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Minutes of the July 21, 2009 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

These minutes accepted at the _____, 2009 meeting.

Call to order

[7:02 pm] Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Scott, Tunda, Edwards, Bosserman, Lepanto, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

Public discussion

[7:03 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion. Adam Hoey, Ari Goldstein, Fay Armstrong, and a Bert (surname unintelligible) spoke.

Secretary's report

[7:16 pm] Jack noted that minutes of the June 16 meeting had been distributed on June 19. No corrections being offered, the minutes were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:17 pm] Jack reported that a year had been added to the period of our audit. Jack brought up the quarterly report for the third quarter of FY09, prepared for submission to the auditor. *Quarterly report accepted, 6 to 0.*

Jack noted that the resolution authorizing the grants program implied \$3000 for management of the program, and that budget was being exceeded. Gregg and Jack suggested that a revised cap of \$10,000 for grant management expenses be imposed. *Approved, 5 to 1 vote (Phil voting "no").*

Jack asked if there was any objection to the following payments: Tony Grillo \$50 (July 21 mtg posters), Bill Boteler \$1260 (services), Phil Lepanto \$47.59 (business cards). No objections were voiced. Stormy asked to see one of Phil's business cards; he agreed to show her one after the meeting. *Unanimous approval of these expenditures.*

Jack proposed that the Commission pay for ULI membership for Gregg: "Resolved, ANC 1D authorizes the reimbursement of \$250 to Gregg Edwards for a one year membership in the Urban Land Institute." Phil asked how much we have spent on ULI conferences and membership to date; Jack agreed to determine that amount. *Motion approved, 6 to 0.*

Commercial corridor committee report

[7:26 pm] Gregg presented a commercial corridor committee report.

Informal meeting

[7:32 pm] The commission agreed to have the August informal meeting focusing on the topic of the revitalization of Mount Pleasant Street. Gregg and Stormy agreed to take the lead in the organization of this meeting. Gregg requested, and received, confirmation that our staff could be used in the organization of this informal meeting.

Unfinished business: Add the power to assess fines on public utilities to the Public Service Commission

[7:36 pm] Gregg moved that this be withdrawn. *Motion passed, 6 to 0.*

Sidewalk Assurance Act

[7:38 pm] Phil moved that this be tabled until later in the meeting. *Motion to table passed, 5 to 0 with one abstention (Gregg).*

Rosemount Center BZA application

[7:40 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve the application for a special exception to the Zoning Regulations to permit the Rosemount Center to increase the maximum number of children from 147 to 163, and the maximum permitted staff from 85 to 89.

Why: Section 205 of Title 11 lists the conditions that must be satisfied by a child development center to qualify for a special exception in a residential district. Because the Rosemount Center has been operating for many years with children and staff as limited by the current special exception, the neighborhood has substantial experience with the potential problems of such a facility, e.g., traffic, parking, and noise. While a certain amount of neighborhood disruption is inevitable for such a large establishment, the neighbors on Rosemount Avenue and Klingle Road have expressed no concerns or complaints. The Center works hard at controlling traffic and utilizing on-site parking for staff, evidently adequately for the nearby residents. It is significant that the residents of Rosemount Avenue have not requested Residential Permit Parking for their block, despite the proximity of the Center.

As for noise, the structure of the Center shields the adjacent residences from any child play sounds.

In the opinion of ANC1D, the Rosemount Center currently satisfies all the conditions of Section 205, and will continue to meet those conditions after the modest expansion requested.

Resolution approved, 6 to 0.

Capital Cities Charter School move

[7:41 pm] Gregg moved the following:

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Charter School Board that formal notice need be made to 1D with a time delay specified by statute. The first awareness of the proposed action was

received by 1D on 20 July 2009. Therefore, a decision at the 17 August 2009 meeting would be contrary to law, and so must be delayed.

Beyond formalities, with over a thousand residences, at least one other school, and many other high-traffic users, prudence dictates that there be discussions on how many of the predictable problem can be solved. So, even if the Board proceeds, 1D asks that Great Weight be given to its advice that no permit be issued until these difficult issues are addressed, and 1D can report to the Board on progress.

Why: A school is likely have many traffic problems, especially in such a high density area. It could well block traffic on 16th St or Park Road, both arterials. Plans and agreements need be worked out ahead of time to minimize interference with neighbors.

1D notes that there was no advanced warning or discussion ahead of time, not a good sign for future collaboration on inevitable problems and conflicts with so many neighboring land uses, and in the midst of about 1500 residents.

Resolution passed, 4 to 1, with one abstention (Jack, Dave, Oliver, and Gregg voting "yes", Phil voting "no", Stormy abstaining).

Pupuseria San Miguel occupancy violation

[7:57 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to treat the Pupuseria San Miguel gently, concerning the complaint of "increased occupancy or the use of interior space".

Why: this appears to ANC1D to be a misunderstanding, no doubt due in part to the applicant's very limited command of English. The applicant was fully cooperative with the ABRA inspector, immediately closing off the seating that exceeded its allowance of 12 seats. This is a tiny restaurant, and is not known to be a source of any neighborhood problems or complaints.

Resolution passed, 6 to 0.

Implement the Day Parking Pass Program without further delay

[7:58 pm] Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Transportation to implement without further delay the Day Parking Pass Pilot Program, as described in its memo of October, 2008, and as was supposed to have been implemented by March, 2009. Resolved further, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Transportation to hold a community evaluation meeting after several months of operation, so that residents can comment on the actual, observed effects of the program, rather than guessing at the future consequences of a program not yet in effect.

Why: With the conversion of several blocks north of Park Road and near Bancroft Elementary School to Residential Permit Parking, almost all of Mount Pleasant will be zoned for RPP. This will create a substantial hardship for staff at the Stoddard Baptist Home, and at Bancroft Elementary, employees who depend on curbside parking because those institutions have little on-site parking. Though RPP is intended to prevent such commuter parking, the neighborhood does not want to impose this hardship on these valued commuters to Mount Pleasant. The purpose of RPP zoning of these blocks was not to prevent these commuters from daytime parking on our streets, but to give all Mount Pleasant residents

equal parking rights, and to put a stop to the concentration of non-permit vehicles on the few remaining unzoned blocks.

A significant number of residents of these blocks signed the petitions for RPP only with the understanding that there would be provision for daytime parking by commuters to these Mount Pleasant institutions. It is very dismaying to them, and to us who made the promise, that the Day Parking Pass Program was halted just before implementation, thus unintentionally imposing a hardship on these neighborhood workers.

This ANC has repeatedly called for this Day Parking Pass Program, as long ago as July, 2005, and more recently in resolutions of March and June, 2008. ANC1D specifically endorsed the DDOT plans for the program in a resolution of November, 2008. We call for this program to come into being, on our responsibility. The proposal is for a "pilot" program, which can be modified, or even rescinded, as necessary. The program can be evaluated, including assessment by the affected residents, after the one-year trial period.

It is critical that the Day Parking Pass Program be brought about promptly, before school resumes this fall.

Resolution passed, 6 to 0.

Mount Pleasant Street Revitalization

[8:00 pm] At this time a general discussion of the Mount Pleasant Street Revitalization effort, and the Office of Planning Small Area Plan, was opened. (The early portion of this discussion was not audible, due to failure to have the wireless microphone turned on.)

By a 6 to 0 vote, the Commission agreed to refrain from considering any resolutions concerning the Small Area Plan, and the Responsible Hospitality Zone, at this meeting.

Establish a Creative Alliance of Mount Pleasant

[8:26 pm] Gregg and Stormy together moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D authorizes \$3000 and staff support for the establishment of a Creative Alliance of Mt Pleasant (CAMP) of established creatives living or working in 1D. The intents are to:

- (1) raise money including seeking grants for exhibitions, festivals, and performances;
- (2) consider policies that would foster the development of Mt Pleasant as a creative economic enclave,
- (3) work collaboratively with 1D and other local groups to prepare ideas for planning; and
- (4) attract and mentor creative talent that can draw public attention, outside visits for participation, and other cultural and economic progress.

Why: Mt Pleasant is apparently the best situated neighborhood in DC for creator-oriented cultural production, and has for a half century been the home for one of the largest concentrations of established creatives and studios. As normally happens, as a neighborhood gentrifies, costs rise and creatives can no longer afford to stay, resulting in the disruption of long-time and slowly built relationships on which creative processes depend. It appears that unless supportive action start now, this enormously valuable collection of cultural capital will be dispersed.

While there are other DC neighborhoods that have been designated as Arts Areas, these function mostly to support customer-oriented culture and higher traffic phases of the normal diffusion of ideas from the pioneering to the inventive and innovative to the mass-marketed.

Mt Pleasant has the unusual mixture of diverse and even divergent ethnic and economic populations that is usually required for the take-off of a creator-oriented economic enclave. The most respected US exports combine technology with design; creative culture must include all fields and be open to all imagination, not just those designated as creative in the politics of past centuries. So, along with much of the literature of this well-researched field, we define creative as those ideas that are both significantly different and substantially better than those previously available.

CAMP could be the first step in preserving and forwarding this possible future, seemingly unique among DC neighborhoods.

Motion failed to pass, with two votes "yes" (Stormy, Gregg), four votes "no" (Jack, Phil, Oliver, Dave).

Reform the Mount Pleasant Library plan

[8:38 pm] Gregg introduced this resolution:

Advising the DC Public Library, and asking the Mayor and Councilmembers and the District offices dealing with the aged and handicapped to intervene with the Library Board and FEMS, to substantially reform the proffered plan for the MtP library's ramp and emergency access to buildings behind the Library. The staff is authorized spend up to \$600 and to work with DC offices and 1D groups to evaluate and report on the challenges to the welfare of local residents of the ramp design.

Why: The proposed ramp distributed to 1D does not reflect current designs posted on the DCPL website. The proposed ramp is over a hundred feet long, with no resting points for the elderly and handicapped, and is a continuing and significant burden and even danger.

The proposed ramp blocks the possibility of emergency vehicle, including ladder trucks, access to over ten apartment buildings with perhaps a thousand residents whose safety could be much better assured with such an access.

Passed 5 to 0, with 1 abstention (Phil).

ANC 1D Endorses Mount Pleasant Main Street Grant Request For A 2009 DDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant

[8:58 pm] Phil introduced this resolution:

RESOLVED: ANC 1D always encourages neighborhood groups and organizations to apply for grants that will help the neighborhood. We endorse the ideas that there should be improved lighting, more bike racks, way-finding and new Mount Pleasant signs, improved landscaping in the small section of Lamont Park, and funds to facilitate café seating in the park for special events managed by the Mount Pleasant Business Association.

Commissioners Phil Lepanto, Jack McKay, and Gregg Edwards are authorized to compose a letter in cooperation with Mount Pleasant Main Street that conforms to these principles.

Gregg moved to table this resolution. *Motion to table failed on a 3 to 3 vote (Jack, Gregg, and Stormy voting "yes", Phil, Oliver, and Dave voting "no").*

The main motion then failed on a 3 to 3 vote (Dave, Phil, and Oliver voting "yes", Jack, Gregg, and Stormy voting "no").

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.