

ADVISORY NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSION 1B
Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

Thursday, October 3rd, 2013,
7:00 PM, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street N.W.

The regular monthly meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B occurred on Thursday, October 3rd, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center, Commissioner Tony Norman being present as chair. Other commissioners present during the meeting: Sedrick Muhammad, Ricardo Reinoso, Jeremy Leffler, Dyana Forester, James Turner and Zahra Jilani. Commissioners E. Gail Anderson Holness, Deborah Thomas, Emily Washington, Juan Lopez and Marc Morgan were not present.

Chairperson Tony Norman did not observe the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order informally at 7:00 PM.

Zahra Jilani, James Turner, Tony Norman and Ricardo Reinoso introduce themselves.

Community Announcements

Deputy Chief Alonzo Joy introduces himself. He says the homecoming will be on October 26th, with a parade 10 a.m. and a football game immediately afterward. The parade starts at the administration building then onto Fairmont, Georgia Avenue and Florida Avenue. There will be floats. The route will be somewhat shorter than last year. The mayor's special events task force has asked for access to an emergency lane along Georgia avenue. There will be a cleanup after the parade. There is a football game at 1 p.m. Closures will be put out on the listserv.

Norman said that the ANC would be following up on the selection of Ellis Development for the recent Florida Avenue development and that the ANC was asking the Deputy Office of the Mayor to justify their decision in writing.

Klemens said that there would be new streetcar system running north and south through the neighborhood. He introduced a representative from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT).

The representative said that DDOT was conducting a transportation study in the area. He announced a public meeting on November 5th at the Reeves Center about this issue. He invited the community to give feedback. He said the study would be between 8 and 12 months.

Turner asked how long it would take DDOT to finish once they had finished their study.

The representative said that there would be a 6-8 month environmental study after this survey. He said it was a minimum 2 ½ year process.

Jilani thanked DDOT for coming.

Brown is the associate principal of the Cardozo Educational Campus. He wanted to introduce himself. He said that there has been a smooth transition to a 6-12 grade campus. The campus offer courses on robotics and modeling as well as core classes. There will be a ribbon cutting on October 18th at 6:30 for a new building.

City year volunteers Sadaf and Alicia introduced themselves. They announced they were holding an event called the Breakfast of Champions.

Reinoso thanked the presenters. He also talked about an educational partnership with other ANCs.

Forester asked if they were going to bring back the Young Heroes program.

The volunteers said that the Young Heroes program is mostly for elementary school children and they worked with older children.

Commissioner Forester introduces herself.

Reinoso announced his weekly ANC run every Wednesday. It meets at the Reeves Center. He also talked about the health exchange summit.

A representative from DC Health Link introduced themselves. She highlighted the resources available to people who wanted to know about DC Health Link.

Turner adds that everyone needs to use the health exchanges in order for it to be successful.

The representative also encouraged commissioners to attend the ANC summit.

A marketing specialist for Redbull said they were holding a basketball tournament right before the homecoming.

A representative of Councilmember Graham's office asked for any residents to come contact her office for any concerns.

Matt from the Meridian Hill Neighborhood Association said that they would be meeting at Saturday, 14th and U between 9:30 and 12:00 there would be a clean up day.

Brian said that the U Street Neighborhood Association would be holding its general membership meeting at Source Theater.

Norman reminded the commission there will be a design review committee meeting on October 28th.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee Report

Klemens said that nothing has happened this month for the transportation committee, but that they would be moving their meetings to the third Thursday of every month.

Turner asked that the transportation committee consider addressing public space closed off to parking during construction. He asked for percentages of what public space is lost each month.

Ashley asked about the visitor permits that expire on September 30th.

Jilani said the permits have been extended to December.

Yoder asked about outsiders parking on the resident's side of the street.

Klemens said that they might bring performance parking into the neighborhood. He said there is also an enforcement problem and encourages people to call 311.

A woman said that there's no parking available for her, and that she's accrued thousands of dollars worth of tickets.

Turner asked how much cooperation the Transportation Committee has from metro.

Klemens said the transportation committee now has a contact person with metro.

Turner said that there are three buses on the 13th street corridor that are overused and too crowded.

Commissioner Leffler introduced himself. He also said the ABRA board recently denied the liquor moratorium.

Norman asked the commissioners to review the minutes.

ABC Committee Report

Leffler asked Norman if he could begin his ABC Committee report.

Leffler begins his report. He says they met September 18th. He said there is an ongoing mediation process with Queen Makeda. He said for Climax the designee did not show up for the ABRA roll call hearing. Cause DC was still in mediation. Flash has revised its outdoor hours and since then the ANC has dropped its protest. He also said the new liquor standards have been applied to the most recent cases.

Leffle noted the proprietor of this establishment acknowledges the noise problems coming from his roofdeck. He has since bought a sound engineering system to mitigate noise. They are building a permanent structure around the roofdeck. He says they have been cooperative with community. The ABC committee voted to support Nellie's Sports Bar's renewal.

Doug, the proprietor of Nellie's Sports Bar, introduced himself.

Turner asked if they are just building a bigger structure around the roofdeck.

Doug said that it also includes sound proof windows and the new structure will be a hard roof instead of a tent.

Leffler says that no one came to talk about the Kookabar establishment. Leffler said one of the committee members lives near the establishment and has never had any problems. The committee voted to take no action.

Turner asked if the committee's recommendation was to do nothing.

Leffler said yes.

Leffler said the committee looked into the renewal of Desperadoes Pizza. The committee voted to take no action contingent on there being an entertainment endorsement, which turned out to be true.

The committee looked into Pure Nightclub. The establishment has had 3 infractions occur on the premise that involved assaults with deadly weapons. The committee asked for a new security plan. It is in Zahra's district. The committee voted to protest.

Jilani said that there was one letter from a resident complaining about noise.

A man living directly across from Pure said there is often drinking on the streets outside of Pure Nightclub.

Turner asked if he had reported to MPD.

The man said he had not.

Leffler met with the owner of Italian Market. They are applying for 24 hours, but that is just to make baked goods. There is a upstairs kitchen used for classes and wine tasting. He wants to serve beer and wine.

Turner asked what a 24 hour license meant.

Leffler said that the 24 hour licenses were generally for soft closings, but for this establishment it was to allow employees to make baked goods early in the morning.

The attorney representing Italian Market said the 24 hours is more for the staff, so that there would be coffee and pastry made ready overnight.

The owner of Italian Market explained a bit about the concept of Italian Market.

Leffler said there was no residents close to them.

Commissioner Muhammad introduces himself. **Quorum is now met.**

Leffler makes a motion to support Alphonse Italian Market for their application for a CR license. Seconded by Reinoso. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Leffler makes a motion to support Desperadoes Pizza for their application for a renewal. Seconded by Reinoso. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Leffler makes a motion to protest Pure Nightclub until they present a modified security plan and Jilani meets the owners on this issue. Seconded by Jilani. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Leffler makes a motion to support Nanny Hookah Bar for their application for a renewal. Seconded by Norman. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Turner said it's disturbing they haven't shown up.

Leffler said no one has any problems.

Norman said he has talked to the owners and have been very cooperative.

Leffler makes a motion to support Nellie's Sports Bar for their application for a renewal. Seconded by Muhammad. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Officer Reports

Approval of Minutes

Leffler moved to adopt the minutes. Muhammad seconds. Five in favor, two abstentions. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report

Turner gives the treasurer's report. He said they paid IRS, paid for an entire year of rent, \$2400 for professional services. There is \$40,000 in the bank.

Turner moved approval. Leffler seconds. There are no objections. Approval by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

There is a discussion on the reporting requirements for ANC commissioners.

Committee Reports (cont'd)

Grants Committee Report

Norman said that Commissioner Holness was not present to give the grants report but Forester did have a grant she wanted the commission to consider

Forester introduces a proposal for a grant for the Girl's and Boy's Club at the Rita Bright Center. She said the organization filed a request for a grant several months ago but the grants committee has not had a chance to meet.

Turner said that the grant guidelines may not permit grants for the purchase of equipment but he did support giving the grant. He asks for commissioners to give some flexibility for the grant.

Muhammad said that he was in support of the Rita Bright Center.

Forester made a motion to support the grant application within the guidelines for \$450.

Jilani said they should support more programs like this.

Leffler asked if \$450 was the new limit.

Turner said \$1000 is the new limit.

There was no objection. Motion passes by unanimous approval.

Design Committee Report

Yoder is the homeowner for 2041 12th Place. He asks for approval from HPRB for a small addition to the third floor.

Norman said the committee approved it without objection.

Yoder said that the new addition would be set back 13 feet.

Leffler asked if homeowners were forced to stick to the plans they had presented.

Norman answered in a historic district they are required to come before the ANC.

Leffler asked once approved if applicants are allowed to change the design.

Norman said that substantial modification are required to come before the ANC.

Leffler asks if he had opposition from neighbors.

The homeowner said there has been no objection.

Norman moves to approve the project. Turner seconds. No objection. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Burnes is the developer of 1101 S Street. It has been vacant for two year. The plan is to restore the exterior facade. They have received conditional resport from HPRB contingent on support from the ANC. There are two buildings on the property. The rear structure will become a 1 bedroom apartment.

Turner asked if there was any parking.

Burnes said there was.

Turner noted this is a larger building with multiple bedrooms. He asked if it would be a multi-tenant house.

Burnes said it could be a group home but there would only be one lease.

Leffler made a motion to support. Muhammad seconded. 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Norman said 1315 T Street had come before the commission last month but they had asked the developers to talk to the people in the Wallach civic association.

Will Taze is from Tectonic Architecture. He said they are seeking permission from the BZA to build a partial 3rd floor in the rear of an existing rowhouse. There are a few minor changes requested by HPRB and they ended up supporting it. They also outreached extensively to residents of Wallach place, learning that the Wallach Place civic association was not a formal group, and just an adhoc group that reviews larger projects. They did receive letters of support from members of the civic association.

Reinoso thanked the developers for their outreach to the community.

Turner said that his intent at the last meeting was not to object to the project but ensure that residents had a voice.

Jilani reiterates her support for the project.

A woman living on Wallach place said she had talked to the developers and appreciates it.

Jilani motioned to send a letter to the BZA in support of the project. Turner seconded. No objection. Approval by unanimous consent.

Madani is the developer for 14th and Wallach. He introduced his team. He is seeking support for the project. There are two parts of the project – the first part is the historical preservation and renovation of two dilapidated buildings, and putting a new building on 14th street. He thinks this will end up being a long-term investment in the community.

The goal was to preserve the buildings in the rear. They had a lot of difficulty trying to get parking to work. The buildings will be restored to residential use.

Madani spoke about the community outreach. He said he met many residents of Wallach place. He received 11 letters of support from Wallach residents and 17 letters of support from the nearby community. They gave update letters and surveys to local residents. They met with two different civic associations. The concerns were about parking. They said they cannot build parking because of limitations imposed by historic preservation. They said they are reducing the number of units from 75 to 53. They are offering 36 bicycle parking spots and transportation credit. They are offering discounted rent for retail. They are providing a loading dock.

Jilani said this project is in her district. She said Commissioner Washington couldn't make it but supported the project. She said the U Street Neighborhood Association chose not to support for massing, height and materials reasons. She said Alex, a former ANC commissioner, supported the project. Jilani said this project has been discussed multiple time, she's never seen a developer try to outreach with the community so much and that she's in support of the project.

Muhammad said he is impressed by the project.

Turner said he is also impressed by the project.

Reinoso commended the developers.

Forester says she supports the project but asks that the developer maintain their involvement with the community.

Madani said they are invested for the long-term and its their best interest to remain involved.

Leffler asks if there is a limitation on community comments.

Norman said each person was to be given two minutes.

Ashley, a resident of Wallach, said the corner is an eyesore right now. She said they have reached out to her and the community. She says the street needs more retail.

A man asked if the developers were offering only market rate units.

Madani said no, there were some affordable units.

A man from the community said that the developers should remain involved with the community.

Another individual says he is in support of the project. He says parking is a problem everywhere in the community, not just at Wallach place.

A nearby building owner said he is in support of the project.

A woman lives on S and 13th said she loves the project.

Madani says they met with a lot of people and will continue to do so.

Jilani moves to support the relief sought by Madison Investments and send letters of support to both the BZA and HPRB in regards to this project. Muhammad seconds.

Turner asked if there is any more parts of the design process.

The developers answered no.

Norman commended the community outreach of the developers.

No objection to the project. Approval of the motion by unanimous consent.

Norman notes that some projects have been going before the HPRB without going to the ANC. Norman says he will request a delay on these projects that have not come before the ANC. **He motions that the ANC send a letter requesting that the HPRB postpone any action until those projects required to come before the ANC come before the ANC.**

Leffler asks if the HPRB will respect that.

Norman answers legally the ANC can delay any project by 30 days.

Leffler seconds the motion. There is no objection. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

A man said he has gone before the HPRB and found himself in the same situation, but he had not known he needed to come before the ANC. He was given conditional approval from the HPRB. He asks that instead of just delaying project that the ANC ask that the HPRB make the process better known to applicants.

Norman said a staff person from HPRB should have informed the applicant. He also said that having a delay is preferable because if a project doesn't receive great weight from an ANC their project can be overturned by any resident.

The man asks the ANC emphasize the need to inform applicants of the process rather than penalizing the applicants.

Leffler says he doesn't see this as penalizing the applicant but protecting the community.

Public Safety Committee

Muhammad gives the crime data report. There were 0 reports of homicide, 2 reports of sex abuse, 13 robberies excluding a gun, 2 robberies with a gun, 2 assaults with a dangerous weapon excluding a gun, 0 assaults with a dangerous weapon that was a gun for 19 total violent crimes. There were 11 burglaries, 54 reports of theft, 64 thefts from auto, 6 reports of stolen auto, 0 reports of arson, for 135 property crimes. There were 154 total crimes reported.

New Business

Michael Crooknik introduces himself. The zoning commission is about to rewrite DC Zoning Code. He says it is a good time to revise the District's as-of-right policy for commercial land that provides for development no matter the size of the store. He proposes on behalf of UFCW and residents on the district a special exception for big-box stores, so that there is a cost-benefit analysis of big-box stores to the community.

Norman asks that this resolution be submitted to the design committee and the commissioners.

Turner said there was an incident at 1101 S Street where a condo association had a water backup that flooded the basement units. WASA notified the condo association that they didn't think it was a significant issue. On Monday they said they misevaluated the situation. Turner noted that there is no way of interacting with WASA about emergencies. **Turner motioned to ask WASA to come before the ANC either for the next ANC meeting or the December meeting to talk to residents about emergency issues. Reinoso seconds. No objection. Approval by unanimous consent.**

Motion to adjourn by Norman. Seconded by Muhammad. Approval by unanimous consent.