

February , 2001 ANC Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Commissioner Leslie Quynn, Frank Gordan, Tad DiBiase and Chris McNamara. Presiding was chairwoman Jill Diskan.

Announcements: John Williams of Tenley Neighbors Association announced that Tenley Neighbors were forming committees to deal with neighborhood issues. The committees were Transportation, Public Safety and Traffic and Parking, Pothole Patrol and Bus Schedules.

Commissioner McNamara announced the strategic plan objectives for the 2001-2002 ANC cycle. the areas are Transportation which includes Community Services and DPW, Communications which includes the Web site and newsletter, Community Planning which includes Historic Preservation and Representation in Congress which would study the question to determine the ANC's position on the issue.

Commissioner Diskan announced a meeting concerning the closing of DC General would be held on February 13th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Columba's Church.

Beth Coombe of the US Attorney's Office made a short presentation on community prosecution in the Second District.

ANC Business: The minutes of the January ANC meeting were voted on and adopted by a 4-0 vote (Commissioner DiBiase abstaining).

The February financial report was passed 5-0.

Open Forum: Stephanie Kinney of the AU Tower Coalition urged attendees to sign the petition opposing the tower. She noted that petitions could be signed either orally or electronically. It was noted that the Zoning Commission will hold a hearing regarding new tower regulations on March 5th at 7:00 at 441 Judiciary Square.

A neighbor complained that the signs forbidding parking from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the north side of Van Ness between 42nd and 43rd Streets were missing. The ones on the South side of the street which forbid parking between 7:30 to 9:30 a..m. are faded.

Police: Lt. Carter introduced Officer David Terresky and Danielle Santos. Santos discussed traffic enforcement issues and wrote down intersections and troublespots including 49th Street between Massachusetts and Western, 42nd between Yuma and Nebraska and River Road. Officer Terresky reviewed the crime statistics for the month of January of this year versus last year.

AU Campus Plan: David Taylor and George Aboud of American University presented AU's 10 year Campus Plan. Highlights included a total of 573,000 square feet of projects but an agreement to only build at most 400,000 square feet, no dramatic increase in enrollment, and the building of the Katzen Arts Center. The Arts Center would contain a total of 130,000 gross

square feet and have trees screening it from the neighboring residents that would completely cover the center from view in 5 to 10 years. Mr. Taylor also discussed agreeing to a student cap of 11,200 (fulltime equivalents) which would include the law students. AU would also agree not to purchase any more property in Spring Valley but not include Wisconsin Avenue in that agreement.

Mike Bilecky noted that the Ft. Gaines Citizen's Association voted unanimously to oppose the plan and has the support of the Office of Planning regarding their objections to the Katzen Center. Chuck Ruttenberg of AU Park Citizen's Association said his group had been working with AU to reach an agreement. He noted that only 12,000 square feet of the 1989 campus plan was even built and that there is no requirement that the university build anything. He pointed out that there are 24 group homes with AU students in the area already. Finally, he noted that the AUPCA also unanimously opposed the plan as proposed. Mary Bresnahan, president of the Spring Valley Court Association, noted her groups opposition to the plan. She noted that students continue to violate the parking restrictions despite an initial fine of \$250 and subsequent fines of \$50.

Others also spoke out against the plan, including Albert Peter of 4318 Warren Street who expressed concerns regarding the Tenley Campus's proposed Warren street exit and its effect on the students who attend St. Ann's school. Former ANC Chairwoman Beth Kravetz noted that this is a 10 year plan so there should be no rush to approve it.

During the Commissioner's question period, Commissioner Quynn noted that the parking agreement involving the law school is scheduled to expire in 2006 and AU noted that they had people patrolling around the law campus looking for illegally parked students.

Commissioner Quynn then proposed a motion rejecting the campus plan and Application for Further Processing. The motion, after some debate, was passed 4-1 with Commissioner McNamara voting against.

DPW: Michelle Pourciau, the Deputy Director of Transportation reviewed some of the areas of concern in the neighborhood. Chapman Todd requested a stop sign at 45th and Harrison and was told that it had been studied and that the level of traffic did not yet warrant a sign. Others raised that DPW needs to consider various traffic calming devices such as speed bumps. Like this ANC 3C has also asked for an area-wide traffic study.

Tenley Tower: Anne Loikow informed the meeting that there was a meeting held on Monday February 5, 2001 regarding the new regulations for towers. Only 3C, 2A and an ANC from Ward 4 attended. That hearing was canceled and a new date set for March 5, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. Many groups from the telephone industry are expected to attend. Ms. Loikow argues that the 1988 regulations regarding these towers should apply which require public notice and public hearings before a tower can be erected. There are also certain setback requirements tied to the height of the tower. She also noted that there is very little monitoring of radiation by either EPA or the FCC. Finally, she noted that the NCPC has regulations on antennae towers that require renewal every five years.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.