the back of the property, and due to historic takings (alley) by the city the deck will not be in normal compliance with the R-4 rear yard requirements. Mr. Shortinghouse indicated that he has been working with neighboring property owners and has their support, and that there would be no interference with the light or air of his neighbors. The Commissioners requested to be invited to the next explanatory dinner at Mr. Shortinghouse's property. Commissioner Glover moved support of the variance, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Commissioner Butler introduced the development of a request to close a portion of the 2000 block of 10th Street during the construction of Garnet Patterson School's new gymnasium. This closing would last approximately one year, and between the hours of 11:30 and 1:30 for the purpose of providing recess space for the students. Commissioner Butler indicated that he is collecting signatures of the residents of the affected block of 10th Street, and that he already has in excess of the 50% requirement. Commissioner Butler moved that ANC1B support the street closing as described, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Consideration was given to Manna CDC's request for support for a Public Space Permit for locating the Farmers & Artists Market on the U Street side of the Reeves Center. Manna's representative had already left the meeting, however, the Commission did discuss the request. Commissioner Spalding moved that ANC1B send a letter of support, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Treasurer Glover requested that the Commission approve reimbursing the Secretary for expenses incurred in May in the amount of \$94.14, and it was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

ABC Case No. 21434 Class A renewal for Serv-U-Liquor at 1935 9th Street was tabled due to non attendance by owners.

ABC Case No. 25383 Class A renewal for Beverage Etc. at 1905 9th Street. Owner William Lewis stated that they have been in business in this location since 1995, and that they have been renovating the space. Commissioner Butler asked about the relationship between Euphoria Restaurant at the same address, and Mr. Lewis explained that Euphoria was his tenant and was working out of the second storey of the building. Commissioner Spalding asked the distance from Serv-U-Liquors at 1935 9th, and Mr. Lewis stated that they were separated by about two hundred feet. Commissioner Thomas asked if there was any opposition from the community, and Mr. Lewis stated that they had had no problems. Commissioner Spalding stated that he had raised these renewals with the Westminster Neighborhood Association, and that there had been no issues raised by WNA's membership. Commissioner Skinner moved to support, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

ABC Case No. 2696 consideration of the 14(e) petition regarding Yard Liquors was tabled due to non attendance by participants.

ABC Case No. 50237 F&Z Enterprises application for a new CR license (previously tabled at ANC1B's May meeting) was again tabled.

Grant Application of U Street Blue/Positive Productions for \$4,108.50 towards expected costs of \$15,000 in producing a film to be made in August of 2003 to be shot on U Street entitled "U Street Blue." Raafi Rivero (writer & director), Darrell Westbrook (producer) and Michael Hastings Black (producer) spoke to the request. Commissioner Thomas requested information on the casting call, and the producers indicated that it would be occurring on the Howard campus in the next week. Commissioner Skinner indicated to the producers that using talent from the neighborhood would be appreciated. Producers stated that business owners and merchants along U Street have been participating in the

development process. Lincoln Theatre has been engaged in discussions regarding premiering the film, and restaurants and clothing stores along U Street have agreed to help in the production. Commissioner Spalding requested a review of the full extent of the \$15,000 cost, and the producers explained that the ANC1B grant would further refine the quality of the end product. Commissioner Spalding asked for clarification on the expense for lenses, and the producers explained that this would be for rental of the appropriate lenses during the production period. Commissioner Spalding asked about the marketing of the film once complete, and producers explained that it would be entered as a short (20 minutes) film in various film festivals e.g. Sundance, Chicago Film Festival, LA Film Festival. Commissioner Skinner asked whether copies of the film would be available, and producers agreed that eventually copies would be produced in VHS or DVD formats. Commissioner Glover asked about any possible proceeds from the showing of the film, and producers indicated that they doubted that any significant income would be generated and that there would be no personal profit from the production. Commissioner Glover stated that he applauded the project, but that he had reservations about the amount of the grant. Commissioner Glover stated that he would like to see grants limited and in that spirit moved to support the grant application in an amended amount of \$3,000.00, and the motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Akbar Bilal presented a grant application for \$8,000 in support of "Save Our Youth Inc./Hereafter Foundation." The grant would extend the reach of the organizations in working with violence intervention with community at risk youth. The funds would be used for publicity, honorariums, hotel accommodations, staging, transportation, field trips and office supplies. Mr. Bilal described their intervention in local gang/crew disputes, and the organizations relationship with existing police and education anti-violence programs. Commissioner Thomas stated paying to bring in people to work with these problems from outside the DC community should be replaced with using the expertise of people in our own DC neighborhoods. Commissioners Thomas and Glover indicated that the financial guidelines for the ANC's precluded paying for a number of the expenses detailed in the grant request. Commissioner Butler asked whether the workshops are an ongoing process. Commissioner Butler asked whether presentations had already be made at Cardozo High School, Mr. Bilal responded that they speak with Principal Ballard and that they team up with them on various issues, and that they have not to date done any presentations or workshops. Commissioner Glover asked if the organizations were funded by the DC Government, and Mr. Bilal responded that they were not. Commissioner Glover asked about the time line for the project, and Mr. Bilal responded that the initial workshops would occur in June of 2003, and the final presentation at Cardozo High School would be in September of 2003. Commissioner Butler stated that the schools would be out of session during this time frame, and Mr. Bilal responded that it would be like a summer job for the youth. A representative of Councilmember Graham's office explained that there are ongoing youth summer employment programs currently placing neighborhood youth. Commissioner Skinner questioned whether enough activity was being provided, and that multiple opportunities would benefit more

at risk youths. Commissioner Glover asked for specific clarifications in regard to the grant application form (applicant had used an older version of ANC1B's grant application form). Commissioner Spalding stated that he would vote against the application citing the late arrival of the application and lack of clarity in what would be funded.

Commissioners Thomas and Glover also spoke to the difficulties with specifics in the application, and Commissioner Skinner requested that we continue the discussion and work out all the details. Commissioner Glover stated that most of the listed uses for the money were not allowable, and Commissioner Skinner responded that the cost of the full program was \$16,000 and that they were asking ANC1B to provide \$8,000, and that that should provide the Commission room to cover the portions of the expenses that are allowable and move the unallowable expenses to be covered by the other sponsoring organizations. Commissioner Glover stated that the size of the grant and the limited time for review were problematic, and Commissioner Skinner responded that as a Commission we could straighten out any difficulties and address the underlying grant request.

Commissioner Glover stated that there was insufficient time to review this application for a significant amount of taxpayer funds. Mr. Bilal stated that we should not look at the messenger and should not get bogged down in titles, cultures or nationalities, but look at the service to the children, and that SOY was more than 100% effective in almost 99% of crisis interventions. Commissioner Skinner stated that we should support the grant and then work out the procedural difficulties. Commissioner Thomas specifically requested that Commissioners use the current grant application form, and Secretary Spalding offered to make them available. Commissioner Skinner moved that ANC1B support SOY's application for a grant of \$8,000 for the monthly anti-violence workshops from June to September, with the condition that an outline of said workshops be provided, and that the funds be specifically used for line items that are allowed by the ANC guidelines. There was no second to the motion.

Commissioner Spalding reported on hearings before the Mayor's Agent in regard to illegal fenestration inside the historic district at 1800 9th Street and 942 Westminster Street. Commissioner Spalding conveyed the request from the Mayor's Agent that ANC1B consider these requests, however, since there was inadequate time for proper notification and the appellants were not present that ANC1B not take a position on these cases.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40PM.

Philip C. Spalding, Secretary