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Minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the February 16, 2010 meeting.

Call to order

[7:04 pm] Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Scott, Edwards, Lepanto, Bosserman, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

Election of officers

[7:05 pm] Jack nominated Gregg Edwards to be Commission Chair for the coming year. Dave nominated Phil for chair, but Phil declined the nomination. *By a 5 to 0 vote, the commission approved Gregg Edwards as Chair of ANC1D for 2010.*

Jack nominated “Stormy” Scott for Vice Chair. Phil nominated Dave Bosserman for Vice Chair. *By a 3 (Jack, Gregg, Stormy) to 2 (Dave, Phil) vote, the commission chose Stormy Scott for Vice Chair.*

Stormy nominated Jack McKay for Commission Secretary. *Approved by 5 to 0 vote.*

Stormy nominated Jack McKay for Commission Treasurer. *Approved by 5 to 0 vote.*

Public discussion

[7:18 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion.

Calendar of meetings for 2010

[8:08 pm] The Commission agreed to continue the practice of business meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of December, where the third Tuesday is close to the Christmas holiday season. The calendar of business meetings: January 19, February 16, March 23, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 7, January 18 (2011).

Informal meetings will continue to be on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of December.

Secretary’s report

[8:12 pm] Jack requested acceptance of the minutes of the December meeting. *Approved without objection.*

Treasurer's report

[8:12 pm] Jack reported on ANC1D finances. The District Auditor had withheld \$419.64 from the Q3FY09 allotment, based on deficiencies in the Q1FY09 quarterly report. Jack had retrieved \$126.58 of that withholding, reducing the withholding to \$293.06.

Jack showed a summary of the Q1FY10 quarterly report, ready for delivery to the Auditor. *Approved without objection.*

Jack offered the resolution required for participation in the ANC Security Fund:

Resolved, that ANC1D approves the Commission's participation in the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund, and authorizes the payment of the \$25 fee for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Resolution approved, 5 to 0.

Jack noted that four contractors had exceeded the threshold for requiring an IRS Form 1099 to be prepared. The forms had been ordered on January 18.

Routine checks to be written to contractors: Tony Grillo \$100, Lorena Mejia \$100. *No objections noted.*

Committee report: Commercial Corridor

[8:15 pm] Gregg provided a report on the commercial corridor.

Contractor Work Plans Must Be Submitted

[8:38 pm] Phil moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED: The current management practice maintained by the officers of ANC 1D does not provide sufficient transparency. Henceforth, Commissioners who manage contractors will submit work plans detailing the estimated hours that they expect to task their staff with for the next 30 days. The Commission may veto any work plan that, in the estimation of a majority of Commissioners, does not conform to the immediate and long-term priorities of the ANC and the community. In the event that a contractor is hired on a per-task basis rather than on an hourly basis, the workplan must simply indicate the task and the expected date of completion.

WHY: Each month bills are presented by several contractors for work that has been completed, yet few Commissioners actually know what work will be done during the upcoming month or by whom, or for what purpose. This practice keeps the community and some Commissioners in the dark with relation to what the staff is doing on their behalf, furthermore, it does not establish a track record that can be reviewed and audited to see if the work directed and completed complies with best practices.

Passed, 4 to 1 (Gregg opposing).

ANC1D advises the DC Council to disapprove DCPL contracts for the Ward One (MtP) Library

[8:46 pm] Gregg introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC Council – and in particular the Committee on Libraries, Parks & Recreation – to disapprove contracts submitted by the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) for the Mt Pleasant Branch Library, and to indicate that no contracts will be approved until several conditions are fulfilled, listed below:

1. Local needs: DCPL submits a revised design after serious consultation with the local ANCs that

- Reflects the distinctive needs of the neighborhood and local users by asking ward one ANCs for their ideas, and funding a study of local needs and alternative approaches.
- Respects the almost unique historical traditions of this Carnegie library by not encumbering it with a distracting and discordant 'hunchback'. The two other Carnegie branch libraries (Southeast & Takoma Park) did not suffer such bloat.
- Facilitates rather than hinders future emergency access by a ladder fire truck to about a dozen older apartment buildings, by using an expansion of the ground floor entrance reduces the difficulty of access by seniors, handicapped, and families with infants and kids.

In particular, 1D urges the DC Council to make clear to DCPL that - compared to decades of better future benefits and the very large capital costs - designs must be based on local needs and neighborhood distinctiveness, not a DC-wide template. 1D urges the DC Council to give priority to the safety needs of neighbors by waiving the "by-right" development of this government agency so that these issues may be addressed, say by the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

Specifically, 1D advises the DC Council to require that the design be developed in collaboration not only with ANCs but the Department of Transportation, the Office of Planning, and the Department of Parks and Recreation so that this investment can be leveraged with the neighboring facilities for greater public benefit. The Office of Planning (and 1D) has observed that this could be a gateway that would greatly enhance cross-ANC traffic, and aid the smallest main commercial corridor of ward one's four ANCs.

2. Uphold the law: DCPL fulfills its legal duty of DCPL to notify and give Great Weight to local ANCs of planning and design process, and does so by demonstrating utmost respect for code and case law to answer each point raised by ANCs in particularity from the perspective of the ANC and with evidence-based arguments.

In particular, 1D urges the DC Council to make clear to DCPL that there are no rewards for shirking or skirting the ANC and other laws. 1D urges the DC Council to insist that the law be upheld – the main entrance of any substantially rehabbed public building must be accessible to all.

3. Larger, longer-term benefits: DCPL revises the design and process to facilitate adapting to major changes of the next half century in technology and public engagement.

In particular, 1D urges the DC Council to make clear to DCPL that an approved design must provide for low-cost and high flexibility to adjust spaces to meet the needs of future studies that have been promised but not done. Similar flexibility is needed for DCPL to anticipate and adjust to the radical changes now arising from new technologies and patterns of information development and application.

Already, arguments for using better present practices to increase effectiveness by a factor of ten has been brought to DCPL's attention, which they have ignored. A further gain in cost-effectiveness seem possible and even likely. It appears that the DC Council need require changes in DCPL's management culture, and in the facility plan to facilitate systematic learning.

Jack moved to table this resolution until the next business meeting. *Motion to table passed, 4 to 1 (Gregg opposing).*

Adjournment

[8:59 pm] The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.