

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

Thursday, February 5, 2009, 7 PM, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street, NW

The regular monthly meeting of ANC1B was held on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center. Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Brianne Nadeau Chair, E. Gail Anderson Holness, Secretary, Rosemary Akinmboni, Myla Moss, Meghan Conklin, Vice Chair, Peter Raia, Sedrick Muhammad, Deborah Thomas, Juan Lopez, Treasurer and Thomas Smith. Chairman Nadeau called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. introduction of Commissioners followed.

Officer's Reports

Secretary

Commissioner Anderson Holness presented the minutes from the January meeting and asked for corrections. She noted a correction for the last page, "Respectfully submitted by E. Gail Anderson Holness, Secretary. Commissioner Lopez added that a correction needed to be made in the Treasurer's report. The line that reads," Commissioner Lopez moved that ANC1B authorize a \$25.00 payment to the Treasurer of the Security Fund..." The line must be changed to: Commissioner Lopez moved that ANC1B authorize a \$25.00 payment to the ANC Security Fund..." approval. Also, Commissioner Muhammad's name should be added as the person responsible for securing the new Reeves Center location for the Commission meetings. Chairman Nadeau stated that the level of detail in the minutes only reflects business items because she instructed Bianca Body, administrative assistant not to include all of the discussion points. Commissioner Anderson Holness stated as Secretary she requested that Ms. Body to complete the minutes in full form. The date on the minutes also needed to be changed to Wednesday, January 7, 2009. After full discussion of the changes, Commissioner Anderson Holness moved that ANC1B approve the minutes as noted with corrections. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 9-0

Treasurer

Commissioner Lopez stated that the Commissioners had packets that with a brief overview for the month of January. As approved, three checks for: the ANC Security Fund- \$25.00, the Howard University Community Association- \$1,000 grant, and Phil Spalding \$249.36 for office supplies. There were no other expenses for the month of

January. The new Industrial Bank statement as of January 30, 2009 showed an ending balance of \$92, 376.19. Last month he had a first quarter report summary, but did not hear anything back. He now has a full first quarter report and reviewed it a couple of times. The only outstanding issue is a grant from the African American Holiday Association (\$1,000) that is now overdue. Commissioner Lopez asked Commissioner Moss if she has contact information for them. He also asked Commissioner Akinmboni if she was able to help the Association with their receipts. Commissioner Moss stated that she would talk with them to get their receipts to the Commission. Commissioner Lopez then moved that ANC1B approve the 1st quarter report for fiscal year 2009. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 9-0.

Chairman

Chairman Nadeau participated in a meeting last week regarding the office space. The Commission will have 500 square feet in the Reeves Center on the 7th floor starting around April or May. In the meantime, storage space for the Commission will be in the attic of the Butler Center. She will continue to provide updates as more evolves.

Community Events & Announcements

Commissioner Muhammad:

- Councilmember Jim Graham will hold a white vigil tomorrow, February 6, 2009, in memory of Jose Sanchez. He was attacked near 14th and _____ Place. A white vigil is often held in Latin American countries as a call for peace after senseless violence or to raise awareness for social issues plaguing the community. It will be held at 12:15pm. Councilmember Graham is hosting the event and invited guests include: Mayor Fenty, Janice Cantana, director of the Office of Unified Communications, Edward Delgado of the 3rd District Police Station, ANC Commissioners, and members of the clergy, community organizations, advocacy organizations, and residents. The vigil will take place outside the Pan-am Grocery Store at 3500 14th Street, NW, near the corner of 14th and Parker Place. He left flyers at the table in the back of the room.
- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will have a Justice Park design meeting on Euclid between 14th Street and University Place on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Columbia Heights Community Center located at 1480 Girard Street, NW from 11am-12pm. This is the 3rd community design meeting of the year. DPR is accepting feedback from the community. They have been extremely responsive in taking initiative by having numerous community meetings regarding this park.

Boys and Girls Clubhouse #10

Teresa Green announced that she is looking for volunteers. The clubhouse is located between Clifton and 14th Streets. There will be a volunteer orientation on Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 10am-1pm. She invited the community to come and learn what

the Boys and Girls Club is about and its volunteer opportunities. Refreshments will be served.

Mentoring Works 2

Camille McKenzie announced that Mentoring Works 2 is hosting a Safety Services and Security Workshop. The workshop will be held at the St. Stephens Church on 15th and Newton Streets. The Metropolitan Police Department, the DC Fire Department as well as other organizations will be there to assist with residents' concerns.

Chairman Nadeau asked the Commission to continue to postpone the Committee reports until Commissioner Smith's arrival. The Commission agreed.

Consent Agenda

There is no consent agenda for the month.

Presentations

1B11 Empowerment Project

Commissioner Anderson Holness stated that in an effort to mobilize 1B in a way that it has never been mobilized in terms of empowerment and utilizing resources in the area, a committee was formed to look into an empowerment project for 1B11. This project would be very similar to empowerment centers that were created when Sharon Pratt Kelley was mayor of Washington, DC with different programs for youth and seniors. They are working to bring the Sew-n-Know Program that is held at the Tennis and Learning Center run by Janice Rankin to the young people in the area. Negotiations are in progress with other entities right now to assist with empowerment project. This will empower youth and seniors.

The first organizing meeting of 1B11 was held on January 15, 2009. An individual from Emergency Preparedness spoke with residents of 1B11. Commissioner Anderson Holness encouraged other to have similar programs because the information given is not just for natural disasters that occur, but for other disasters such as terrorist attacks, weather related and other issues that deal with emergency preparedness. They are negotiating to make LeDroit a training center for emergency preparedness particularly because it is a high rise with senior citizens. The committee is moving to empower the community as best as they can.

Chairman Nadeau asked for questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Anderson Holness added that there would be a story hour for children. Mama Susan is

the Griot who will tell stories to children ages 0-10 years old on Saturdays. Commissioner Moss asked, "How often will you have sessions at Kelly/LeDroit facility? When will they start?" Commissioner Anderson Holness replied that the meetings would be once a month on the 3rd Saturday of the month and will begin February 21, 2009. Commissioner Nadeau asked for questions from the community. There were no questions. She also called for a Commissioner to volunteer to make a presentation at the March meeting; there were no volunteers.

Commissioner Holness stated that there will be a book drive in 1B11. The book drive is not only for children, but for seniors as well. The drop off spot will be announced at a later date. The plan is to give books to children that attend the story hour and to the seniors during literacy programs. She emphasized that people would be amazed to find out the large number of children who have never had anyone read them a story. She concluded her report soliciting the support of everyone present.

Board for the Condemnation of Unsanitary Buildings Vacant Property Unit

Twii Huen from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Vacant Property Unit made a presentation.

She stated that her office is charged with taking care of, inspecting, classifying, and taxing vacant properties. Vacant properties in DC are taxed at \$10 per \$100 of the assessed value. If you have property or a house that is assessed at \$200,000, your property taxes for 2009 would be \$20,000 for one year. The rationale behind this law is the Nuisance and Abatement Act of 2008. This is to prevent the nuisance properties from becoming a haven for crime activities, drugs, prostitution, and kids that don't have anything to do who know the neighborhood and don't have any place to go. These children will go to the vacant property and do activities that are not legal. They can also be used a haven for crime because they are not being taken care of. The tax class was put in place by City Council. Ms. Huen was thanked for her presentation.

National Marathon

Chris Brown, Vice President of the Greater Washington Sports Alliance (GWSA) spoke about the 4th Annual National Marathon. The GWSA is a non profit sports commission in the Washington metro area, and this the fourth year they have come before ANC1B. The marathon will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009. It will start and finish at RFK Stadium. The entire mile is 26.2 miles and the half marathon is 13.1 miles The marathon will transverse and enter at 16th and Harvard Streets at 7:35 am, and exit at Michigan Avenue and 1st Streets at 8:35am. The total closure time will be 1.5 hours with clean up time built in. The goal is to leave the city streets in condition than before.

On March 14, 2009, they will canvass the marathon area with door hangars about the marathon. They will also post clean up campaign style signs. Commissioner Anderson

Holness moved that ANC1B submit a letter of support on behalf of the SunTrust 4th Annual National Marathon. Commissioner Conklin seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 9-0.

Design Review Applications

There were no design review applications at this time.

Liquor Licenses

There were no liquor licenses at this time.

081030, Mesobe Restaurant, new CR, 1853 7th Street (Moss)

Commissioner Moss reviewed application 081030 for Mesobe Restaurant. Mesobe Restaurant is a family owned delicatessen and neighborhood store. They are requesting a change in the liquor license status because they are opening a restaurant on top of the store. The owner was present to discuss the changes to his business and to address any concerns of the Commission. Commissioner Moss then moved that ANC1B support Mesobe Restaurant's request to have a CR liquor license. Commissioner Anderson Holness seconded the motion. Chairman Nadeau asked that the motion be amended regarding the voluntary agreement. Commissioner Moss agreed to amend the motion to include that a voluntary agreement will be completed within a week. Nadeau amended the motion to say that in one week the Commissioner of jurisdiction would sit with the owner and complete a voluntary agreement. The amendment was seconded by Moss. The motion was adopted 9-1, with one abstention.

071156, DC9, 1940 9th St., extended hours (Raia)

DC9 has a voluntary agreement in place already. They are holding an event called "The Next Big Thing".

Commissioner Raia moved that ANC1B support DC9's application for extended hours for "The Next Big Thing" on February 15, 2009 from 11am to 2am. Commissioner Moss seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 9-0.

079843 Indulj, substantial change (Raia)

Commissioner Raia reviewed application 079843 for Indulj. At this time last month Indulj's license for substantial change was protested by the Shaw Cardozo Neighborhood Association.

Commissioner Raia moved that ANC1B protest the application for Indulj on peace, order, quiet, and trash with intentions of having the community's voice heard, this will allow time to get the voluntary agreement signed and it is contingent upon the signing of the voluntary agreement. Nadeau reiterated, "The motion is to protest until such time that a

voluntary agreement is signed at which point the Commission will withdraw their protest. Commissioner Anderson Holness seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 9-1-0, with one abstention.

080774, Gori Café, new CR, 1119 V St. (Raia)

Commissioner Raia reviewed application 080774 for Gori Café. He contacted the owner; they have a meeting set up for next week to discuss the voluntary agreement. The owner is very willing to sign the voluntary agreement. They are currently negotiating a voluntary agreement, so he suggested that the ANC protest this license also until all questions are answered on basis of peace, order, and quiet.

Commissioner Raia stated that he was asking the commission to protest until voluntary agreement is signed. Commissioner Raia then moved that ANC1B protest the application of Gori Café for peace, order, and quiet, contingent upon a voluntary agreement being signed with us to protect our community. Commissioner Conklin seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 10-0.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Commissioner Moss stated that the Public Safety Committee works with PSA 305, specifically with Lieutenant Jova and Lieutenant Sanders. The charge of the committee is to discuss public safety matters and come up with means in which to eradicate crime, curb crime, and look at ways to facilitate safety throughout ANC1B particularly PSA 305. The second in command with MPD, Officer Groomes has called a special ad hoc committee to discuss restructuring of PSAs. He asked certain members of the community to meet on February 26, 2009 to look at ways to make PSAs more effective.

ABC

Commissioner Raia stated that he is looking for people to serve on the committee. Residents of ANC1B would be members of the committee which will focus on the following area:

1. how licenses are applied for,
2. how they are posted in the community,
3. how to get community input, and
4. Build the businesses so that they know how to operate legally and the Commission does have issues with them.

The responsibilities the committee will brief the Commission on are:

1. Develop and make a survey for the community on new licenses and revised licenses for more community input around the establishments (not just relying on Shaw Cardozo or Westminster Neighborhood Associations),
2. Develop strategies to help new businesses become an active part of the community,
3. Conduct monthly meetings to discuss concerns the community may have with any establishment that serves liquor.

Design Review

Commissioner Smith stated that the committee was developed last year and deals with matters of DDOT, particularly location of traffic lights, stop signs, and speed humps. He announced that almost every street in his SMD has speed humps on it. Also, a four way stop sign was installed at 11th and Fairmont Streets.

The committee will look at the built environment in the area and decide what the ANC wants the community to look like. This will deter developers and architects from throwing any type of design plan at us. The committee looked at and reviewed two items last year. They are just getting started so they do not have “formal meetings”. A lot of the information (drawings and designs) is sent via e-mail. Commissioners Anderson Holness, Conklin, Nadeau, Muhammad, Moss, Raia, and Akinmboni expressed interest in joining the committee. The committee meets the third Monday of the month

Grant Applications

There were no grant applications at this time.

New Business

Executive Director

Commissioner Conklin discussed the Executive Director resolution. The resolution would create a staff hiring committee tasked with looking into hiring an Executive Director for ANC 1B. A conversation was held. Commissioner Anderson Holness then moved that ANC1B table the resolution until at least the March meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 5-4-1.

Grants Committee

Commissioner Akinmboni discussed the formation of a Grants Committee for ANC1B. The committee would be responsible for monitoring grant applications, including informing possible grantees of problems with applications, collecting receipts, etc. Commissioner Anderson Holness asked whether this was an existing committee. Chairman Nadeau replied that a formal motion would be needed to make this committee official. Commissioner Anderson Holness asked Commissioner Akinmboni if she was willing to serve as the Chair of the committee. Commissioner Akinmboni replied that

anyone can serve as Chair, but she was willing to do so. Commissioner Akinmboni moved that ANC1B form a Grants Committee. Commissioner Anderson Holness seconded the motion. Commissioner Anderson Holness amended the grant so that the committee vets grants. The amendment was seconded. The motion was adopted 9-1. Chairman Nadeau then asked for nominations for Chair of the committee. Commissioner Anderson Holness nominated Commissioner Akinmboni as Chair of the committee. Commissioner Akinmboni accepted the nomination. Commissioner Smith nominated himself as Vice Chair of the committee. There were no other nominations. Both positions were accepted by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner E. Gail Anderson Holness, Secretary 1B

Ms. Bianca Body, Administrative Assistant 1B