

**ADVISORY NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSION 1B  
Government of the District of Columbia**

**Report**

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013,  
7:00 PM, Reeves Center, 2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B occurred on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center, Commissioner Tony Norman being present as chair. Other commissioners present during the meeting: E. Gail Anderson Holness, Ricardo Reinoso, Emily Washington, Juan Lopez and Zahra Jilani. Commissioners Jeremy Leffler, Dyana Forester, James Turner, Sedrick Muhammad, Deborah Thomas 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.

**Presentations**

- David Catania, D.C. councilmember, presented to the committee. He is the new chairman of the education committee. They have spent some time visiting every school. He said there was quite a bit to be optimistic about. There are some challenges. They have passed measures to end social promotion and reduce truancy. Previously the DCPS system could only hold students in grades 3, 5 and 8. Now, public schools can hold students indefinitely until they pass the material. He only touched on at-risk weight. Previously they used a per-pupil formulation meaning every student got equal funding, but now schools with a high-proportion of at-risk students will receive a greater proportion of funding.
- D.C. Water presented to the commission, giving an update on several projects. There will be work on second street, but will occur at night. They introduced the clean rivers project, which is an project spearheaded by the EPA to make DC's rivers fishable and swimmable by the 2020's. They outlined efforts to manage stormwater and sewage to reduce run-off.
- Representatives of the Deputy Mayor's Office presented to the commission. They addressed the Florida Avenue project and said they are in talks with Ellis Development and MRP Realty. They say that they expect the council to ensure that the developer maintains high engagement with the community. They denied that they chose Ellis Development and MRP Realty against community wishes. They said they were also in discussions with JBG who owns the adjacent lot and also looking to include a grocery store. A representative of MRP Realty said they were committed to the PUD process.
- A representative of D.C. Sustainable Energy Utility presented to the community. They are a program to upgrade DC's energy efficiency at a local level. They also promote green jobs and local businesses. They provide assistance to purchase energy efficient utilities.
- Justin Rood presented to the commission on behalf of the Funk Parade, a proposed event that would occur May 3<sup>rd</sup>. They have over 50 letters of support from the community and local businesses. They asked for the support of the ANC. Jilani the single-member district person for

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the proposed location, supports the event. They are also asking to close U street. No vote could be taken.

### **Transportation Committee**

#### *Florida Avenue Streetscape Project*

- This is renovation the Florida Avenue streetscape around V and Sherman Avenue.
- This is considered to be a dangerous intersection.
- There will be new bump-outs so that the intersections occur at right angles.
- There will also be permeable pavement to reduce flooding in the area.
- The transportation committee approved the project.

#### *Compass Rose Sidewalk Cafe*

- The Compass Rose restaurant is applying for a sidewalk cafe. They are looking to have 8 to 10 seats.
- The transportation committee approved the project.

#### *Valet Parking at Kapnos*

- A representative of Avenue Parking is seeking a valet staging zone.
- The commission had concerns in the October ANC meeting about Kapnos operating without clear permit.
- The owner of the parking company says that they have not been providing valet service at Kapnos since.
- Some residents say that the valet service has been operating every day Kapnos had been open.
- The transportation committee did not address this issue.
- This issue will be brought up again in January.

### **Design Committee**

#### *Parking Variance for Howard University*

- Howard University is requesting a parking variance for 2018 Georgia Avenue.
- The current property has a special exception to park off-site. Howard University no longer needs this special exception.
- This is a parking space that is no longer used by Howard University.
- The design committee recommended approval of the parking variance.

### **ABC Commission**

- There was no comments on the American Ice Company, Velvet Lounge, Portico, Maraki, Yetenbi, Selena, El Rey, Dunya and Climax.
- The manager of cloud restaurant spoke to the committee, he said he was applying for a tavern license. The ABC committee voted to protest the establishment until there was a settlement agreement. A woman said the previous business had very loud music and wanted some noise

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mitigation.

- A man who lives near Creme says that they have been good neighbors and that he didn't understand why the ABC committee chose to protest. Reinoso said that he thought there were mixed feelings in the neighborhood and there are some concerns with noise. Reinoso says he's actively working with the owner of Creme on a settlement agreement. Another resident was concerned with the hours going to 3 to 4 a.m.
- A woman expressed concern that the ANC had failed to get in letters for Dunya and Climax on time. Norman clarified by saying the ANC had lost standing for those two cases because the designee failed to show up.

**Grants Committee**

- Holness said while the Grants Committee did not meet last month, she asked that grants first go through the grants committee before they are approved by the commission. She also said she is having difficulty opening the safe to write checks.