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Minutes of the July 20, 2010 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the August 17, 2010 meeting.

Call to order

[7:07 pm] Chair Edwards called the meeting to order. Present were ANC1D commissioners Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto, Tunda, and McKay, constituting a quorum. A team from Multicultural Community Service provided simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation.

Public discussion

[7:08 pm] The meeting continued with the public discussion period.

Secretary's report

[7:14 pm] Jack asked if there were any corrections to the June 15 or July 6 meeting minutes. None being offered, the minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:15 pm] Jack reported that the Q4FY09 and Q1FY10 financial reports had been accepted, with no problems, and that the quarterly allotments for Q2FY10 and Q3FY10 had been released, with no deductions. On July 15, the sum of \$8087.70 was deposited in the ANC bank account.

Jack requested approval of checks to Tony Grillo for \$100 for postering, and to the Community of Christ, \$150 for meeting room rental. *Approved, without objection.*

Jack displayed the quarterly report prepared for the third quarter of FY10, due shortly at the auditor's office. *Report approved, 5 to 0 vote*

Chair's report

[7:18 pm] Gregg reported on some of his activities for the month.

Next meetings

[7:24 pm] After some discussion, the commission agreed to have the August 17 business meeting, but to keep it as short as possible; and to omit the September 7 informal meeting. *Approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

Concerning the August 3 meeting, the agreed topic was plans for Mount Pleasant Street, including, but not limited to, the notion of Mount Pleasant Street as a “green street”; what does the neighborhood want that would make Mount Pleasant Street “green”?

Enforce regulations concerning Emergency No Parking signs

[7:40 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Transportation, Public Space Branch, to compel District contractors to comply with current regulations for no-parking signs.

Why: The Parking Amendment Act of 2006 imposed a requirement that temporary no-parking signs contain certain information, according to the following revision to Title 18 of the DC Municipal Regulations:

2407.25. Signs prohibiting or reserving parking shall be consistent with the design approved by the Director and shall display the following:

- (a) Sign number;*
- (b) Name of the issuing agency;*
- (c) Contact name and telephone number;*
- (d) Duration of the parking reservation or prohibition;*
- (e) Hours of the parking reservation or prohibition;*
- (f) Specific person or entity permitted to park in the location, if applicable; and*
- (g) Such other information as is required by the Director.*

The agency name and contact name and number are especially important to residents confronted with such no-parking signs, offering some explanation for the parking restrictions, and contact information should a resident be especially inconvenienced.

This legislation became District law in November, 2006, and new no-parking placards are now available that provide for the required information. Unfortunately, some District contractors are ignoring the new placards, and ignoring the law, evidently with impunity. Attached to this resolution are examples of current no-parking placards put up by District contractors, one in compliance with the law, the other not. Clearly there is no excuse at this time for allowing District contractors to ignore this law, now on the books for almost four years.

Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote.



Fort Myer Co. poster – noncompliant



Intown Restoration poster – compliant

Parking tickets should identify the parking regulation violated

[7:43 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Parking Enforcement branch of the Department of Public Works, and the Metropolitan Police Department, that parking violation citations should state explicitly what parking regulation has been violated.

Why: Parking tickets commonly indicate only vaguely, or even inaccurately, what the parking violation was. Frequently the tickets merely state "No Parking Anytime", code P055, with no hint of why the location was so posted, nor what Municipal Regulation was actually violated.

This complicates any attempt to challenge the validity of such a ticket. A specific problem has to do with parking distance from an intersection, where the standard minimum distance is 40 feet, but certain District regulations permit cars to be parked as close as 25 feet from the intersection. With no clear indication on the parking citation of exactly what regulation has been violated, it is hard to argue which regulation is applicable to the situation, and perhaps overrides the presence of a "no parking" signpost.

The Sixth Amendment is not applicable, but its sense of justice is clear: a person accused of a violation is entitled "to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation". When a parking ticket fails to note explicitly what the parking violation was, the spirit of this constitutional right is violated.

The awkwardness of attempting a defense against such a vague accusation is compounded upon the appeal of a parking ticket to the District of Motor Vehicles Appeals Board. Again, there is no clear description of the charge, and it is hard to prepare a defense against such a vague charge. In a current case in Mount Pleasant, the Board itself cannot state what parking regulation has been violated, and yet has upheld the "conviction", and the penalty, for violating some unnamed parking regulation.

Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote.

Mount Pleasant Green Scene - A request for ideas, insights, alternatives and impacts

[7:44 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D welcomes from residents and workers in Mt Pleasant, DC agencies, and anyone with expertise, ideas, however informal, and contributions towards developing a framework towards a Mt Pleasant Commercial Corridor that is a Green Street (1) with vital and diverse economics and cultures.

Various agencies have or are in the process of developing Master Plans (2) for almost every major aspect (3) of life in Mt Pleasant, many with a focus on the Corridor.

1D welcomes even the most preliminary thoughts in the August Informal Meeting on the 3rd to start of period of further evaluation and refinement of concepts.

1D will seek to post on the web copies of submitted materials, research reports, and the latest copies of the various DC agency plans.

Appendix

Possible topics for comments or submission might include, but are by no means restricted to:

- Upgrades to the various Master Plans as suitable for Mt Pleasant;
- Lists with explanations of suitable trees or plant species;
- Schemes to increase the support volume for larger trees, including permeable pavers;
- Lists with explanations for various lighting for streets, sidewalks, and buildings;
- Lists with explanations for public space, including, say, street furniture & sidewalk cafes;
- Schemes to invite performers, vendor diversity, quality, responsibility;
- Methods to improve pickup and deliveries and trash handling;

- Transportation schemes including shuttles & bikes;
- Parking handling - including, say garages.

Notes

(1) From the Office of Planning's Draft Small Area Plan for Mount Pleasant Street:

“A Green Street can be identified by its use of several attributes of sustainable streetscape design that are inherently green such as: the amount of street tree coverage; improved pedestrian environment, which encourages walking; a reduction in the amount of impervious surface; and natural storm-water filtration systems. Green streetscapes are those that adhere to well established standards of sustainable design and practices. These improvements would not only serve to enhance the overall appearance of Mt. Pleasant Street, but also to establish the corridor as a model for using eco-friendly development practices in conjunction with neighborhood commercial revitalization.”

(2) There are as many as a dozen Master Plans already in force, or that are in process.

Hardly anybody in Mt Pleasant knows about all of them, much less how they might work out as an integrated impact. Many bear the force of law, and are quite restrictive. For example, only the tree species listed in the Master Tree Plan may be planted in public space in Mt Pleasant.

It appears that few or almost none of these Plans have followed the ANC law, and so possibly could be considered now by 1D.

(3) Examples of Master Plans in regs or in process apparently include:

Affordable Housing, Bicycles, Energy, Environment, Pedestrians, Housing, Mass Transit and Street Cars, Trees, Lighting.

Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote.

Adjournment

[8:03 pm] Oliver moved adjournment. By 3 (Gregg, Oliver, Jack) to 2 (Dave, Phil) vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.