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Minutes of the May 2, 2006 monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes approved at the June 6, 2006 meeting.

Call to order

Chair McKay called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Present were Commissioners Gregg Edwards, Mitchell Backfield, Rich Wysocki, and Jack McKay, making a quorum.

Approval of minutes

Gregg moved that the April 4 minutes be approved, after the deletion of a line of text concerning Mitchell and the ANC Web site. Jack agreed to this change, and the revised minutes were approved by voice vote. Mitchell moved the approval of the April 18 minutes, as previously distributed. These minutes were approved by three to one vote, Gregg voting “no”.

Treasurer’s report

Rich reported that he had sent in the first quarter FY06 financial report. The second quarter report has come due, but is not yet complete.

Public discussion

The meeting was opened to public discussion. **Ted Loza**, speaking for Fiesta DC, asked for ANC support of having the annual Latino Fiesta on Mount Pleasant Street, from Lamont Street to “Pigeon Park”. The ordinary rules of procedure were set aside to permit Gregg to introduce a motion “supporting the placement of the Festival in Mount Pleasant in general, with the details to be discussed and approved at a later time”. *Motion approved by unanimous vote.*

Gladys Mitchell expressed her wish for more readily available minutes, for an ANC newsletter such as Jack provides in his SMD, and for better meeting posting. (Commissioner Wayne Kahn arrived during this discussion.)

Standing committee report: Commercial Corridor

Gregg provided a short report on Commercial Corridor Committee discussions concerning alleys and voluntary agreements.

Standing committee report: Public Safety and Security

Mitchell read a prepared statement as a Public Safety and Security report. This led to a lengthy discussion of recent developments in the organization of the tenants of the Woodner, where security and overcrowding are substantial problems.

Gregg asked if the interpreting equipment could be made available for a Woodner tenants meeting at the Canaan Baptist Church on May 10. He then introduced a motion, as follows: “when an event is going to occur in Mount Pleasant, and two commissioners approve, and one is going to be present, then we will allow the equipment to be used for the event”. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mitchell’s resolution was then introduced:

PURPOSE: To establish interpreter equipment checkout and lending procedures in order for ANC 1D and its diverse constituency to derive the greatest benefit. ANC 1D is determined to continue outreaching and encouraging participative democracy. The presence of interpreter equipment at ANC meetings, ANC sponsored events, and other neighborhood-related activity palpably brings about the democratic principle of an informed citizenry for all cultures.

Although the commission is extremely eager to provide interpreter equipment whenever and wherever possible, the commission also recognizes the possibility that normal wear-and-tear, depreciation, and in some cases, misuse/abuse of the interpreter equipment will shorten its life span. Therefore, checkout and lending of the interpreter equipment requires a degree of accountability controls and sensible precautions to ensure the equipment remains functional for a significant time period. Interpreter equipment financing was expensed by the American taxpayers and the district government and the commission is committed to preserving the sustainability and longevity of the interpreter equipment so all parties receives a better return on investment.

(The full resolution, which is a lengthy and detailed procedure for handling the interpreting equipment, is appended to these minutes.)

Rich moved that this be tabled until the June meeting. *Motion to table approved.*

Rich then moved that “the interpreting equipment be made available to the Woodner on May 3 and May 10, and that any meetings between the tenth of May and our next June meeting be worked out between Gregg, Wayne, and Mitchell for the use of the equipment.” In the following discussion, Rich agreed to incorporate the statement that “in the absence of a policy, we as a Commission must approve the use of ANC equipment at an event that is not sponsored by the ANC”. Jack asked for Commission approval of the use of the ANC equipment, including the audio and laptop/projector systems, at these two Woodner meetings, with the proviso that certain Commissioners take responsibility for the equipment. Rich accepted this version of his motion. *Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Gregg then moved that “the Woodner meetings can use the laptop and projector if Jack is willing to come, and the translation equipment if Wayne is willing to come”, referring to the possibility of additional meetings during the month of May, beyond the two already mentioned. *Motion passed by three to two vote, Mitchell and Rich voting “no”.*

At this time, considering how late in the evening it had become, the Commission agreed to skip ahead to “new business”.

New business: Pedestrian Pathway to the Adams Mill/Irving/Kenyon Bus Stop

Gregg introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the District Department of Transportation to create a safe passageway for pedestrians to go from the Harvard Towers driveway to the bus stop on Irving Street at the Kenyon/Adams Mill intersection, employing suitable barriers to separate traffic from pedestrians walking in the street no sooner than 10 days from 2 May 2006. ANC 1D recognizes that this will entail the loss of a number of parking spaces, and will compromise the bicycle path as well, but considers that the need for pedestrian safety warrants this loss.

Why: numerous pedestrians, and some wheelchair-bound persons, mainly from the Harvard Towers, use the bicycle path on Irving Street as a route to the bus stop. The hazard to these pedestrians from Irving Street traffic is significant, and some measures must be taken to reduce the risk to these people. The District Department of Transportation has recommended the installation of temporary barriers to create a safe path. The cost to the neighborhood in the loss of several parking spaces, and the elimination of a portion of a bicycle lane, is small, in comparison to the benefit of reduced risk to these pedestrians and wheelchair users.

Passed by unanimous vote, five to zero.

Adjournment

The commission voted to adjourn at 9:03 pm.

ANC1D Equipment Lending Policy:

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CHECKOUT/LENDING PROCEDURES:

All interpreting equipment purchased or otherwise acquired by ANC 1D for the conduct of activities related to its mission is considered government property upon acquisition unless otherwise noted.

The responsibility for providing the commission with all required information for interpreting equipment inventory and checkout/lending records lies with the Secretary.

Depreciation is calculated from the day of acquisition to the day of disposal. Interpreting equipment that is frequently checked out exponentially increases the rate of depreciation.

The following checkout/lending procedures of the interpreter equipment will be applicable:

Any request to borrow interpreting equipment is brought to the attention of the commission via the requester/requesting group's SMD commissioner. Requester/requesting group cannot ask the commission directly to checkout the interpreting equipment. Neither can the requester/requesting group ask a commissioner outside of their SMD.

Requester/requesting group's SMD commissioner submits a motion to the entire commission for approval to checkout the interpreting equipment during the commission's regularly scheduled or special meetings. A majority of the commission must approve checkout of the interpreting equipment.

When the motion is submitted at the commission's regularly scheduled or special meetings to the commission, the SMD representative must have the requester/requesting group's name, contact information, purpose of the equipments utilization, and expected date of use/expected date of return.

Checkout of the interpreting equipment will be for 72-hour block increments and a calendar will be kept by the Secretary. Exceptions may apply:

The 72-hour block can be extended if the interpreter equipment is necessary to conduct ANC sponsored events or other neighborhood-related activities in the event of an emergency. Approval by the majority of the commission is not necessary for extended use in an emergency situation but the Secretary must be informed verbally either by the requester/requested group or the requester/requested group's SMD commissioner.

Extension waivers for another 72 hours - for other than emergency situations - can be issued only if the dates requested are available. The Secretary has sole authority to approve the extension. Waiver form must be signed by the commission Secretary and the requester/requesting group's SMD commissioner. The Secretary will brief the rest of the commission during regularly scheduled or special meetings.

1. Requester/requesting group of the interpreting equipment are responsible for interpreter expense if an interpreter is necessary.

2. The commission is not responsible for providing the interpreter expense unless the commission agrees by a majority vote during one of its regularly scheduled or special meetings to incur the cost of the requester/requesting group's interpreter based on the following reasons:

Convincing arguments are made by the requester/requesting group's SMD commissioner that the expenditure is necessary to promote civic participation.

Requester/requesting group demonstrates its inability to pay for the interpreter due to financial hardship and/or lack of budgetary resources.

The requester/requesting group's justification must be submitted in written letter form to the requester/requesting group's SMD commissioner. The Secretary receives a copy of the written letter.

Interpreter expenditure must be approved by a majority of the commission.

Each piece of equipment included in the interpreting equipment box will be tagged with a unique identification number and an inventory list ("checklist") with all of the equipment will be kept by the Secretary. Each SMD commissioner will also have a copy of the "checklist" which will be used to handoff the interpreting equipment to the requester/requesting group. The SMD commissioner and requester/requesting group will "check" each item on the checklist to ensure the pieces of equipment are not damaged and accounted for. Upon return, SMD representative is responsible for accounting for each item on the checklist and signing equipment back to Secretary.

Missing or broken items must be reported to the SMD commissioner by the requester/requested group at the time of its discovery or upon transferring back the interpreting equipment. SMD commissioner reports missing or broken items to the commission Secretary who will keep an active log of missed or broken items. A written explanation of the missing or broken items is required from the requester/requested party and submitted to the SMD commissioner or the Secretary.

The requester/requested group will sign an agreement which states they will supply a written explanation if missing or broken items occur while the interpreting equipment is checked out under their name. Additionally, the agreement will state that the requester/requesting group will make every effort to protect, secure, guard against theft, and preserve the interpreting equipment to the best of their ability.

SECRETARY DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

Maintain the interpreting equipment calendar in order to keep an orderly and efficient schedule for checkout/lending availability.

Report to the commission at ANC regularly scheduled and special meetings the previous month's and upcoming month's interpreting equipment calendar which will include:

Dates of scheduled checkout and returning equipment

Issued waivers

Report of missing or broken items – including requester/requested group explanation

Physical inventory will be conducted by the Secretary before each regularly scheduled and special meetings and report to the commission the current status of the interpreting equipment.

Interpreting equipment tagging and labeling of each piece will be conducted by the Secretary.