

ANC 2D

Minutes

January 13, 2014, 7:00PM

Our Lady Queen of the Americas

2200 California Street

1. **Call to order and Election of Officers;** Commissioner Lamar moved and the motion was seconded, "that the following slate of officers for 2014 be accepted".

Chair/Secretary: David Bender

Vice Chair/Treasurer: Eric Lamar **Approved**

2. **Establishment of Quorum;** Two Commissioners and 15 residents/guests were present.

3. **Agenda** was **Approved**

4. **Minutes** for the **November 18, 2013, Meeting** were **Approved** as distributed.

5. **Administrative/Financial Matters:**

5.1 **Commissioner's Comments:**

5.1.1 Commissioner Lamar introduced the NONNAN RESOLUTION which he will send to the US Attorney...See Exhibit A

5.1.2 **Embassy/Mission Property Update:** Following Commissioner Lamar's 2013 update on various properties the Commissioners have worked with Pat Elwood (Director, Office of Protocol and International Affairs; Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia; Executive Office of the Mayor) in an attempt to correct the various identified issues. Following is an update of her efforts.

ALBANIA: A sign was posted saying "No Parking" in the driveway.

The property was cleaned up and the Ambassador is really hoping his New Year's present will be enough money from his government to fix the building. Are you still seeing cars parked in the driveway? If so, they are doing so without permission. We will continue to work on this, as is needed and appropriate. The Ambassador is being very co-operative.

PAKISTAN: R Street. The State Department Office of Foreign Missions is engaging them on various issues. They have approved their request to rent out that property commercially. This may give them the impetus to finish the renovation so it is in rentable condition and we will continue to stay engaged and updated regarding this.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Problem of parking on the sidewalk and driving on the curb. We are looking into what we can do regarding problems; and the Department of State is supporting enforcement of DC's laws and regulations. We will write an official letter of complaint to the Department of State – OFM. Feel this might be just a matter of enforcing parking rules that are already in place and, barring that, a talk by us with the Ambassador.

SERBIA: Regarding cleaning up the yard and fencing issue. We will write a letter of complaint to OFM and continue to work with them on this issue.

ARGENTINA: 2136 R Street, NW. We discovered that this has not been a tax-exempt diplomatic property for many years (20+). The Argentine military maintains it and pays taxes. There is no law that requires someone to inhabit a property they own; but it should be properly maintained.

MAURITANIA: Wall on S Street. Office of Foreign Missions on S Street has explained that Mauritania is having difficulty getting funds from their capital to repair it. After a meeting with OFM complaining about this issue, we were told that they (OFM) would call about it in hopes of having the Embassy repair this wall soon. They, you and we will check periodically and we (OFM and we) will contact the embassy for updates.

MOLDOVA: Rats and clean up. We feel our combined efforts with the Embassy have achieved the clean-up. DC authorities were contacted and have now become involved with the restaurant in that alley regarding the rat problem and the remediation on that should have started shortly after our meeting”.

Three additional projects not included in Ms. Elwood’s report:

Not included in the update is the Egyptian Military property at 2308 Tracy, however, it remains as a priority in our discussions.

CHINESE EMBASSY has finished the easement agreement with Portugal Embassy. The project could start within Feb, 2014, and the term is about 30 months after kicking off. I will send you a detailed construction schedule for your reference as we finalize it.

Embassy of France Ambassador’s Residence The project has been reviewed by both the DC Historic Preservation Office and the Commission of Fine Arts and has received staff level approval from both. The building permit was submitted to DCRA this week. The scope of the project is primarily interior work to modernize the building systems of the residence and there will be no change in occupancy or function. The minor site changes are to improve access to the main entrance with the addition of a ramp, to better manage deliveries and trash with a service ramp and trash room at the east service drive, and to provide a site generator. Additionally, safety concerns around the site have been addressed with repairs at the pool, repair of stone steps, and the addition of handrails and balustrades at the rear of the building. Please see below for a more detailed description of this work. The project is currently out to bid with construction slated to begin in early February and end in October. Some preliminary demolition work has begun to prepare the building for the main renovation project. Site utility connections will be required in public space; these will occur in compliance with DC regulations. Otherwise, construction activities will be contained within the site and with minimal impact to the neighborhood.

5.2 **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lamar reported that the current balance in the ANC's checking account is \$2,309.24.

5.3 **Security Fund Participation:** Commissioner Lamar moved and the motion was seconded, "that the Commissioners of ANC 2D, meeting on January 13, 2014, approve the ANC's participation in the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Security Fund and authorizes the Treasurer to pay the \$25.00 fee for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. The Chairperson and Secretary are authorized to execute the necessary agreements. **Approved**

5.4 **Meeting Cancellation Policy;** Commissioner Bender reminded the residents that it is the **Policy (Approved 1-23-12)**"that ANC 2D and any of its committees, task forces or any other group will not meet on any day when the District Government is closed due to inclement weather or other emergency situations".

5.5 **Bank Signatories;** Commissioner Lamar moved and it was seconded "that since the officers are remaining the same, Bank Signatories (Bender/Lamar) will remain as on file with the Dupont Circle branch of the PNC Bank.

6. **DC Gov't Reports**

6.1 **MPD (PSA 208)**...Lieutenant Jesse Porter (jesse.porter@dc.gov) or Officer Johnny M. Jones (johnnym.jones@dc.gov)...Residents were reminded to be certain to lock their cars and not to leave GPS devices, cellphones etc. in your vehicle. Be mindful of your "valet key" and where it is kept.

6.2 **Mayor's Office**...James Bulger (james.bulger@dc.gov)

6.3 **Council Member's Office**..Sarina Loy (sloy@dccouncil.us)

7. **Old Business:**

7.1 2422 Tracy Place (Mayor's agent hearing of 1/9/14); SKHA..Kindy French; The hearing lasted for 2 hours. The next step is to prepare proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, which are due in about 6 or 7 weeks (30 days after the transcript is prepared).

8. **New Business:**

8.1 **DC's Guide to Green;** Hasim Dawkins..."The DC SEU is DC's Guide to Green. By mandate of the Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008, DC SEU provides energy efficiency and renewable energy services to DC residents, businesses and institutions. Our services include incentives and rebates of efficient products. Your constituents can visit your local grocery or hardware store <<http://www.dcseu.com/for-my-home/lighting/energy-efficient-lighting>> to purchase energy efficient lighting for as low as 50 cents/bulb.

We also have Refrigerator<<http://www.dcseu.com/for-my-home/appliances/refrigerators>> and Clothes Washer<<http://www.dcseu.com/for-my-home/appliances/clothes-washers>> rebates and much more<<http://www.dcseu.com/for-my-home>>. Our services can reduce your constituent's utility bill as well as continue to employ DC residents. Take a look at our annual report<http://www.dcseu.com/docs/about-us/DCSEU_FY13_Annual_Report_Web.pdf> The fund that support our services are financed by a surcharge on DC property owner's electric and gas bills. If you look at the bottom of your Pepco bill, you will see a charge there for the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund. I want to ensure that your constituents are taking advantage of their entitlements by presenting our programs at your next meeting". Should you questions, you can reach Mr. Dawkins at hdawkins@dcseu.com

8.2 Spanish Steps DPR Permit Request; May 3, 2014, Lin/Peck...Commissioner Bender moved and it was seconded that "ANC 2D approve the request and inform DC DPR Permit Offices of this action. **Approved**

8.3 Spanish Steps DPR Permit Request; September 5, 2014, Larson... Commissioner Bender moved and it was seconded that "ANC 2D approve the request and inform DC DPR Permit Offices of this action. **Approved**

8.4 Occupy Public Space at 2409 California Street (Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) Commissioner Lamar moved and it was seconded that "ANC 2D supports the decisions made by D.C. Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Department of State with the understanding that the Embassy complies with local building codes and regulations and obtains all necessary permits from the Government of the District of Columbia. **Approved**

8.5 Renovations to Mitchell Park; Stacie West, Community Planner, DPR...Ms. West gave a brief overview possible playground improvements which is part of Mayor Gray's Playground Improvement Project. **On Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 6:30 to 8:00pm, Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church will be a community meeting to discuss playground improvements.** On February 24th, Ms. West will return to the ANC to further discussion plans which will be put forth for Mitchell Park's playground. Any questions can be sent to Stacie West at stacie.west@dc.gov

8.6 1814 24th Street NW (Renovation/Addition to 3 Story Row House)...Patrick Cooke, Architect...BZA Variance Hearing has been scheduled for March 4, 2014 to act upon a request for "non-conforming use and increase in foot print from 40% to 49%". Following a discussion of the project, Commissioner Lamar moved and it was seconded that "the project as presented in the drawings distributed at the January 13, 2014, ANC 2D meeting, pending written comments from the neighbors, be accepted. Once

this has been received proper documentation will be submitted to BZA". **APPROVED**

9. Announcements:

9.1 Winter Weather Safety and Preparedness Tips from

DPW: Property owners are asked to treat their sidewalks with an abrasive such as non-clumping kitty litter, a deicer or rock salt. This snow season, the Snow Team is testing the effectiveness of pet-safe deicer on bridges with pedestrian sidewalks. Motorists are asked to clear all snow from the vehicle first then drive cautiously. Assist elderly or disabled neighbors with clearing their sidewalks. Also, for plow drivers' safety, "Don't crowd the plow." Residents are encouraged to go to snow.dc.gov for updates before, during and after winter storms, and for tips to get one's home and family prepared for inclement weather. Residents also may sign up at alert.dc.gov to receive emergency alerts and notifications from Alert DC. DC law requires property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks, handicap ramps and steps on their property within the first eight daylight hours after the snow, sleet or ice stops falling.

9.2 Directory of S-K Apartment, Co-op and Condos: Commissioner Lamar reminded residents at the Commission is compiling a listing of these residents and a contact person in each building. You are asked to let Eric know of building name, address and a contact person who could distribute community notices and other such information.

10. Open Comments:

10.1 A resident raised concern over the appearance of the area surrounding the Chinese Embassy project and the construction of the building which has appeared on the old parking lot. Commission Bender will inform the Embassy of these concerns.

11. Date of Next Meeting—February 24, 2014

12. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

EXHIBIT A

Whereas, a citizen residing on Waterside Dr., NW, was assaulted on his property on December 8, 2013, and

Whereas, MPD arrested Ryan J. Nonnan, and

Whereas, the US Attorney has charged Ryan J. Nonnan with simple assault and destruction of property,

Be it therefore resolved,

That ANC 2D implores the US Attorney to not engage in plea bargaining that would result in the preferment of a lesser offense.

ANC 2D represents the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood where the crime occurred.

Approved

COMMISSIONERS:

ANC2D01.....David R. Bender, PhD, Chair/Secretary
davidanc2d01@aol.com

ANC2D02.....Eric S. Lamar, Vice-Chair/Treasurer
ericslamar@gmail.com

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D meets the third Monday of the month unless otherwise announced. There is an open forum at each meeting for discussion of relevant issues not on the regular agenda. For additional information go to the ANC website at ANC2D.ORG