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<p><b>Oliver Tunda, 1D02</b> tunda21@hotmail.com</p>		<p><b>Dave Bosserman, 1D05</b> orilla@comcast.net</p>
<p><b>Jack McKay, 1D03</b> Secretary jack.mckay@verizon.net</p>	<p>P.O. Box 43529, Washington, DC 20010 Tel: 234-6646 Web: www.anc1d.org e-mail: anc1d@googlegroups.com</p>	<p><b>Angelia Scott, 1D06</b> Chair pastorascott@yahoo.com</p>

## Minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

*These minutes accepted at the May 6, 2008 meeting.*

### Call to order

[7:08 pm] Chair Angelia Scott called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Scott, Edwards, Bosserman, McKay, and Zara, constituting a quorum.

### Public discussion

[7:09 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion. Neil Richardson, Tony Marcetti (sp?), David Vacca, Mark Jacobsen, Pete Mulhoff (sp?), and Haydee Vanegas spoke. Commissioner Tunda arrived at 7:13 pm.

### Minutes of previous meetings

[7:15 pm] The minutes of the March 4 and March 18 meetings were brought up for review. No corrections were offered by the commissioners, so both sets of minutes were declared accepted.

### Treasurer's report

[7:16 pm] Jane brought up the request from the auditor for financial records for the second and third quarters of FY07. Jack showed the list of the auditor's requests, indicating the items requested that could not be found, presumably having been taken by the previous Treasurer, Joe Esparza. The commission agreed that the best effort to obtain the missing records had been done, and we should turn in the response as currently presented, absorbing the loss for disallowed expenditures. Jane mentioned also the quarterly report for the second quarter of FY08, which will be due soon. *Treasurer's report accepted by unanimous vote.*

### Committee reports

[7:25 pm] There were no committee reports offered.

### Unfinished business

[7:25 pm] The commission agreed to postpone consideration of Jane's resolution concerning the Education Committee Funding and Budget.

## Consent items:

[7:27 pm] The commission agreed to consider each item on the list of candidate topics in turn, deciding immediately which would be considered “consent”, and which would require discussion and considered under “new business”. It was agreed that a single objection would cause a topic to be considered “new business”, rather than “consent”. Several topics were removed from the “consent” category on that basis.

## Purchase authorization

[7:31 pm] Jack requested approval of the following expenditures:

The Commission Secretary is hereby authorized to spend up to \$40 for blank compact disks and envelopes, for the recordings of ANC meeting audio and proceedings.

The Commission Secretary is hereby authorized to spend up to \$175 for microphone cables and associated hardware to reduce the static noise problems afflicting the present hardware.

The Commission Secretary is hereby authorized to spend up to \$40 for two laser pointers.

*Approved by consent, 6 to 0.*

## Sixteenth Street grade separation

[7:32 pm] Gregg and Jack collectively moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Transportation to follow through on the advice of the 2003 Columbia Heights/Mount Pleasant Traffic Study for a "grade separation" of 16th Street traffic at Harvard Street/Columbia Road.

Rationale: Heavy north-south traffic on 16th Street creates a formidable barrier to east-west automobile traffic and to pedestrian crossing of 16th Street, and severely degrades the ambience of the two Federal parks at the juncture of Mount Pleasant and Adams Morgan. The Columbia Heights/Mount Pleasant Traffic Study recommended in 2003 that this area be rebuilt as a traffic circle, with "grade separation" of 16th Street traffic. As that study noted, "a traffic circle consistent with the character of the District would enhance the connection between Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights, improve pedestrian safety, allow for full access onto and off of Harvard and potentially Mt. Pleasant Street, and increase the capacity of the intersection." Simple overpasses would be considerably less costly, and less disruptive to the existing parks and buildings, than a traffic circle, and yet would achieve the same ends.

Given the increasing commercial and residential development in Columbia Heights, and corresponding increases in east-west traffic flow, the need to overcome the obstacle to east-west traffic presented by 16th Street is greater than ever. In other District locations, e.g., Connecticut Avenue at Dupont Circle, and 16th Street at Scott Circle, sending the heavy north-south traffic below grade expedites both north-south and east-west traffic flows. The currently complex intersection of Argonne Place, Columbia Road, and Harvard Street with 16th could be much simplified by putting the north-south traffic at a separate level. Overpasses will be less costly and disruptive to the existing parks and pedestrian routes than a traffic circle.

Pedestrian crossing of 16th is currently a problematic experience, due to heavy traffic flow, very long traffic-light wait times, conflicts with turning vehicles during walk-light times, and a great distance between crosswalks. Putting the 16th Street traffic below grade will make pedestrian east-west crossing vastly safer and less daunting, factors especially important

given the increasing emphasis on using the Metro via the station at 14th and Irving, and walking to one's destination.

Equally important, putting the heavy traffic of 16th Street (30,000 vehicles per day) below grade will enhance the ambience of the two parks abutting 16th at this location.

*Approved by consent, 6 to 0.*

## **Tree removal notification to ANCs**

[7:33 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Parks and Recreation to provide advance notice to ANCs of plans to remove large trees in neighborhood parks.

Rationale: Large trees are scarce and treasured assets of our neighborhoods. The loss of a large tree, that is, a "special tree" according to the definition of the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002, is a significant degradation of an inner-city neighborhood. Residents are required to obtain permits for the removal of such a tree, and notification of such permit applications is available to ANCs. But District Government agencies, such as DPR, are not required to obtain permits, and so can remove trees on District parkland without notice to ANCs. These elected representatives of neighborhood residents may discover that a large tree is being removed only when it is too late, and the tree is down. This prevents ANCs from fairly representing the interests of their constituents in District Government decisions to remove such invaluable trees.

*Approved by consent, 6 to 0.*

## **Beach Drive closure hours**

[7:34 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the National Park Service to extend the weekend closure of Beach Drive until approximately sunset on Sunday evenings.

Rationale: Current practice is to reopen the closed segments of Beach Drive to traffic at 7:00 pm on Sunday evening. By midsummer, this is over an hour before sunset, and many people will be found walking, running, or bicycling on Beach Drive at the same time that the road is opened to automobiles. This sudden mixing of cars and people on the road creates an obviously dangerous situation, and substantially degrades the recreational atmosphere of the park. It would be safer for people using the park for recreational purposes if the opening to traffic could be delayed during the summer months until 8:00 pm or later, until recreational use of Beach Drive is naturally terminated by darkness.

*Approved by consent, 6 to 0.*

## **Don Juan's Restaurant trash housing settlement**

[7:34 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D endorses the instructions to DDOT concerning the issuing of permits for the trash housing and other structures in the public space behind Don Juan's Restaurant, communicated to Director Moneme in the letter of January 29, 2008, from Peter Nickles, Interim Attorney General.

Rationale: Mr. Nickles' letter calls for permits for the existing concrete block structure, a concrete pad for rolling trash containers to the street, a stockade fence or other structure for

cosmetic concealing of trash containers, and for shrubs or other greenery for esthetic enhancement of the area. This prescription provides a good compromise between the needs of the restaurant for trash storage and disposal, and the desire of neighbors and residents for a reasonably attractive 17th Street frontage. ANC1D endorses that result, and appreciates the outstanding effort by Mr. Nickles to resolve a longstanding neighborhood dispute.

*Approved by consent, 6 to 0.*

## **Klinge Road reconstruction, versus low-cost housing**

[7:37 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Mayor and the District Council not to fund any reconstruction of Klinge Road entirely from District funds, without Federal funding support; and further, that the amount so saved be employed for the support of low-cost housing in the District. ANC1D also advises the Mayor, and the District Council, to refrain from spending any money on Klinge Road work that might be considered down payments on road construction, because such expenditures could imply a commitment to full construction even if Federal funds are not available.

Rationale: the Federal Government would normally pay 80% of the cost of rebuilding this road, which is currently estimated at \$11M. According to recent news reports, the District Government is considering paying the entire cost of the project, simply to avoid delays due to going through the Federal bureaucracy. The difference, approximately nine million dollars, would have to come from other parts of the District budget. ANC1D believes that this money could be put to far better use than the rebuilding of this road through Rock Creek Park. Innumerable roads and alleys, in Mount Pleasant and elsewhere in the District, are in need of repair and repaving. Furthermore, using these funds to augment the District's very short supply of low-cost housing would be a superior application, benefiting many more District residents than might use this road. The residents of this area have managed without this segment of Klinge Road for 18 years, demonstrating that there is no great need for this road.

The current District budget contemplates spending two million dollars to start work on Klinge Road. This threatens to be a "camel's nose" expenditure, making this project unstoppable in the future, even if Federal funding is unavailable. Expenditures for Klinge Road should be limited to necessary study and planning, avoiding any expenditures that could be considered down payments on road construction.

*Approved by consent, 6 to 0.*

## **New Business:**

### **"Meet the neighbors" event**

[7:44 pm] Dave moved the following:

Resolved: ANC1D sponsors the music, art and community showcase event during the afternoon of April 26th at Lamont Park planned by Frank Agbro, otherwise known as Franko of Frankojazz. The event will be called "MEET THE NEIGHBORS." ANC1D will provide \$140 to cover the Department of Parks and Recreation fees and will help in advertising the event through web postings and printing, posting and distributing flyers. The costs of advertising shall not exceed \$100. ANC1D hopes that Mt Pleasant community groups will also support and attend this event.

Rationale: The Mt Pleasant community needs such open and non-controversial community events to provide neutral spaces where we may gather together to get to know each other better while putting our many long-running controversies about neighborhood management aside. This community event is being planned and managed by a resident musician who has remained outside of the many community groups and arguments who wants to provide a neutral event consisting of an afternoon of diverse music from within the neighborhood.

*Passed by 6 to 0 vote.*

## **Engage the staff services of D. Neil Richardson, Jr.**

[7:52 pm] Gregg moved the following:

Resolved, ANC 1D, authorizes the engagement as an independent contractor, of D. Neil Richardson, Jr. for a period between the 31st of March and the 31st of December at no more than an average of 2 days a week for this period, at a rate of \$50 an hour. This engagement is at-will for both sides.

D. Neil Richardson, Jr. may take the title of Executive Director, and will work with supervision and collaboration of Angelia Scott, Gregg Edwards and Jack McKay.

Immediate topics for collaboration include engagement of contractors to support web-site and electronic communication, bookkeeping, grants and contract management; maintaining the economic and ethnic diversity of Mount Pleasant through the preservation and extension of low cost housing and creative economic development that produces local good jobs; management and development of public space and transportation; institutional support for cultural expression and development, education, recreation and library services for all ages; a built and natural environment that minimizes pollution, preserves resources, and extends green technology; a vibrant and diverse commercial corridor that both serves the interests of all sectors of Mount Pleasant, plus attracts those outside customers and investors that will add to the diversity and attractiveness of Mount Pleasant; public policy alternatives that will foster Mount Pleasant as an innovation zone, including collaboration with neighboring ANC areas; communication and engagement with all the demographic groups in Mount Pleasant to promote better understanding of their strategic intents and preferred futures; and, preparation for engagement with the upcoming Comprehensive Plan revision.

Why: This is an extraordinary opportunity to engage and work with, at a relatively modest cost, a long term Mount Pleasant resident with an unusually high level of experience, working closely with 2 recent Mayors and the Ward 1 Councilmember.

*Passed by 5 to 1 vote (Gregg, Oliver, Stormy, Dave, and Jack voting "yes", Jane voting "no".)*

## **Bylaws change**

[8:05 pm] Gregg moved that the following text replace the existing by-laws concerning grants:

Section 1. The ANC shall at the end of the first quarter of each calendar year review its grant policy, including funding priorities for the year.

Section 2. All priorities, requirements and guidelines must meet those requirements of D.C. law as outlined in Attachment A. The program will be run by a paid grants manager whose impartiality is supported by being neither a 1D commissioner nor a current resident, nor an officer or board member of any established Mount Pleasant organization. The main purpose of the grants is to seed the search for outside grants based on small initial funding from ANC1D and the implicit commendation implicit in the receipt of the ANC grant. To this end, this purpose of maximum leverage, along with benefit to a maximum number of ANC1D residents, is to be used in selection.

Grant requests may be received only from organizations proposing to provide services that are public in nature and benefit persons who reside or work within the Commission area. The services proposed may not duplicate those that are already performed by the District government.

Section 3. The dollar amount in grants awarded during any one year shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual ANC allotment plus 20% of any carryover of funds at the start of the fiscal year. This amount shall be included as an expense item in the annual budget if grants are to be awarded. Grants exceeding \$500 require approval by a minimum of five commissioners. Grants of less than \$500, but of \$100 or more, require the approval of at least four commissioners. Grant requests shall be in electronic form, and shall include a description of the proposed project for which the grant is requested; a statement of expected public benefits; and the total cost of the proposed project, including other sources of funding, if any.

Section 4. The Commission shall issue requests for proposals once a year. Proposals will only be considered in response to this request and at the indicated time only. The grant announcement must be at least two months prior to the selection date. Proposals shall be received at least four weeks prior to the selection date, and shall be distributed to all commissioners at least two weeks prior to the selection date.

Section 5. Grants are made upon the condition that all receipts and a final report (acceptable by the grants manager) be submitted within 60 days of the announcement of the award.

Section 6. No member of a grants committee may apply for a grant, and each must recuse himself or herself from any consideration of a proposal in which he or she has a tangible interest.

Section 7. Upon adoption of this grant policy by a minimum of four commissioners, the commission may issue a one time request for proposals, notwithstanding other requirements of this article.

*Vote on amendment to include "20% of any carryover of funds": passed by 4 to 2 vote (Oliver, Stormy, Dave, Jane voting "yes", Gregg and Jack voting "no").*

*Vote on revised by-laws: Passed by 5 to 1 vote (Gregg voting "no").*

## **Education Budget Transparency to Allow for Meaningful Public Participation**

[8:18 pm] Jane moved the following resolution:

Resolved that ANC1D strongly urges the Chancellor of the D.C. Public Schools to prepare and execute a performance-based budget on an annual basis. It is also strongly urged that the budget prepared by the Chancellor of the D.C. Public Schools have its operations organized by major programs, which in turn will be composed of activities and services. It is also strongly urged that the budget submitted by the Chancellor of the D.C. Public Schools shall allocate all monies by activities and object class, and that the DCPS submission, which shall be released to the public upon transmittal to the Mayor, shall also include a presentation that specifies the monies budgeted for each school, specifying the funds available to each school for which the decision to spend is made by the school's local schools restructuring team, and specifying other responsibility center funds the spending of which directly benefit local schools (e.g., for textbooks, substitute teachers, transportation, maintenance/engineers, nurses, teachers salaries, etc.), so that the Council and the public may know the totality of funds, goods and services that will be provided to the local schools directly.

Why: Legislation amending DC Code 38-2831 will make clear that the level of detail that had been required of the Board of Education's proposed budget now is required of the Chancellor's proposed budget. That's the only relevant statute that the Council didn't update last year, in the school takeover legislation. This update makes crystal clear, for future years,

that the Chancellor has to provide proper budget detail to enable meaningful parental and community participation in school budget hearings, and can have a real voice in the educational needs of their children.

*Gregg's motion that this be tabled passed, 6 to 0.*

## **Additional Recommendations for Traffic Study Alternative**

[8:26 pm] Gregg moved the following resolution, after friendly amendment:

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC Department of Transportation and the Office of Planning to include in its consideration the following addition:

To complement the proposed one-lane one-way traffic on Park Road between 17th and 19th Streets, that there be one-way traffic on "little Park Road" east-bound, just north of Park Road Park, so that the residents on the north side would have access to their houses.

The sharp angle on the SE corner of Park Road Park be rounded so that the residents of "little Park Road" can make the wide angle turn back onto the main Park Road.

Why: This is an intersection where there is already strong possibilities of accidents involving vehicles and pedestrians, because of the complicated geometry. The addition of a bus shelter, without consideration of traffic flows, could add to these dangers. The study proposal above, in this resolution, would convert traffic around Park Road Park to be in a clockwise consistent pattern and assure that vehicles from northern Mount Pleasant Street and little Park Road would be entering the traffic flow with full visibility, and with the assistance of the existing traffic signals at the intersection of 17th and Park Road.

*Passed, 6 to 0.*

## **Bus shelter location**

[8:36 pm] Gregg moved the following, upon separation from the previous resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises DDOT to consider issues of traffic visibility in the placement of the bus shelter in the Park Road park.

*Passed, 6 to 0*

## **Education Committee Funding and Budget**

[8:36 pm] Jane's unfinished-business resolution was brought to the floor:

It is hereby resolved that \$10,000 be allotted for funding public education, and local non-profit endeavors for enhancing the literacy, writing skills, and analysis of issues of concern to Mt. Pleasant.

Rationale: We support enhancing vital living skills in our community and this is one way to further that effort.

Jack moved that this resolution be withdrawn, so that its content could be considered along with the development of an annual budget. *Motion to withdraw passed, 6 to 0.*

## **Eviction by neglect**

[8:40 pm] Gregg moved the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the D.C. Government and the D.C. Council to pass legislation and apply regulation to reverse the incentives for eviction of tenants by neglect, pressure, or any other approach, including those leading to disaster or fires.

Intentional vacation of units, either by pressure or payment, or voluntary agreements shall result in any units so vacated be counted as a “No” vote towards an approval of rent raises, major renovation, upgrades, or replacement.

Current regulations should be interpreted, and other legislation and regulation passed to emphasize, that when vacation of units occur because of disaster, fire, or any other change in status, that triggers major repairs, upgrades or replacement, that the presence of unresolved code violations means that the units or building will not be removed from the terms of rent stabilization or control.

Why: The statement of this resolution should not be taken as a declaration that the recent fire in the Deauville Apartments at 3145 Mount Pleasant Street was intentional. However, it has called to our attention the existence of incentives for owners and managers, whether intentional or not, to leave the owners with a building free of rent controls, and the residents without low cost housing.

As Grayce Wiggins, DC Rent Administrator, recently observed, “the purpose of DC rental housing legislation is to avoid the erosion of low cost rental housing.” This ANC hopes that all loopholes and ambiguities that might contribute to the recent disasters will be closed.

*Passed, 6 to 0.*

## **Maintain the unlocked alley gate at Kilbourne PI NW and 17th St NW**

[8:47 pm] Dave moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANCID advises the Department of Transportation to permit the continued maintenance and use of the unlocked alley gate at Kilbourne PI NW and 17th St NW.

Rationale: The alley neighbors and the Mt Pleasant community have supported the gate since 1997 and still do today. It has worked as a public health and traffic safety measure to minimize crime, litter, and loitering near the intersection of Kilbourne Place and Mt Pleasant Streets.

*Jack moved that the motion be tabled. Motion to table failed by 3 to 3 vote (Gregg, Stormy, Jack voting “yes” to table, Oliver, Dave, and Jane voting “no”).*

*The resolution then failed of passage by a 3 to 3 vote (Oliver, Dave, and Jane voting “yes”, Jack, Gregg, and Stormy voting “no”).*

## **Adjournment**

[8:53 pm] Stormy moved that we adjourn. *Approved by unanimous consent.*