



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

**Thursday, October 7, 2010, 7:00 PM,
Second Floor Conference Room, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street N.W.**

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B occurred on Thursday, October 7, 2010, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center, Commissioner E. Gail Anderson Holness, 1B11, Chairperson, presiding. Commissioner Myla Moss, 1B01, was present as Secretary. Other Commissioners present during the meeting: Sedrick Muhammad, 1B03, Deborah Thomas, 1B04, Brianne Nadeau, 1B05, Juan Lopez, 1B07, Rosemary Akinmboni, 1B08 and Eduardo Ferrer, 1B10. Commissioners absent: Peter Raia, 1B02, Melissa McKnight, 1B06. Thomas K.D. Smith, 1B09.

Chairperson Anderson Holness observed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Chairperson Anderson Holness then made the following announcement:

- ✓ We ask that you silence your cell phones. By “silence” I mean either put them on “silence” or turn them off if you are able. The vibration and rings interfere with our recording and we sometimes lose valuable information.
- ✓ Our meeting agenda is based on a strict time frame. We want to address all issues and assure participation by all interested parties, but we also want to make sure that our meeting ends at a reasonable hour. Therefore, we ask that all presentations be limited to five minutes. Mr. Jim Irwin, our staff director, will give each presenter a three-minute and one-minute warning, and then will announce the expiration of time. We request all those asking questions to be as brief and concise as possible. Community announcements at the end of the meeting are limited to two minutes each.
- ✓ This meeting is audio-recorded for the public record and the draft minutes of the meeting, which will be published on our website as soon as possible.
- ✓ We welcome and encourage public comment at appropriate points in the meeting. Normally, we will ask for public comment on issues before the Commission before any motion is offered for official action. Once a motion has been made and seconded, comment and discussion is confined to Commissioners.

- ✓ We ask that all those making presentations, asking questions, or making comments speak loudly and clearly for the benefit of our recording device. Please state your name, residence address, and what organization you represent. If you are representing yourself as a resident, rather than an organization, please say so.
- ✓ For the accuracy of our public records, we ask that all those making presentations, asking questions, or making comments complete the very brief speaker information form located on the sign in table at the back of the room. Please give the completed form to our Staff Director, Jim Irwin, either before or after you speak to the Commission. The purpose of this form is to assure correct spelling of your name in the minutes, accurate address and accurate statement of representation.

Thank you for your attendance, participation and cooperation.

Chairperson Anderson Holness asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Presentation

Howard University Deputy Police Chief Alonzo Joy said that Howard University's Homecoming will occur on Saturday, October 30th. The Homecoming Parade will start at 10:00 AM. He said that all permits have been approved. All buses will be parked in the university's Sherman Avenue lot. All D.C. laws will be followed. Buses will not be allowed to idle. Security will be present in the parking lot to protect the buses and make sure laws are followed. The Special Operations Division of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will be providing resources to augment the 120 officers of the Howard University Police Department. The University has an agreement with the city to make sure that streets are cleaned before and after the event. There will be crowd control along the parade route.

Commissioner Nadeau asked if the university was working with MPD to monitor unofficial Homecoming events organized by student groups or others.

Deputy Chief Joy said that the university had provided a list of all known events to MPD, and as they learned of others, these were being communicated to MPD as well.

Chairperson Anderson Holness noted that she had just attended a meeting with Howard University President Ribeau and he had assured everyone that Homecoming events would be conducted in an orderly way as in the past.

Commissioner Moss thanked Deputy Chief Joy for attending the LeDroit Park Civic Association meeting and working with the community on Homecoming concerns, since it is very much impacted by the route of the parade.

Officers Reports

Chairperson Anderson Holness noted that Vice Chairperson Peter Raia was necessarily absent due to another meeting.

Secretary's Report – Minutes of September 2010 meeting

Commissioner Moss submitted the draft minutes of the September 2010 meeting for approval.

Commissioner Moss moved that the draft minutes of the September 2, 2010 meeting be approved.

Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes 0 no.

Public Safety and Public Safety Committee Report

Commissioner Sedrick Muhammad submitted the Public Safety Committee Report for October:

ANC 1B October Public Safety Committee Report

Commissioners,

Below is a summary of some public safety reports that took place between September 2 and October 6.

September 13

Approx 3:35pm

DC Water reports emergency repairs are being made to a service line on Euclid St NW between 13th and 14th Sts NW. Approximately 50 homes and 2 hydrants are affected. Repairs are expected to take 2 to 3 hours. No road closures at this time. DDOT has been notified

September 17

Approx 4:30pm

It was brought to my attention the week of Sept 17, by residents of Garfield Terrace (2301 11th St NW) that an individual at that property was allegedly committing numerous crimes, causing the residents to live in fear. On Sept 17 at 3pm, I, along with MPD under the leadership of Lt. Pearce and Sgt. Kyle attended the Garfield Terrace Resident Council Meeting. At approx 4:30pm, MPD arrested the suspect. His name is Robert "Smoot" Haye. He was charged with Unlawful Entry, Probation Violation, Possession of Marijuana and Ammunition Violation. This is an excellent example of community policing.

September 21

Approx 8:45am

DC FEMS- 2100 blk 14th St NW - report of fire in bldg - 2 sty bldg
Update 8:45am - 14th st NW - elec water heater - overheated motor - some smoke - no inj

September 23

Approx 7:00am

Water main break - 1300 blk T St NW - poss road undermined/sinking - 14th & T St closed

September 28

Approx 12:30pm

A shooting occurred in the 1900 block of 13th Street, NW. The investigation revealed that the vehicle that was fired upon fled the scene of the shooting and entered the 1100 block of U Street, NW, where it was involved in a collision with two other vehicles and overturned. Two occupants of the overturned vehicle were struck by gunfire. DC Fire and Emergency Medical personnel responded to the scene. The surviving victim was transported to an area hospital. The second victim did not show any signs consistent with life and was pronounced dead on the scene by the Office of The Chief Medical Examiner.

The decedent is identified as 21 year old Jamal Coates of the 1400 block of Spring Road, NW.

Approx 9pm

21 year old Brandon Miller of the 1200 block of Girard Street, NW, was arrested and charged with Murder One While Armed.

October 3

Approx 1am

There was a shooting on the 600 block of Harvard St NW. Two adult males suffering from gunshot wounds inside of the actual alley. Both males were transported to local hospitals where one of the males succumbed to his injuries.

October 6

Approx 6pm

DC FEMS responded to a fire on the roof at 928 U St. NW. U St. between 9th Street and Vermont Ave NW, is closed to traffic. No injuries or relocations reported at this time.

Approx 6:50pm

Update: DC FEMS reported that the fire at 928 U St. NW, has been knocked down. U St. between 9th St. and Vermont Ave. NW, has been reopened to traffic. No injuries or relocations were reported.

PSA 304

Crime Type	9/2/2009 to 10/6/2009	09/02/2010 to 10/6/2010	% Change
Homicide	0	0 view map	N/A
Sex Abuse	0	0 view map	N/A
Robbery Excluding Gun	5	4 view map	↓ 20
Robbery With Gun	3	0 view map	↓ 100
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Excluding Gun	2	4 view map	↑ 100
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Gun	0	1 view map	N/A
Total Violent Crime	10	9 view map	↓ 10

Burglary	9	8	view map	↓ 11
Theft	9	11	view map	↑ 22
Theft F/Auto	18	12	view map	↓ 33
Stolen Auto	8	7	view map	↓ 12
Arson	0	0	view map	N/A
Total Property Crime	44	38	view map	↓ 14
Total Crime	54	47	view map	↓ 13

PSA 305

Crime Type	9/2/2009 to 10/6/2009	09/02/2010 to 10/6/2010	% Change
Homicide	0	1	view map N/A
Sex Abuse	0	0	view map N/A
Robbery Excluding Gun	11	5	view map ↓ 55
Robbery With Gun	6	3	view map ↓ 50
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Excluding Gun	2	4	view map ↑ 100
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Gun	0	1	view map N/A
Total Violent Crime	19	14	view map ↓ 26
Burglary	10	5	view map ↓ 50
Theft	28	26	view map ↓ 7
Theft F/Auto	49	50	view map ↑ 2
Stolen Auto	10	12	view map ↑ 20
Arson	0	0	view map N/A
Total Property Crime	97	93	view map ↓ 4
Total Crime	116	107	view map ↓ 8

Commissioner Muhammad moved that the Public Safety Committee report be accepted and entered into the record.

Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion.
The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Design Review Applications and Design Review Committee Report

Chairperson Anderson Holness noted that Mr. Tony Norman, Committee Chairperson, was necessarily absent. She briefly reviewed the Committee's recommendation, outlined in its report entered below, that ANC 1B support the application of Howard Theatre Restoration Inc. for a grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities to finance the creation of a statue, "The Jazz Man," to be installed on the façade of the restored theatre.

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE Tony Norman, Chairperson Report and Recommendations October 7, 2010

SUMMARY

The Design Committee met on October 5, 2010 to review the design for a statue to be mounted on the façade of the restored Howard Theatre. Howard Theatre Restoration, Inc. has applied for funding from the DC Council on the Arts and Humanities and requests that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B support their application.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends, by a vote of five yes, 1 no, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B support the application of Howard Theatre Restoration, Inc. for a grant from the DC Council on the Arts and Humanities to finance the creation of the proposed statue.

REPORT ON RECOMMENDATION

Howard Theatre Restoration, Inc. has commissioned artist Brower Hatcher to create a contemporary sculpture to be mounted on the pedestal at the top of the theater façade. Mr. Chip Ellis, Howard Theatre Restoration, Inc., told the committee:

- The Howard Theatre façade is being restored to its original 1910 appearance. The interior of the theatre was completely deteriorated and could not be restored, so the interior will be contemporary.
- The original façade was surmounted by a statue of the god Apollo playing the lyre. However, the original statue has been lost, and the organization does not feel that a statue of Apollo says anything.
- The proposed statue is very modern in design and depicts a jazz trumpet player. The structure is an open metal framework, within which are instruments and musical notes. The structure will be illuminated by LED lights, so that it will glow blue. (See attached drawings and notes.)

- The intent of the statue is to create an unusual and attractive visual feature which will draw people's attention to the theater.
- The restored 1910 façade of the theater will evoke the historic character of the Howard Theatre and its place in the LeDroit Park community. The statue's modern design and depiction of the "Jazz Man" will personify the primary contribution of the theater as a jazz music treasure of Washington, D.C. and the place where many jazz greats of the twentieth century were "discovered" or performed. In addition, the modern design will evoke the promise of the Howard Theatre's contributions to the future of music and art in twenty-first century Washington D.C.
- The statue is somewhere between 7 and 13 feet tall and will stand about 30 feet above ground.

There were numerous questions and comments from Committee members. These concerns could be summarized as follows:

- There was concern about the size of the statue. Committee members concurred that it might not be tall enough to stand out and be distinguished from the building from a distance, even if illuminated at night.
- The design of the statue seemed somewhat static. The figure should be redesigned to be more dynamic and animated.
- There are two options for positioning the statue as viewed from the front of the theater: profile or facing the viewer. Committee members expressed a preference for the facing position.
- The Committee member who voted against the motion to recommend support adamantly opposes the juxtaposition of a modern sculpture against the traditional Italianate 1910 façade. He felt strongly that this made no visual sense.

The result of the discussion was the adoption of a motion to recommend that the Commission support the Howard Theatre Restoration, Inc. application to the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to fund the proposed statue as presented. The vote was five yes, 1 no, no abstentions.

Commissioner Moss moved that ANC 1B adopt the recommendation of the Committee and express by letter its support for the Howard Theatre Restoration Inc. grant application to the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities for funding for the "Jazz Man" statue.

Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Liquor Licenses and ABC Committee Report

Chairperson Anderson Holness noted that, due to Commissioner Raia's absence, there was no committee report. A new liquor license on the agenda was in Commissioner

Thomas's single member district and Chairperson Anderson Holness called on her to present the application.

Commissioner Thomas said that La Fonda Restaurant, 2100 14th Street N.W., was applying for a new liquor license. She asked the owner, Mr. Michael Askarinam and his attorney, Mr. Stephen O'Brien, to discuss their application.

Mr. O'Brien said the application was for a Class C Restaurant license for a new restaurant to replace the carry-out on the corner of 14th and V Streets N.W. He said Mr. Askarinam and his brother have operated the Dupont Italian Kitchen restaurant on 17th Street N.W. for over 20 years. They purchased the building on 14th Street three years ago and have waited out the expiration of the lease. They intend to very substantially rehabilitate the building, including the construction of a new façade, and open a restaurant with a Tex-Mex theme. As owners of the building, they have a stake in the neighborhood and keeping their operation compatible. Their proposed operation is a marked improvement over what has been experienced and should discourage the congregation and loitering that has been constantly taking place there.

Commissioner Thomas noted that she had talked with the owner just today. She had also received phone calls and e-mails from neighbors and noted that he had met with the President of Martha's Table, Lindsey Buss, who was present at the meeting. She said she had also talked with Mr. Askarinam about his proposed design for the building, which had to be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board, and she expected them to come back to the Commission for review of their plans. Regarding neighborhood concerns, she said she hoped Mr. Askarinam would meet with the Meridian Hill Neighborhood Association and residents of Union Row, across 14th Street. There is a lot of interest and concern with what goes on on that corner because there is a daycare center right next to the building, St. Augustin School on the opposite side, and many residences. Issues include noise, parking and operating hours.

Commissioner Nadeau asked what kind of soundproofing measures would Mr. Askarinam take when renovating the building and what was his vision for entertainment.

Mr. Askarinam said they would be serving dinner, so they would not be having loud music. The windows and walls would be soundproofed, especially the walls because of the daycare center next door. They also plan to serve lunch, but will not have loud music then either. At dinner time, the doors will be closed. They have a restaurant and bar on the corner of 17th and R Streets NW, and when the doors are closed, no one has ever complained about noise.

Commissioner Moss asked if Mr. Askarinam would consider hiring qualified persons from the community.

Mr. Askarinam said yes, it was in their interest to hire people from the immediate neighborhood. He said he was able to keep Dupont Italian Kitchen open during the major snowstorms of the past winter because many of the staff lived in the immediate

neighborhood and could get to the restaurant, while other businesses were closed because their employees could not get to work.

Commissioner Thomas said that was one of the questions she had asked. She said one of her concerns was that some of the businesses coming into the area already had their employees hired and she had discussed notifying the community about employment opportunities before hiring staff.

Commissioner Moss asked about the hours of alcohol consumption starting at 8:00 AM and continuing until 2:00 AM.

Mr. Askarinam said that the 8 AM hour was a typographical error and he did not intend to start serving that early.

Chairperson Anderson Holness asked if there were questions from the community.

Ms. Renee Barry, 2125 14th Street N.W., said she was a resident of Union Row. She asked Mr. Askarinam what his target market would be.

Mr. Askarinam said they did not want people to come to the restaurant and get drunk. They wanted to serve people who came to eat dinner, have a glass of wine or beer, have a good experience, then leave. He said they wanted to serve as many people as possible.

Ms. Barry asked if the primary business model was food and alcohol was a secondary part.

Mr. Askarinam said yes.

Ms. Barry asked what provisions were being made for parking.

Mr. Askarinam said he expected that most of his customers would live in the neighborhood and would walk or take Metro. He said most restaurants on 14th Street did not have parking, and there was no parking on the street, so people would have to Metro to get to his restaurant.

Ms. Barry asked what the peak hours of operation would be.

Mr. Askarinam said that, for dinner, it would probably be between 7 PM and 10 PM, but the kitchen would be open as long as the restaurant is open.

Mr. Lindsey Buss, President of Martha's Table, said that he and Mr. Askarinam had met and discussed some of his concerns, including those mentioned by Commissioner Thomas and others specific to the presence of 250 children at the daycare center every day, outdoor seating, drinking outdoors, and the possible blocking of evacuation routes from the daycare center by outdoor seating. He said that Mr. Askarinam had been open

to not having outdoor seating, and to entering into a voluntary agreement. He said parents of children at the daycare have a general concern about people arriving at the restaurant for happy hour just when parents are picking up their children. He said that he and Mr. Askarinam had had good conversations and would continue to talk.

Commissioner Thomas again suggested that Mr. Askarinam should meet with the Meridian Hill Neighborhood Association and the residents of Union Row.

Commissioner Thomas moved that ANC 1B protest the application of La Fonda Restaurant for a Class C Restaurant liquor license on the basis of peace, order, quiet and parking.

Commissioner Akinmboni seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Mr. O'Brien asked the Chairperson if there was a particular Commissioner designated to negotiate a voluntary agreement with La Fonda.

Chairperson Anderson Holness said that Commissioner Thomas was designated to represent the Commission.

Grant Applications and Grants Committee Report

Commissioner Akinmboni presented the Grants Committee report. She said there was a recommendation regarding the WeR4U grant and a recommendation on the grant application of the Emergence Community Arts Collective on which the Commission should act. Commissioner Nadeau noted there was a third recommendation regarding grant policies that could be acted on when the 2011 budget was discussed.

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

September 28, 2010

Commissioner Rosemary Akinmboni, Chairperson

The Committee met at 7:00 PM on September 28, 2010 in the Commission office, 2000 14th Street N.W., Suite 100B.

Committee members present: Commissioner Rosemary Akinmboni, Chairperson, Commissioner Brianne Nadeau, and Ms. Halima Roebuck.

Others attending: Zarinah Shakir, Perspectives of Interfaith Television, Sylvia Robinson with the Emergence Community Arts Collective, Darren Jones with the Georgia Avenue Community Development Taskforce, Jamal Mohammed with WeR4U, Bob Maffin, Logan Circle Resident, Mr. Tony Norman

Grants and Grant Applications

The committee heard from Mr. Jamal Mohammed, WeR4U. He reported that they have not spent any money yet, and are requesting an extension. He delivered a letter to the committee formally requesting the extension. He plans to do a series of seminars between now and by the end of October as originally described in his grant application.

The committee heard from Sylvia Robinson about the work of her organization and the efforts they have made thus far seeking community input for the development of the Georgia Avenue corridor, task force meetings twice per month, and many opportunities for community input. They are moving into a more formal aspect of the project in the near future. They are looking for ways to reach even further in the community input process, especially to those who have not had access to electronic forms of outreach. They are asking for grant funds to cover the costs of printing for meeting announcements, flyers, posters, and the panorama, which will be posted for community comment opportunities. The funds requested in the amount of \$2,579 would be issued to the Emergence Community Arts Collective, which would work with the other groups collaborating on this project to execute the outreach program. The committee discussed its appreciation for the opportunity to award funds to a project that will enhance the Georgia Avenue corridor and asked a few questions about the budget. The committee voted unanimously to support the grant in the amount of \$2,000.

The committee heard from Ms. Zarinah Shakir of Perspectives of Interfaith Television who is requesting funding to screen the movie Moozlum at the Cramton theatre on the Howard University campus. They are based and tape out of Arlington, but they air in Washington, DC. Ms. Shakir is a resident of Ward 5. The total amount requested is to be determined. The hope is to have as broad a showing as possible, not just Howard students, but the whole community (reaching also out as far as College Park and George Mason) and will be doing outreach to local high schools, neighborhood churches and mosques, social justice organizations that are a part of 1B. They are partnering with Brothers and Sisters International, Inc., which is a local organization. WPFW will offer some in-kind contributions as media sponsors. The applicant did not provide an itemized budget but estimates the cost of the event at \$10,000 which will include the cost of the venue (\$5,000 - \$15,000), security, travel, food, and promotional items (palm cards, ads, mailings), some of which will be in-kind contributions. They are hoping to partner with student groups so that the cost of the venue will be reduced. The committee asked that Ms. Shakir resubmit the request with an itemized budget that indicated what the ANC would be asked to fund, which perhaps would result in a lower request, based on what is allowable. The committee could not make a recommendation at this time.

Revision of Grant Policies

The committee continued the discussion on guidelines for grants.

In addition to rules set out by the auditor, the committee recommends:

- Applicants should be serving 1B directly, whether they are based in 1B or focus their efforts on 1B residents primarily with this project.
- Applicants and organizations should not be profiting from the project being awarded.
- Applicants must demonstrate other sources of income whether it be financial sponsorship, in-kind contributions, ticket sales, or similar.
- Grant requested shall not equal more than 15% of the entire budget of the project, or \$2,000, whichever is greater.
- If an applicant has not fulfilled prior grant filing requirements, then it will not be eligible to apply for funds for 3 years.

WeR4U grant extension

Commissioner Nadeau moved that the WeR4U grant be extended to November 30, 2010, and that WeR4U be required to submit a final statement of use of funds and supporting receipts for all expenditures within 30 days after November 30, 2010.

Commissioner Moss seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lopez asked if a letter would be sent to the D.C. Auditor advising them of the Commission's approval of an extension.

Commissioner Nadeau said yes.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Emergence Community Arts Collective grant application

Commissioner Nadeau said that ECAC is planning an extensive community outreach project which gives the Commission a great opportunity to fund a project on Georgia Avenue. It can be fully funded for \$2,000.00.

Commissioner Nadeau moved that ANC 1B approve the application of the Emergence Community Arts Collective for a \$2,000.00 grant.

Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Amendment to Greater U Street Historical Foundation Grant

Commissioner Ferrer said that the D.C. Auditor required the approval of the Commission for a change in expenditure of grant funds by the Greater U Street Historical Foundation. The change in expenditures was \$500.00 for permit fees instead of maintenance of Harrison Park.

Commissioner Ferrer moved that ANC 1B approve the change in expenditures by the Greater U Street Foundation from \$500.00 for Harrison Park maintenance as proposed in their grant application to \$500.00 for permit fees for the Greater U Street Festival.

Commissioner Moss seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted, 8 yes, 0 no.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Ferrer presented the Treasurer's Report for October, 2010. ANC 1B

Treasurers Report – October, 2010

Overview

The September, 2010 Industrial Bank Statement is attached to this report. The current balance is \$38,747.33.

The following checks were written at the September 2, 2010 meeting:

Name	Check #	Amount	Purpose
Col. Hgts Shaw Family Support Collaborative	1775	\$5,000.00	Grant #10-02
James Irwin	1776	\$1,834.16	Staff wages
James Irwin	1777	\$11.88	Reimbursement for postage
UPS Store	1778	\$306.00	Printing: brochures, flyers, business cards
Capital Services & Supplies	1779	\$380.24	Office supplies/equipment: safe, shredder

The following checks were cashed last month:

Date Cashed	Name	Check #	Amount	Purpose	Meeting Approval Date
9/1/10	Best Buy	1770	\$2,861.68	Computer equipment and installation	Budget approved 10/1/09
9/9/10	Col. Hgts.	1775	\$5,000.00	Grant 10-02	1/7/10

	Shaw Family Support Collaborative				
9/7/10	James Irwin	1776	\$1,834.16	Staff wages	Budget approved 10/1/09
9/7/10	James Irwin.	1777	\$11.88	Reimbursement for postage	9/2/10
9/30/10	UPS Store	1778	\$306.00	Printing	9/2/10
9/23/10	Capital Services & Supplies	1779	380.24	Office supplies/equipment: safe, shredder	9/2/10

Expenses to be approved

Name	Amount	Purpose
James Irwin	\$1,405.92	Staff wages-net pay (Gross: \$1,740.00)
James Irwin	\$8.80	Postage
UPS Store	\$108.75	Printing: Staff Director business cards, meeting announcement flyers
Best Buy	298.84	Purchase of audio speakers, IT services to relocate printer

Commissioner Ferrer moved that the expenses listed in the October Treasurer's Report be approved.

Commissioner Nadeau seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Commissioner Ferrer moved that the October 2010 Treasurer's Report be approved.

Commissioner Moss seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Proposed FY 2011 budget

Commissioner Ferrer presented the proposed FY 2011 budget, which had been reviewed and adjusted by the Executive Committee. Revisions took into account

revenue and expense projections for the next five years, and an updated estimate of the ending balance for FY 2010, taking into account expenses and checks written but not yet cashed. Key changes in the budget include:

- Net salary at \$19,200 per year or 80 hours per month.
- Purchase of audio equipment to more efficiently record and transcribe meeting minutes, including a public address system to better amplify the meetings.
- Reduction in the grant budget from \$30,000 to \$10,000.

Commissioner Ferrer noted that one of the primary reasons for these changes was the projection of expenses versus income through FY 2015. The Commission's allotment from the D.C. government amounted to about \$28,000, but rent, staff costs, and operating expense at present levels would result in a deficit. While the Commission now has a financial cushion, it will be gone in 2014. Commissioner Ferrer suggested that the Commission during the next fiscal year would have to make plans to adjust for this shortfall.

Commissioner Nadeau commended Commissioner Ferrer and the Executive Committee for their hard work in producing a very responsible budget.

Commissioner Ferrer moved that ANC 1B approve the FY 2011 budget as presented.

Commissioner Moss seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Revisions to Grant Policies and Procedures

Commissioner Nadeau listed the revisions to grant policies and procedures recommended by the Grants Committee:

- Applicants should be serving 1B directly, whether they are based in 1B or focus their efforts on 1B residents primarily with this project.
- Applicants and organizations should not be profiting from the project being awarded.
- Applicants must demonstrate other sources of income whether it be financial sponsorship, in-kind contributions, ticket sales, or similar.
- If an applicant has not fulfilled prior grant filing requirements, then it will not be eligible to apply for funds for 3 years from the original date of issue of the prior grant check.

Commissioner Nadeau said the Committee had originally recommended a cap of 15% of the total project budget or \$2,000, whichever was greater, but they now believed the cap should be lower.

Chairperson Anderson Holness said the Executive Committee had recommended a cap of \$500.00 per grant.

Commissioner Nadeau moved that the recommended revisions in grant policies, including limiting grants to 15% of the applicant's total project budget or \$500.00, whichever is less, be adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Purchase of Audio Equipment for Commission meetings

Commissioner Ferrer moved that the Commission approve the purchase of audio recording and amplification equipment for Commission meetings as provided in the FY 2011 budget.

Commissioner Moss seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 8 yes, 0 no.

Proposed change in form of meeting minutes

Commissioner Ferrer noted that the Staff Director spent an inordinate amount of time preparing a journal of the monthly meeting.

Commissioner Ferrer moved that the minutes of future meetings be maintained in a more bare-bones form, recording attendance, motions and votes on motions, and a brief synopsis of presentations and comments, and, to provide a journal of the meeting for public information, audio recordings of the meetings be posted on the Commission website, and the Staff Director shall list time stamps for each order of business, so that people interested in specific items can go directly to that point in the recording.

Commissioner Moss seconded the motion.

Commissioner Nadeau expressed her concern and opposition to not preparing the minutes in a fully detailed form.

Commissioner Lopez said he thought the Commission should wait to find out how the audio equipment works, if it works. He thought the Commission should hear how the equipment works and then consider the motion.

Commissioner Ferrer said he thought that was a good suggestion and withdrew his motion.

Presentations

Chairperson Anderson Holness introduced Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to talk with the Commission and the public.

Congresswoman Norton said that she had been having conversations with residents all around the District of Columbia. They started in the early summer, when she had to make a horrific decision. After struggling for years to achieve voting rights for the District, they received an offer they had to refuse. Confronted with the choice between full voting rights in the House of Representatives and the public safety of the District, she had to refuse the offer of voting rights in return for the revocation of the District's gun laws.

She thought it was important to review what the options are.

Congresswoman Norton made the following points:

- She referred to packets that she had distributed to attendees and the Commissioners illustrating the many issues that she had to deal with as well as statehood and voting rights. She sits on the Homeland Security Committee because the District is a prime target for terrorists. She is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and chairs a subcommittee which directly impacts the District's economy because it keeps federal jobs in the District and supervises federal building construction. She works with the District government, the presumptive mayor and residents on issues raised by the federal government's role and impact.
- She cannot vote on the House floor, but can vote in committee meetings and she can vote in the full House of Representatives when it meets as the Committee of the Whole, so that she can vote on some House business on the House floor. When the House voted to give her that vote, the Republicans sued. When they lost in the District Court, they went to the Court of Appeals and lost there too, then just gave up. She said this is an object lesson that in the Congress you get everything you can. You cannot get the whole ball of wax, but you get whatever you can for the District. The Speaker can't get all that she wants. By its nature, by the way it is structured, Congress is an incremental place. You have to get too many people to agree to make it the kind of revolutionary place she would like it to be. She has had to learn to operate in the arena she has been given, and to get as much out of that arena as she can.
- She said she had gotten the D.C. budget out of Congress. This is an important matter. Why was the D.C. budget considered by Congress at all? This is not federal money. It is the money from the residents of the District, in a budget approved by their elected representatives on the City Council. After they approve it, it must go to Congress to be considered by people on subcommittees of the House and Senate who know nothing of it. The Congress can overturn

laws of the District, but it would be difficult to do without the leverage of DC budget approval. People in Congress use the DC budget to attach riders to get the district to do what they want to do, not what the people of the District want to do. Budget autonomy is an issue second in importance only to statehood. Only after the Democrats took over, could she get the budget away from Congress.

- She said people could talk about D.C. matters and issues, but she is the federal official for the District and there is a home rule government. That government knows about the kinds of issues that the ANC deals with, and the Mayor and City Council work on. Her office does get calls from people about problems with the D.C. government. They always work to get that caller together with someone in the D.C. government who can help resolve the problem; her office does not try to solve the problem because it is a local issue.
- She has worked with the Secret Service, at the request of constituents, to reduce the impact and inconvenience of the Secret Service presence and security measures when there is an event or visit by a protected Federal official. This is an example of how she works to address issues caused by the Federal government and its activities in local neighborhoods.
- With regard to statehood and voting rights, she said they have to decide how to proceed next time. No decision can be made until she has some sense of what the next Congress will look like.
- The statehood issue is a major struggle. The Senate is very unwilling to admit any new states, especially the District of Columbia. It is a very political process with tradeoffs and compromises. Major efforts to achieve statehood have been rejected in the past because of the Senate, even when there was a large Democratic Party majority in both Houses of Congress. When the D.C. government went insolvent in the 1990s and the Republicans took control of the Congress, the prospects of statehood basically disappeared.
- The next question, then, was what to do if statehood was not immediately achievable. The option of voting representation in the House was the most achievable option. The most recent bill to give the District a vote, in exchange for an additional House seat for Utah, was not her idea, but she gives Representative Tom Davis a great deal of credit for developing the proposal. This bill was overwhelmingly supported in the House and got 57 votes of the 60 votes needed in the Senate in 2007. The second time around, the National Rifle Association got the gun rights amendment attached. Conservative Democrats would not vote for the bill a second time unless the gun rights amendment was included. She spent the summer not working on voting rights, but trying to keep this bill with a gun rights amendment from passing. We could end up without voting rights and with D.C. gun laws wiped out. We have to be strategic, but principled at the same time. She did not think she would do anyone a favor by

accepting the abolition of DC gun laws as the price for voting rights in the Congress. This was an impossible choice.

Congresswoman Norton invited questions.

Mr. Jason Berry, 700 block, Hobart Place, NW, asked if conservative Democrats lose in the midterm elections, would there be a chance to get something more positive out of the lame-duck session of Congress because they might be more open to supporting a good bill.

Congresswoman Norton said they were considering that possibility. The NRA has a real choke-hold on these people. It will have a lot to do with what they want to do in the future. But she said that this was a very important possibility.

Mr. Wallace Dixon, 1707 Columbia Road N.W., said he was on the board of the Chatham Court Tenants Association, and they wanted to thank Congresswoman Norton for her hard work over the years and her diligent service to the people of the city. He said he was also one of the organizers of D.C. Statehood Now Campaign. He said he understood that she would be introducing a statehood bill in early 2011.

Congresswoman Norton said she was planning to introduce a statehood bill, a voting rights bill, and a House and Senate voting rights bill because she has heard from her constituents about all of these very valid ways of getting to statehood.

Mr. Dixon said he was finding widespread support for D.C. statehood not only in D.C. but across the country. He hoped that if this support could be encouraged and organized, it would give her greater support.

Congresswoman Norton said that when people learn that D.C. pays the second highest per capita federal income taxes, but do not have voting representation in Congress, they are appalled. However, recent polling indicates that the idea of statehood does not hold up well nationally, while voting does. She said that she thought when statehood was discussed and people understood that it included two seats in the Senate, it became a greater uphill fight. She said she was undaunted by that. Coming out of the civil rights movement, if she was told something could not be done, that only meant that you have to struggle harder and work step by step to achieve it. However, she did not think it would be fair for her to tell D.C. residents that statehood is around the corner.

Mr. Dixon said the opposition had been to an amendment to the constitution, but he understood that was not necessary, that Congress could grant statehood to D.C. just as they had to Alaska and Hawaii.

Congresswoman Norton said she took that position, but did not want to get into the weeks of a constitutional argument. There were those who argued that because the District's status is specified in the constitution, the only way to change it is by

amendment. She said that if Congress were to act, the action would be challenged in court, but if Congress grants voting rights to the District, it will be sued for that. We have to struggle for what we want. She thanked Mr. Dixon for helping to revive the statehood movement and for his support.

Mr. Nikolas Schiller, 942 Westminster St. N.W., commented that only a constitutional amendment could assure statehood and voting rights for D.C. The other alternatives Congresswoman Norton was discussing would be subject to legal challenges or political manipulation like the gun rights amendment. He thought the Home Rule Act needs to be updated. It is 35 years old. That is one of the things they could work on. He suggested that DC statehood be balanced by admitting Puerto Rico, which is spending \$20 million on lobbying. He commented that statehood would give DC the power to impose a commuter tax, which in turn would improve the revenue base.

Congresswoman Norton said that it has nothing to do with the revenue or tax base. There is plenty of tax base. She said she did not want to bore everyone by getting into the weeds of a constitutional argument. With regard to what is constitutional, she said that you do not struggle for your rights based on what you personally believe is constitutional. You struggle for your rights because you are entitled to your rights. She thought that Mr. Schiller's view or her view of the constitution could not be more irrelevant. It was the constitutional view that women were not included in the 14th Amendment until 1976. What were women supposed to do? It was the constitutional view that Black people were not entitled to go to the same schools as white people. What were they supposed to do? If she raised a constitutional argument and said she's a constitutional scholar, she hoped that no one took that seriously as to what residents of the District should do. It is part of her job to tell you what the opposition will be, but not to put up as a barrier anything involving somebody's view of the constitution. If you live in the District of Columbia, there will be barriers, and if they can find a way to sue you out of your rights, they will do it.

With regard to Puerto Rico, Congresswoman Norton said that with Utah, you would get one representative for one from D.C. With Puerto Rico, you would get six representatives for one from D.C. It would be easier for D.C. to become a state than Puerto Rico. The bigots in the Congress, who are keeping us from doing any immigration reform, already have an amendment up that says Puerto Rico can come in if they all speak English. You are talking about a Congress that is as close to being straight-out bigoted and racist as it is possible to be. Puerto Rico is very divided. The Puerto Rico delegates, who are her good friends, help her and co-sponsor her bill to become a state, but they do not ask to get the vote for Puerto Rico because they do not pay any income taxes. The moment they become a state, they will have to pay income taxes. Our fate is our own. Utah made sense in classic American terms and it is still out there.

Regarding the commuter tax base, you have plenty of tax base, at least \$6 billion. Nobody has ever said we did not have the tax base to support the state. The commuter tax really has to do with the unfairness of coming into the District, using the roads, and

paying nothing for it. That is something D.C. will never get. The entire Maryland and Virginia delegations would never let that happen. If we want to be a state and a commuter tax is part of it, D.C. will never be a state. The possibility of a commuter tax is one reason why the Maryland and Virginia senators are opposed to it.

Congresswoman Norton said she did not want to get into what the obstacles are. Right now, the obstacles just to a vote in the House are so great that to argue what they would do or not do is quite beside the point. We have to be for statehood, we have to struggle for it every step of the way, we cannot say, once we get the House vote, that's OK, that's all we want. We have to be clear what we want and we have to struggle to get as much of what we want as we possibly can.

Mr. John Clennard asked Congresswoman Norton for her views on the lack of support from the White House.

She said that someone at the White House was not minding the store, was doing a disservice to the President. She could not expect, with all the President had to deal with, that he would have the District on his checklist. But someone on his staff should be making sure that the District's issues are addressed. She has communicated this and has met with someone from the White House. She has made some recommendations and should not say what they are, but she communicated the complaints that she had heard. Some are from the press, some from constituents who express disappointment. It is a disservice, because the President was one of the first to sign on to the voting rights legislation in the Senate.

New Business

There was no new business.

Community Events & Announcements

Ms. Nimita Shah, representing the Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development, announced that they were soliciting comments and community input on the development of a vacant lot at 965 Florida Avenue N.W., at the corner of Sherman Avenue N.W. This question is being considered by the Georgia Avenue Task Force. Comments can be e-mails to Nimita.Shay@dc.gov or Sybongile.Cook@dc.gov.

Ms. Julie Meyer, Executive Director of the Next Step Public Charter School, 1419 Columbia Road N.W., said that her school provides a GED program for some of the most at-risk youth in the city, working to prepare them for college and vocational education. They are applying to lease the Harrison School property, which is becoming vacant, at 13th and V Streets N.W. She asked for the Commission's support.

Mr. Steve Glazerman, co-founder and trustee of Washington Yu-Ying Public Charter School, noted that he had introduced his school at the September Commission meeting. At that time he described their hope to relocate to ANC 1B. It has since become

apparent that the only way of realizing that dream is to successfully apply for the Harrison School property, so he is competing with Ms Meyer's charter school. He wanted to thank all the neighbors they have been meeting with over the past few months. They continue to seek the Commission's support and are available to answer any questions.

Commissioner Muhammad announced that the ANC 1B Public Safety Committee would be meeting next Wednesday, October 13th, at 7:00 PM in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Reeves Center.

Commissioner Muhammad announced that the South Columbia Heights Neighborhood Association, of which he is the president, would be meeting on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 PM, at the Josephine Butler Parks Center, 2437 15th Street N.W. This will be a joint meeting with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) PSA 304. The guest speaker this month will be Robin-Eve Jasper, Director of the Department of Real Estate Services.

Commissioner Moss announced that LeDroit Park Community Day would be on Saturday, October 23rd between 10 AM and 5 PM. They will be collaborating with Howard University planting trees and doing other community projects. They will be meeting at the Anna Cooper Circle, 3rd and T Streets N.W.

Ms. Heather Ferris, 1910 8th Street N.W., requested that the Commission publish the protocol for participating in the meetings. She observed that people did not understand the procedure for asking questions or making comments about action items before a motion was made. She also asked if the minutes could be posted on line more promptly.

Chairperson Anderson Holness said that a written protocol would be prepared and made available at the meetings. She also said that the Commission was working on making the minutes more efficient and more quickly available by purchasing audio recording equipment for the meetings.

Commissioner Ferrer encouraged everyone to get involved with the Georgia Avenue Community Development Task Force, which is doing great work on the revitalization of the Georgia Avenue Corridor. People can get more information and learn how to be involved by going to their website: georgiaave.org

There being no further business, Commissioner Moss moved that the October 2010 meeting of ANC 1B be adjourned.

Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.