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## Minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

*These minutes accepted at the July 19, 2011 meeting.*

### Call to order

[7:12 pm] Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Attending were all six commissioners: Yasmin, Jack, Gregg, Laura, China, and Stormy. No interpreter was on hand.

### Library representatives

[7:13 pm] China moved that the representatives of the Mount Pleasant Library in the audience be allowed five minutes to speak. Gregg noted that the three Library individuals present would have a total of nine minutes according to the usual public discussion rules. China agreed that that was suitable. Yasmin proposed that the six commissioners introduce themselves, which they did. This was followed by oral descriptions in Spanish and English of the public discussion period.

### Public discussion

[7:21 pm] The public discussion period began, with statements by representatives of Fiesta DC, as well as of the Mount Pleasant Library.

### Pupuseria San Miguel public space application

[7:49 pm] Jack asked that the order of items on the agenda be changed to put the Pupuseria San Miguel issue first, in order to allow Sr Vasquez to return to his business. This was agreed to, and Stormy offered this motion, read by Jack:

Concerning public space application #63000, for 3110 Mount Pleasant Street NW (the Pupuseria San Miguel): *Resolved*, that ANC1D advises the Public Space Committee and the Public Space Office to approve this application, on the following grounds.

- (1) The proposed use of public space will not adversely affect the public's need for the use of that space, which is already practically inaccessible.
- (2) The proposed sidewalk cafe will be an economic benefit to Mount Pleasant and the District, by expanding the space available for this restaurant to serve customers.

(3) The proposed sidewalk cafe will make good use of public space that currently offers no benefits to the public.

(4) The proposed sidewalk cafe will contribute to the atmosphere of Mount Pleasant Street as a safe and vibrant public locale.

(5) As far as this ANC knows, the proposed cafe would comply with the pertinent laws and regulations.

Why: Sidewalk cafes enhance the atmosphere of this commercial street, promoting an environment of safety and pleasant activity.

The existing sidewalk cafe at Don Juan's Restaurant, two blocks to the north, has been very successful and enhancing the environment of a street that can sometimes seem desolate, or even threatening. This sidewalk cafe will provide a similar benefit at the south end of the commercial strip.



*Resolution passed, 6 to 0.*

## Approve Harvard Triangle plans

[8:00 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D approves the Signage and Pavement Marking plans for the Harvard Triangle project, and advises DDOT to proceed with this project as expeditiously as possible.

Gregg introduced a motion to amend this resolution, with text concerning the movement of the bus stop to the Harvard Towers driveway. *Motion to amend failed, 0 to 6 vote.*

*Resolution passed, 6 to 0.*

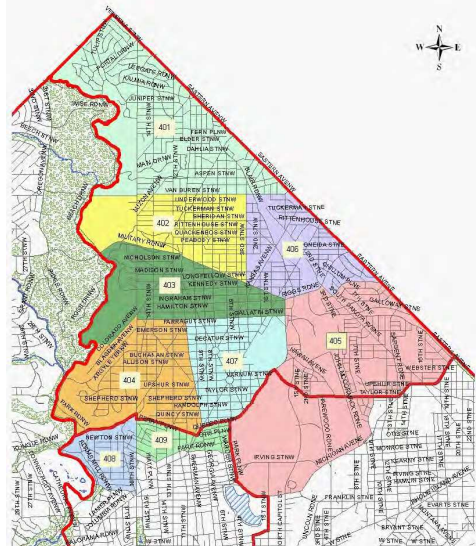
## Leave Mount Pleasant in the Third MPD District

[8:10 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Metropolitan Police Department to leave Mount Pleasant, PSA 301, in the Third MPD District, and refrain from shifting our neighborhood into the Fourth District.

Why:

(1) Crime matters in Mount Pleasant are closely related to the adjacent Ward One neighborhoods, in particular Columbia Heights. Close coordination and full communication between the police teams in these neighborhoods is vital for the successful prevention of crime and solution of crimes. Putting Mount Pleasant in 4D, while adjacent Columbia Heights and Adams Morgan remain in 3D, will compromise coordination and



communication.

(2) Mount Pleasant's dealings with the MPD are closely integrated with the Ward One Council-member's office. Shifting Mount Pleasant into 4D will upset that coordination, as 4D is predominantly associated with Ward Four, whereas the Ward Four Councilmember has no responsibilities nor allegiance to residents in Ward One.

(3) Police in Mount Pleasant would be working out of the 4D headquarters far out on Georgia Avenue, some 40 blocks away. The areas of high crime rates in 4D are even farther away from Mount Pleasant, close to the District's border with Prince Georges County. These factors will cause 4D supervisors to pay little attention to policing issues in far-away Mount Pleasant.

(4) The goal of the realignment is nominally to more evenly distribute crime and calls for service across the seven MPD districts. But PSA 301's contributions to crime and calls for service are small, amounting to only 5.1 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively. Leaving PSA 301 in 3D would increase the calls for service in the new Third District to 13.7% of the total, even closer to the ideal outcome of 14.3%, than the result with Mount Pleasant shifted into 4D, 12.8%. In short, better balance among the seven districts in calls for service is achieved by leaving Mount Pleasant in 3D.

*Passed, 3 votes "yes" (Jack, Stormy, Gregg), 2 votes "no" (Yasmin, China), 1 abstention (Laura).*

## **Support for Fiesta DC 2011**

[8:21 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution, carried over from 2010:

Resolved, ANC 1D advises Fiesta DC (FDC) and the Emergency Management Agency and others listed in Appendix B (EMA&c) that 1D generally supports the issuance of permits to FDC for its proposed event on September 25th 2011, conditioned on the resolution of several topics (Appendix A) of important concern to this neighborhood.

Why:

While the road has been rocky, two years ago leading FDC to seek another neighborhood as a venue, and while there has been a vocal minority of Mt Pleasant residents or businesses suggesting that the troubles are not worth the benefit, 1D has consistently heard a majority of support for continuing to develop this relationship.

Thus, 1D invites FDC to work more closely with Mt Pleasant, engage more of the talent and resources here in creative synergy, and improve clarity of communication and quality of collaboration. There is a huge potential for the future of this and similar events. 1D tenders the concerns in Appendix A as opportunities for confidence building with FDC in cooperation with DC agencies and Mt Pleasant groups. This will not be easy, but the likely benefits should greatly outweigh the discomforts necessary in such ambitious enterprise.

This "Why" section and the Appendices are all equal parts of the same resolution.

Appendix A: Topics of concern

1. Respect for traffic problems.

1D advises FDC and FMA&c to work with the list of concerns compiled by Sam Broeksmit and presented to FDC on 3 August 2010. These concerns are hereby incorporated within this resolution as Appendix C.

## 2. Respect for residents.

1D advises FDC and FMA&c that

- a) residential streets not be closed to residents and their visitors;
- b) on residential streets no parking spots be diverted from residents to non-residents;
- c) residential street space not be diverted for other functions such as trash, porta-johns, storage.

## 3. Respect for merchants.

1D advises FDC and FMA&c to continue and slightly extend the practices worked out in previous years by FDC to respect the potential negative impact of the events on Mt Pleasant St merchants, namely:

- a) At least twenty normal booths be allocated for use by merchants when the event is using public space or streets in front of any part of their store;
- b) Merchants be allowed to apply for a free space within two weeks of the merchant getting complete details of the offer - if none apply then no free spaces need allocation;
- c) The free space be within twenty feet of an extension of the property line of the store;
- d) The terms of use be the same for non-local users of the space;
- e) For extended uses of the space the 30% discount for local merchants be applied to the FDC fee above the normal cost of the free space;
- f) Acceptance of a free space by a merchants means that all other claims for damage to the merchant by the normal disruption caused by the event are considered to have been compensated.

## 4. Clean up

1D advises FDC and FMA&c to assure that all litter and oil spills be cleaned up before 8am the morning after the event. This may mean a "Dawn Patrol" that uses daylight to return Mt Pleasant Street to a condition cleaner and less cluttered than before the event.

## 5. Problem resolution

1D advises FDC and FMA&c to set up a hotline to handle emergencies and resolve complaints before, during and after the event.

- a) The hotline number be posted prominently in publicity to local residents and merchants;
- b) The hotline number be posted prominently in public signage during the event, with a clearly marked HQ;

- c) The services of a third-party mediator be used to clarify and mitigate problems arising before and during the event;
- d) Binding arbitration service be publicized and subsidized by FDC to resolve any complaint left after one week after Monday the 26th of September 2011.

#### Appendix B: Organizations addressed

Fiesta DC

Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency, including Tanya Mitchell & Gloria Jackson

Department of Consumer & Regulator Affairs, Nick Majett and Lavern Stewart

Metropolitan Police Department, Patrick Burke, Stuart Emerman

Department of Health, Joshiah Akintoye, Opa Clegg

Department of Transportation, Aaron Rhones, Lou Williams, Vanessa Winfield

Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Agency, Fred Moosally, Johnnie Jackson

Department of Public Works, Wanda Ellis

Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Service; David Holinger

Department of Parks and Recreation; Randy Poortis

National Park Service, Rick Merryman, Leonard Lee

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; Art Lawson, Samantha Rapoza

Office of Tax and Revenue; Patricia Richey

#### Appendix C: Recommendations

- Create and publish the plan in advance. Accept community input. Revise as appropriate
- Provide notice of bus re-routings and closed bus stops in advance at all impacted bus stops
- Develop clear instructions to residents for how to enter the neighborhood and their street (if closed). Share these directions with all officers and other traffic management personnel
- Protect and close the alleys, not just the streets. They have been used as cut-throughs and go-arounds in past years. Treat the closure of them as importantly as the closure of streets
- Ensure that no “dead ends” are created (such as keeping 17th Street open from Kenyon to Irving (where the traffic is blocked and all cars that travel there have to make a U-Turn
- Create logical detours that can handle the volume of expected traffic. Primarily for West to East traffic entering Mt Pleasant on both Park/Tilden Road and Klingle/Porter.
- Create a northern route
- Create a southern route
- Mark the detour routes so that drivers don't get lost and can easily get back to Irving St east of 16th (and other logical destinations that can be planned for)

- On detour routes and other streets expected to handle extra volume, ensure that there is no parking close to the corners so that cars and trucks can make the turns
- Consider creating a truck route (and not allowing them through the north of the neighborhood)
- Ensure that an MPD supervisor is available to respond to “day of” concerns and that their plan can flex as needed
- MPD claims that they received feedback in the past. Get copies of it and make sure those issues are planned
- The Mayor’s Special Events Task Force prepared a post-event report last year. Get a copy of it and incorporate it into this years plan
- Ensure early and frequent notification of no parking zones, especially those where cars will be towed
- Close 17th from Kenyon to Irving
- Close 18th from Kenyon to Irving
- Heavily man the intersection of Kenyon, Irving and Adams Mill (use specialized traffic operations personnel, not general officers or volunteers).
- Allow the left turn from Kenyon to Adams Mill under traffic control guidance
- Ensure that small streets in the north of the neighborhood don’t become grid-locked or scarred with many drive-by scrapings as cars going in each direction try to pass
- Newton Street
- Monroe Street
- Brown Street
- Oakwood Terrace
- Oak Street
- Provide traffic control professionals at Irving and 16th. This is the heaviest pedestrian gateway and is likely be handling detoured buses which will have to make an awkward right turn from northbound 16th to eastbound Irving. It was gridlocked at times last year. Since Irving is closed, consider making it a flashing red and put it under full control of traffic operations
- Establish a clear way for Hobart Street residents to come and go (and also ensure that Hobart is closed to non-residents (it will be a dead end))
- Ensure that Metrobuses and the Circulator have a well planned detour and that they do not utilize residential streets and that they stay to minor arterials or larger
- COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE Fiesta DC and all agencies (especially Metro, MPD, and Ddot) need to prepare plans in advance and share them for community input

Concerns from 2009:

- West to East Traffic must be carefully channeled

- The most critical corner is Irving/Kenyon/Adams Mill. Last year there were no officers assigned to this intersection (officers were added in the late morning) This is where cars get really lost and confused
- There were no detour signs helping drivers continue east past Mt Pleasant
- In the north part of the neighborhood, diverted traffic was not properly channeled, gridlock occurred, narrow streets were overwhelmed and many cars were scraped. Many people parked in illegal spots, further complicating the flow
- 16th Street and Irving last year became gridlocked
- Buses were re-routed north on 16th and had to turn east on Irving
- No officers were assigned to this corner which had much traffic and was the main pedestrian gateway
- City agencies did not coordinate and communicate well
- Metro did not know the details and buses tried to use Mt Pleasant Street when it was closed. Bus drivers said they only knew “something was up” based on reading the Fiesta DC signs while driving through the neighborhood during the week
- The public was not informed of bus stop closures. There were no signs telling passengers where to board
- Plans were not shared. MPD did not share their “manning” plan so the neighborhood could not provide advice on where best to locate officers. Some officers were overwhelmed with work, some were stationed in areas there were not needed and took long naps
- Street closures were not well thought out
- 17th was not closed from Kenyon to Irving (every car that went down this block had to make a U-turn)
- 18th was not closed from Kenyon to Irving
- More barriers are needed in addition to more cones
- Alleys were not closed and children were not protected
- All alleys within 2 blocks of Mt Pleasant street need to be closed and to have multiple cones placed at each entrance
- “We ran out of cones” -Call Sam Broeksmit; he has found a gratis supplier.

*Resolution passed, 6 to 0.*

China moved adjournment. Motion to adjourn failed. The vote was announced to be 3 to 0.

## **Chair's report**

[8:36 pm] Gregg reported on his efforts to obtain Spanish-language interpreters for our meetings.

(China departed at 8:37 pm.)

## **Secretary's report**

[8:37 pm] Jack asked if there were any corrections to the May 17 meeting minutes. None being offered, the minutes were declared accepted.

Jack asked for approval of the contract with Radio CPR for technical assistance with the public address

system setup.

A Radio CPR member will take on responsibility as audio engineer for ANC 1-D. This person will be responsible for coming to the ANC 1-D monthly business meetings, which take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, at La Casa, 3166 Mt. Pleasant St. NW, beginning at 7:00 PM.

The audio engineer's duties will include:

- Arriving at the meeting place by 6:30 on the nights of ANC 1-D's monthly business meetings.
- Setting up and testing ANC 1-D's audio equipment, including amplification and simultaneous translation equipment.
- Setting up and testing Radio CPR's link to the meeting, and ensuring the meeting is being broadcast over the air and online.
- Taking down and packing up all audio equipment at the end of the meeting (this is usually around 9:00 or 9:30).

In return for these services, ANC 1-D will pay Radio CPR \$50.00 per meeting. Payment will be in the form of quarterly checks made out to "Stand for Our Neighbors."

If for any reason the audio engineer cannot attend a meeting, it is his/her responsibility to find a replacement who is familiar with the equipment set-up.

*Contract approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

## **Treasurer's report**

[8:38 pm] Jack noted that the Q2FY11 allotment has been received. He asked if there was any objection to payments to Tony Grillo, \$100, for postering, and to Radio CPR, \$50, for audio system setup. No objections were noted.

## **July 5 informal meeting**

[8:43 pm] The commission agreed to hold the informal meeting scheduled for July 5, with Fiesta DC and the library as two topics.

## **DCRA should stop work on the MtP Library until safety issues are clearly resolved**

[8:46 pm] Gregg offered this resolution:

Resolved, ANC 1D advises DCRA (DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs) to issue a stop-work order on the MtP Library construction until safety issues in and around the site are clearly resolved and there are no significant risks to neighbors within a block distance and others in the area.

1] At a minimum DC Fire and EMS Department (DFEMS) and DC-WASA should test all hydrants within 2,000 feet of the project, so to determine:

- \* the hydrants' working status and water flow rate,
- \* to visibly band all hydrants noting their working status and water flow rate, and
- \* to develop a schedule of repair for all hydrants that are not at optimal status and flow rate, and
- \* to develop a plan to retrofit the hydrants to modern nozzle capacity.

2] As required by DC Construction code, 1D advises that DCRA bring together DCFD and DCWASA for meetings to develop a publicly documented pre-fire safety plan pursuant to DC Construction code (DCMR Ch. 12 -- IFC 1408.1 and IFC 1408.2, 12 DCMR F-2601, 12 DCMR 3307.2)

**Why:**

In the immediate area of this construction, there have been several fires in the last few years, with several deaths and critical injuries – so we know the ongoing potential for loss of life and property.

Welding, and other construction work are hazardous and bring a heightened probability of fire and other perils.

We know that the construction of nearby buildings supports very rapid growth of fires. Without sprinklers and fire stairs, we know that people are likely trapped in upper floors.

The international fire code commends fast access to all sides of buildings. In recent fires, ladder trucks or even stringing of hose have been blocked or delayed for times sufficient for doubling and redoubling of the fire space.

In the presence of such risks, prevention is not only prudent, but its lack can too easily be disastrous.

DCRA must stop work on major parts of MtP library construction until zoning and safety issues are resolved.

*Resolution passed, 5 to 0.*

**Addition to by-laws**

[8:49 pm] Jack offered this resolution:

Resolved, that the ANC1D by-laws be modified by the addition of the following paragraph:

Article 15 (Miscellaneous), Section 8: Data required for access to and modification of Internet sites serving the Commission, such as the login name and password for the on-line checking account, shall be provided for safekeeping to the Executive Director of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions by the Commissioner in possession of such data. Said Director is to provide these data to another ANC1D Commissioner upon receipt of a resolution passed in a public, properly noticed Commission meeting specifying the transfer.

*Resolution passed, 5 to 0.*

**Adjournment**

[8:50 pm] Stormy moved adjournment. *Passed, 5 to 0.*