

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 7 PM, 1200 U Street NW

The regular monthly meeting of ANC1B was held on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 7:00 pm in the True Reformer Building, Commissioner Smith being present as Chair, and Commissioner Nadeau present as Acting Secretary. Other Commissioners present: Akinmboni, Conklin, Hoerrner, Hunter, Matthews, Moss, and Spalding.

At 7:15pm, Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and noted there was not a quorum, but the meeting would proceed. The meeting agenda would start with items that do not require a vote and community announcements. He then asked for introductions.

Officers Reports

Commissioner Nadeau presented the minutes from the March meeting for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Spalding indicated that the only financial activity for the month of March was for two checks to Bianca Body for Administrative Assistant work. The checks were for \$138.40 and \$127.48. The checks do not require a vote because the funds were previously approved as a part of the budget.

The synopsis of the 2nd Quarter Report for January 2008 to March 2008 was included in the Commissioners' packets. There was a beginning account balance of \$60,184.83. The Commission received three district allotments, but due to late grant reporting the allotments were held up and one grant was slightly docked as noted last month. The three allotments yielded a deposit total of \$22,932.70 and a new account balance of \$83,117.53. The quarterly included very minimal expenses for printing, office supplies, purchase of office equipment, and some bank charges. The total quarter disbursements are \$435.65, leaving a balance of \$82,681.88

Commissioner Spalding motioned Commission to approve the 2nd quarter 2008 report. Commissioner Conklin seconded the motion and the motion was adopted 8-0.

Committee Reports

Commissioner Spalding discussed last month's vote to form two additional committees, ABC Committee and Design and Review Committee. Chairman Smith will assist with the Design and Review Committee. Commissioner Spalding stated that neither committee has been formed yet due to a lack of advertising by Chairman Smith and himself. Advertising will occur in the next two weeks. Commissioner Spalding encouraged community members to join the committees and to e-mail Chairman Smith or himself about the committees.

Commissioner Spalding motioned to add the names of the new committees to the Commission's Bylaws. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion and the motion was adopted 8-0.

Events and Announcements

Commission

Commissioner Spalding announced that the Cardozo- Shaw Neighborhood Association meeting will be held Thursday, April 10, 2008 in the True Reformer Building at 7pm. There will be an initial presentation by KBG Company about the redevelopment of the 1300 block of U Street (the Rite-Aid strip) with a hotel. Also, there will be a discussion on the lack of infrastructure in Square 361 (Vermont Ave, U Street, 9th Street, and T Street). There is a development proposal for Square 361 that will create more landlocked commercial and residential property on the space. The Cardozo-Shaw Neighborhood Association wants to give the community residents and business owners the opportunity to see what the plans entail.

Commissioner Akinmboni announced the following:

- CFSA Budget Hearing will be held April 8, 2008 from 9:30am-12pm at 812 7th Street, NW.

- Peaceaholics Community Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 10am-2pm at the Columbia Heights Community Center located at 15th and Girard Streets.

Commissioner Nadeau announced the following that the 15th Annual Metro Teen AIDS auction will take place Thursday, June 26, 2008 at the Embassy of Finland. Tickets are \$100 and are available on the internet at www.metroteenaids.org.

Commissioner Hoerrner announced that ANC 1B11 will have community meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month. Meetings will be held in the basement of the LeDroit Park Apartments, 2125 4th Street, NW, from 6-7pm.

Community

Wilson Reynolds, Chairman of Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee of ANC 1C, announced a project the Department of Transportation to facilitate traffic flow plans for the intersections at 16th and Euclid Streets and Clifton and Euclid Streets. Traffic plans are needed because of the congestion that will arise when the new Harris Teeter Grocery Store opens on April 23, 2008.

A community member from 10th and 11th Streets between P and W Street announced community members concern about a building on the corner of 10th and W Streets. Residents sent a memo about the property being in disrepair for years and it has been the home to, rats, raccoons and trash. There are documented reports on the property and it has been cited. The owners of the property are non-responsive. They have heard that the property might be turned into a carry out. Community members want the neighborhood to remain residential. Community members look forward to working with Commission in the future on this issue. Commissioner Spalding pointed out that the community members submitted a letter to the Commission voicing their concerns

Presentations

Chairman Smith introduced representatives of the DC Caribbean Carnival, Inc to the Commission and the community. He stated that the DC Caribbean Carnival is an event that takes place on the last Saturday in June every year. The event travels down the Georgia Avenue corridor with floats and other forms of Caribbean heritage are displayed.

Laughton Sargeant, Executive Director of DC Caribbean Carnival, requested a letter of support for the 16th Annual DC Caribbean Carnival that will be held the weekend of June 28-29, 2008. The parade will be held on June 28, 2008. It begins at Missouri Avenue and end at Barry Place across from Howard University. The activities at Banneker Recreation Facility include Caribbean cuisine, arts and crafts, international entertainment from throughout the US and Caribbean. Activities will also be held on June 29, 2008 at Banneker Recreation Facility and will include entertainment, arts and crafts, and food.

DC Caribbean Carnival, Inc has already received letters of support from Councilman Jim Graham (Ward 1) and Councilman Muriel Bowser (Ward 4).

Chairman Smith moved that ANC 1B support the DC Caribbean Carnival on June 28-29, 2008. Commissioner Hoerrner seconded the motion and the motion was adopted 8-0.

BZA, HPRB, DDOT Applications

BZA

Commissioner Spalding indicated that BZA 17786-True Gospel Church is located in his single member district. The application involves the church and a vacant lot next to the church. The two will eventually switch places and a new church will be built. The request is for a special exception to 214.1, a vacant lot to be used for a church accessory parking lot. The actual zoning is for parking. Commissioner Spalding then introduced Henderson Walker to the Commission and the community. Mr. Walker reiterated the purpose of the application and stated that the new church will be built on the current vacant lot and an 11 space parking lot will be erected when the old church building is torn down. Commissioner Spalding inquired about screening for parking lot because the church is in a residential neighborhood. Mr. Walker agreed with the use of screening.

Commissioner Spalding moved to support BZA application 17786 and designate himself as a representative for this application. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion and the motion was adopted 9-0.

HPRB

Arcadia Design Services representative Jim Foster presented to the Commission on behalf of PM Hoffman the house design for the existing vacant lot at 1349 V Street, NW. Commissioner Hunter motioned that ANC 1B vote to approve the concept submission for HPRB application 08-xxx. Commissioner Akinmboni seconded the motion and it was amended designating Commissioner Spalding as the representative on this matter. The motion was adopted 9-0.

ABRA Licenses

Commissioner Spalding indicated that all information about licenses was included in the Commissioners' packets. He would take any questions or concerns from Commissioners after the list was reviewed.

- Gary Chaw of YES! Organic Market spoke to the Commission and community about the opening of a new store. The store will open in the early summer and it will be the 5th Yes! Organic Market in the District. Mr. Chaw stated that the store would be applying for a B license to sell upscale wines and imported beer. Commissioner Spalding indicated that when the Commission receives notice of placarding, Mr. Chaw would be invited back for another presentation.
- The old King Pin will be restored under the new name of Parliament House. This license will be further discussed at next month's meeting.
- Chix is applying for a DR01 license, a beer and wine on premise license.
- The W Street Market license is now in safe keeping.
- Eatonville will be opening at the end of the summer or early fall in the PM Hoffman building.

Commissioner Akinmboni asked about the 7 Days Grocery license. Commissioner Spalding stated that the license is in safe keeping. The license has been withdrawn, still exists, and the business is closed. The owners still own the license, but the business will re-open at another location.

Commissioner Moss discussed license 00237 for Columbia Lodge #85 IBPEO. There was an ABRA hearing on April 2, 2008 on the summary suspension of the Elks lodge liquor license. Chief Lanier closed this establishment on March 30, 2008 after a triple stabbing that occurred on the 2nd floor of the facility. During the hearing the Lodge Council had discussions with the board about an offer and compromise which would detail a security plan for the site. The next hearing will be on April 23, 2008 to determine the next steps for the site. Commissioner Moss wrote a letter to the ABC Board asking the Elks Lodge to meet with the community to develop a voluntary agreement and security plan. The letter also strongly suggested a 6 month license suspension.

Commissioner Moss, the LeDroit Park Civic Association, and representatives from the Elks Lodge will meet on April 9, 2008 to begin discussions about voluntary agreement and security plan. Commissioner Moss moved to table a vote on this license. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion and the motion was adopted 9-0.

Commissioner Spalding discussed the new Republic Gardens. He emphasized that the business has new owners but the same name. The new owners and their attorney were present to answer any questions from the Commission and the community. Commissioner Spalding stated that the draft voluntary agreement and security was in the final editing phase and only need a few minor changes. He also indicated that the owners should apply for a CN03 license instead of a CN02 license. Questions were raised about the notification time the community had on this issue. After lengthy discussion on the license, community notification time, and the financial hardship the business would face by not opening soon the Commission came to a consensus about Republic Gardens. Commissioner Spalding moved that ANC 1B table the motion for approval of license 78849 for Republic Gardens at 1355 U Street for a new CN03 license and that ANC 1B votes support for a stipulated license for license 78849 Republic Gardens at 1355 U Street. Commissioner Hunter seconded the motion with an amendment clarifying the license type as a CN03 license. The motion was adopted in a 9-0 vote.

Grant Applications

Commissioner Mathews gave a brief explanation of grant application 08-01 for Home Roots Foundation. The grant application was before the Commission last month for a presentation. Two representatives from the organization were in attendance to answer any questions the Commission had about the grant application. The Commission discussed the issue of Commissioner Mathews's name appearing on the grant application. Commissioner Spalding stated that Commissioner Mathews could remove his name from the application or he could leave his name and not vote on the application. Commissioner Spalding needed clarification on the specific purpose of the Loving our City, Loving Ourselves. Representatives explain that their event focuses on a broad spectrum of issues in the community, ranging from health to environmental to employment. Commissioner Mathews moved that the Commission adopt grant application 08-01. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Moss- yes

Commissioner Hoerrner- yes

Commissioner Conklin- yes

Commissioner Nadeau- yes

Commissioner Spalding – no

Commissioner Akinmboni- yes

Commissioner Smith- yes

Commissioner Mathews- abstain

The motion was adopted 6-1-1.

Chairman Smith announced the Arts Under the Stars grant application will be on next month's agenda.

Representatives from the Marie Reed Neighborhood Association presented information on their grant application. The grant will be used to take a group of students on a music trip at Kings Dominion in Virginia. Commissioner Hunter moved that ANC 1B vote to suspend the rule for 30 day grant application receipt and vote to approve the grant application for the Marie Reed Neighborhood Association. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion and it was adopted 9-0.

New Business

Commissioner Hunter asked that the Commission take a position of opposition on the announcement of warrantless searches for guns that the Metropolitan Police Department is now conducting. The ACLU and other community organizations are holding a rally at Freedom Plaza on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 12pm in opposition to the searches. Commissioner Hunter moved that ANC 1B go on record in official opposition of the policy of warrantless searches and that the Commission designate Commissioner Hunter to draft a letter to the Mayor and the City Council advising them of the Commission's opposition. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion with the amendment that the Executive Committee will draft the opposition letter. The motion was adopted with 8-1, Commissioner Spalding abstaining from the vote.

Commissioner Hunter discussed a problem with the February minutes concerning the Metropolitan Baptist Church grant report to the Commission. He moved that the Commission amend the February minutes to say that Metropolitan Baptist Church did not receive the check until February. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion and the motion was adopted 9-0.

Commissioner Moss inquired about business cards. Chairman Smith stated that he would work on getting the business cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.