

<b>Phil Lepanto, 1D01</b> phil.lepanto@gmail.com	<b>Mount Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission</b>	<b>Gregg Edwards, 1D04</b> Vice Chair g@ge1.org
<b>Oliver Tunda, 1D02</b> tunda21@hotmail.com		<b>Dave Bosserman, 1D05</b> orilla@comcast.net
<b>Jack McKay, 1D03</b> Secretary and Treasurer jack.mckay@verizon.net	1380 Monroe St NW, #117, Washington DC 20010 Tel: 234-6646 Web: www.anc1d.org e-mail: anc1d@googlegroups.com	<b>Angelia Scott, 1D06</b> Chair pastorascott@yahoo.com

## Minutes of the December 15, 2009 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

*These minutes accepted at the January \_\_, 2010 meeting.*

### Call to order

[7:11 pm] Vice Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. Present were ANC1D commissioners Edwards, Tunda, Lepanto, and McKay, constituting a quorum.

### Public discussion

[7:12 pm] The meeting was opened to public discussion. Lorena Mejia of the Latino Association of Mount Pleasant provided Spanish interpretation as needed. Byron Peck showed his concept for a mural for the Atonatl condominium building at 3125 Mount Pleasant Street. Fay Armstrong represented the views of Historic Mount Pleasant.

### BZA Special Exception application for 1845 Ingleside Terrace NW

[7:43] As a favor to members of the audience attending for this one item, the matter of a BZA exception for 1845 Ingleside Terrace was brought up at this time, preceding the officers' reports. Jack moved the following:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Board of Zoning Adjustment to grant the Special Exception for 1845 Ingleside Terrace NW, BZA Case number 18026, allowing a new egress stair, landing, and terrace on the rear of the building.

Why: This exception meets the two criteria set by DCMR 11, 3104.1, namely that the exception "be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps", and that it "will not tend to affect adversely, the use of neighboring property". The construction desired at the back of this row house is supportive of its residential use, and so is consistent with R-4 residential guidelines. The use of the alley-facing back of the house for automobile parking, and direct access to the home from the back, is common practice in Mount Pleasant.

The stairs, landing, and terrace have little or no effect on the use of neighboring properties. The structure does not interfere with the open vista that these residences have over Rock Creek Park, across their rear-access alley. Because this side of the building faces due north, there is no obstruction of sunlight onto adjacent residences. Other residences in this row

have second-level and third-level decks. No objection has been raised to these structures, and the most directly affected residents, the neighbors at 1847 Ingleside, have explicitly declared that they “have no concerns” about the proposed construction at 1845 Ingleside.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting “yes”).*

## **Letter of support for a City Arts mural on Mount Pleasant Street**

[7:46 pm] Again for the benefit of people attending for specific items, the commission permitted the bringing up of the City Arts mural at this time. Jack moved that the commission authorize the following letter:

To the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities:

Mr. Byron Peck, Founder and Artistic Director of City Arts, and resident of Mount Pleasant, has requested from this ANC a letter of support for a Mount Pleasant Community Mural, to be painted on the north-facing wall of the Atonatl condominium building at 3125 Mount Pleasant Street, NW. ANC1D recognizes that this mural would be a great enhancement of the Mount Pleasant Street streetscape, brightening what is currently a barren brick wall, and supports this undertaking, and the grant application by City Arts.

Gregg moved to amend this motion by substitution of the following:

Resolved: ANC1D does not support the current design of the mural at the Atonatl Building in Mt. Pleasant that the DC Arts and Humanities Commission has approved.

*The motion to amend failed on a two to two vote (Phil and Gregg voting “yes”, Oliver and Jack voting “no”).*

*The main motion then failed on a two to two vote (Jack and Oliver voting “yes”, Gregg and Phil voting “no”).*

## **Secretary’s report**

[7:58 pm] Jack noted that minutes of the November 17 meeting had been distributed on November 19, and asked if there were any corrections. No corrections being offered, the minutes were declared accepted.

## **Treasurer’s report**

[7:58 pm] Jack reported that the Q4FY09 quarterly allotment of \$4381.70 had been received, which represented the full amount of the allotment, i.e., no deductions.

Jack noted the following payments to be made: Tony Grillo, posters, \$100; Lorena Mejia, interpretation, \$50; Bill Boteler, staff support, \$462.45. No objections were raised to these payments.

Total cash outlays this quarter amount to \$5197. Compare the FY2010 quarterly allotment: \$4044. The principal non-routine expenditures were: Rob Waldeck, legal services, \$1200; Laptop computer purchase, \$885.

The checking account balance at the beginning of the quarter was \$53,546.07; at the end of the quarter, \$52,731.35.

## **ANC resolution delivery via the Internet**

[8:02 pm] Gregg moved the following:

Resolved: ANC1D advises the DC Auditor (DCA), the Director of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), the Office of ANCs (OANC), and the DC Council (CoDC) to implement the following low cost plan

1] ANCs may submit their resolutions via a web interface directly into a database set up by OCTO which will timestamp the entry and automatically send a copy to the agency liaison with ANCs. This interface will allow public searches for records by ANC, by agency, and by topic or keywords.

2] Agencies shall post their notifications, acknowledgment of receipt of resolutions, and their answers to ANC via the same interface. Any agency notice or response will be posted by the interface directly via email to the apposite commissions or commissioners. Until the DC Council provides complete support for all commissioners to access the web without extra costs, this service will not replace legal requirements for notice by first-class mail.

3] The DC Auditor shall periodically and at least once a year, evaluate the compliance of agencies with applicable code and case law on noticing, acknowledging, and fully answering ANCs. These results will be posted on the OCTO interface, and will be considered formally and particularly as part of the DC Council's oversight of agencies.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

## **A District Attorney for the District of Columbia**

[8:08 pm] Jack and Gregg co-sponsored the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Council of the District of Columbia to renew its effort to give the District the right to have its own District Attorney, as stated in the "Establishment of an Office of the District Attorney for the District of Columbia Charter Amendment Act of 2002".

Why: The prosecution of the District's local criminal laws is not in the hands of District officials, appointed or elected, but is under the purview of a Federal Government appointee, the U.S. Attorney for the District. No U.S. State is required, like the District, to forfeit control over criminal prosecutions. The U.S. Attorney is not responsive to, nor answerable to, District residents. In 2002, the citizenry of the District voted overwhelmingly in favor of a locally chosen District Attorney, and the District Council passed an act calling for this change, but the United States Congress has never permitted the change. Delegate Norton has recently submitted a bill in the House to bring about this change. With the recent changes in the makeup of the United States Congress, the time is right to promote this bill, and this ANC calls on the Council of the District to give active and strong support to Delegate Norton, and her bill for a locally chosen District Attorney.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

## **Access corridor behind the Mount Pleasant Library**

[8:11 pm] Gregg offered the following resolution:

ANC 1D resolves to award a contract to the Mount Pleasant Latino Association (LA), to be administered by 1D's staff group, with the following provisos:

1] The intents of this project are to provide (a) the chance for an access corridor starting in the west side yard of the Mount Pleasant Library and extending roughly south so that ladder fire trucks could reach the rear of almost a dozen buildings, and (b) there will be a single

entrance for all, and that entrance will go well beyond ADA standards as an immediate and attractive access - not long or apparently difficult.

2] 1D will pay for expert advice on the safety, architectural, public participation, and legal issues involved in pursuing 1D's resolutions on the Library upgrade, but no more than the funds raised by other groups with the intents of item 1] above. 1D will not pay more than \$3000 for this project.

3] If the Latino Association does not have a bank account to administer this contract, then it may designate an established, incorporated Mt Pleasant civic group representing residents to handle the accounts, so long as that group does not exercise any further control than to assure fiduciary responsibility. 1D encourages the Latino Association to manage this project with a strong outreach to other Ward One groups, including 1C, that have been substantially active in supporting the intents of item 1] above.

4] 1D funds shall be used only to support positions embodied in its resolutions.

*Passed, 3 to 1 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, voting "yes", Phil voting "no").*

## **Requesting Small Area Plan files**

[8:18 pm] Gregg offered the following resolution:

Resolved: ANC1D requests, under the Freedom of Information and ANC acts, the current documentation, including source data, for consultants' work on the Mount Pleasant Small Area Plan, and the creative economy study.

Why: Both of these studies contain information that can assist 1D in the formulation of policies and reactions to Office of Planning initiatives.

*Passed, 3 to 1 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, voting "yes", Phil voting "no").*

## **ANC1D Web site linkages**

[8:23 pm] Gregg offered the following resolution:

Resolved: ANC1D authorizes that anc1d.org contain linkages to outside resources that support its current policy of focusing on its official policies and actions, and sites of individual commissioners. This revokes the previous ANC1D policy statement that severely restricted outside links on the ANC1D Web site.

Why: This commits to a formal resolution two authorizations that have already been made informally by 1D by apparent majorities.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

## **Web-casting**

[8:27 pm] Gregg offered the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D calls upon the Office of the Chief Technology Officer to undertake and assure that all public hearings held by District agencies that have recorded video be webcast and archived for public access via the web.

In particular, ANC1D calls upon the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) and the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to provide access to all previously recorded hearings via a link to the archives of the Office of Zoning.

When possible, transcripts and copies of all the documentation should also be made available for download by means of links next to the archived webcasts.

Why: For greater transparency and responsibility.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting “yes”).*

## **Agency Transcriptions**

[8:39 pm] Gregg offered the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC1D asks that all DC agencies, when they contract for transcription services, make these records available to other agencies of the government, including the ANC.

ANC1D recommends that transcript copies:

1. Be obtained free of charge.
2. Be obtained from the agency, not from the transcribing contractor.

Why: For greater transparency.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting “yes”).*

## **ANC1D Business Agenda**

[8:41 pm] Phil offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, ANC 1D directs the Secretary to publish an agenda detailing the order of business and the estimated time of completion for each agenda item including the approval of minutes, officer and committee reports, the consideration of previous business and new business. The publication of a final agenda will be 5 days prior to the regular business meeting. A preliminary, draft agenda shall be prepared 10 days prior to the regular business meeting.

This resolution does not preclude the consideration of business not published on the draft or final agenda. It is left to the discretion of the chair what non-agenda business items will be considered.

WHY: Many community organizations and individuals are frustrated with how much business shows up on the ANC business agenda without warning. There is often business that the ANC must consider without being able to give proper notice because the ANC itself has not been given prior notice. However, many resolutions have been presented and considered in 2009 that were presented without warning and did not require immediate action. More importantly, many community organizations would see a clear and ordered agenda as an indication that the ANC has a larger vision for the community and is not simply reactive.

*Motion failed, 1 to 3 (Phil voting “yes”, Jack, Oliver, Gregg voting “no”).*

## **Posting places**

[8:51 pm] Gregg offered the following resolution:

Resolved, ANC 1D allocates \$1400 to erect a bulletin board in Lamont Park, and four other substantial places in the overlap of the four SMDs with Mount Pleasant Street commercial corridor between Harvard Street and Park Road.

It will be the policy of 1D to post 25 notices of meetings: one on the Lamont Park posting place, three in the other Mount Pleasant Street posting places, three other places for the four SMDs overlapping Mount Pleasant Street, and four each for the other two SMDs.

Why: Regular and prominent posting places will help assure residents are notified of ANC meetings. We have heard from many sectors of the community who want improved notification of ANC meetings, topics, and potential impacts.

Jack offered an amendment as a substitution:

ANC1D advises DDOT to construct a public bulletin board in Lamont Park, for use by the people of Mount Pleasant and neighboring areas. The posting of ANC meeting announcements here will not replace any of the legally required monthly meeting posters.

Why: This prominent posting place will better advise residents about ANC meetings, as well as other events in this neighborhood.

*Amendment passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

*Amended resolution passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

## **Promote social activities in Mount Pleasant Street parks**

[9:10 pm] Jack offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Office of Planning to support enhancements to the parks adjoining Mount Pleasant Street to promote social activities in those parks, and so encourage residents to make Mount Pleasant Street an area for social interaction, not just a passageway.

Why: Villages benefit from town plazas where residents can meet their neighbors and engage in social activities, thus enhancing neighborliness and the sense of community. Mount Pleasant Street, and the small parks adjoining the Street, lack any such town-center feel, as the street and sidewalks are designed only for people passing through, not staying in place. Even Lamont Park lacks any conveniences for social activities, offering only a few somewhat uncomfortable places to sit. There are no tables, no place for people to play board games or cards, no place even to enjoy a snack from Don Juan's or Heller's. The people who sit on the benches in fact create an undesirable atmosphere, as they seem to be merely loitering and perhaps appearing to eye passers-by. Compare the friendly atmosphere on Dupont Circle, where tables encourage chess matches, drawing spectators, creating groups of people who are clearly engaged in a sociable activity, in a relaxed and unthreatening atmosphere.

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

## **Convert Mount Pleasant Street to a "pedestrian encounter zone" and "bicycle boulevard"**

[9:13 pm] Jack offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Transportation to undertake the conversion of Mount Pleasant Street to a "pedestrian encounter zone", sharply reducing traffic speeds, and prohibiting the use of the street for through traffic.

Why: Mount Pleasant Street follows the classic American model of giving automobiles priority over pedestrians and bicycles. Traffic dominates the atmosphere of the commercial strip, whereas pedestrians are confined to sidewalks and a couple of crosswalks, and are expected everywhere else to give precedence to motor vehicles. This model for urban centers

is out of date in an era where alternative modes of transportation, including walking, are to be encouraged.

European cities have had great success with "encounter zones", where pedestrians are given priority, and are allowed to cross streets wherever they want, and motor vehicle drivers are required to yield to them. This creates an environment of very slow-moving traffic, and a relaxed atmosphere where people on foot have priority, and can use the area for human activities. To quote one source:

*The encounter zone has been regulated in Switzerland from January 1st 2002. In the 'encounter zone' the traffic surface is given to pedestrians and a spatial allocation for relaxing and shopping, for play and sport and as meeting place, is at their disposal. The maximum speed is defined as 20 km/h and pedestrians have precedence in relation to vehicular traffic. They can pass at any time and over the whole roadway, however vehicles may not be obstructed unnecessarily. Parking is permitted only in the places marked by signals or markings.*

In Mount Pleasant, more than 40% of all households own no car. Many car-owning households would readily leave their car at home, and visit Mount Pleasant Street on foot. Hence, a majority of local residents would benefit from the conversion of Mount Pleasant Street to a pedestrian-priority "encounter zone". The street need not be a thoroughfare to anyplace else, as the minor arterials of Park Road and Irving Street provide conduits for traffic. This is an ideal location for a U.S. experiment in the European concept of the "encounter zone".

*Passed, 4 to 0 (Jack, Oliver, Gregg, Phil voting "yes").*

## **Adjournment**

[9:17 pm] The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.