

ANC 3E September 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes
Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home

Chairperson McVey called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Commissioners Eldridge, Sherman, Primor and Sullivan were also in attendance.

Announcements:

Commissioner Sullivan announced that Eric Scott, of the Office of Planning, was hoping to have an RFP for the Tenley-Friendship Library/Janney School land sale ready by the following Friday. It was hoped that the section for community comment would be included by that time. Commissioner Eldridge announced that an application had been filed to designate Chevy Chase in Washington DC as a historic district. Two public meeting would be held to discuss the application – one on September 24 and the second on October 6.

Open Forum:

There were no issues addressed during the open forum.

Discussion and possible vote on Turtle Park??

Commissioner Primor announced that Council Member Cheh would be hosting a Ward 3 picnic at Turtle Park on 45th and Van Ness Street, NW (I don't remember the date). The firemen would be grilling food for the picnic, and there would be music, games, and moon bounces. Commissioner Primor moved that ANC 3E support the event and the motion was seconded. A vote was passed by 4-0.

Discussion and possible vote on permit applications from DDOT for the proposed Commerce Bank located on Wisconsin Avenue:

Commissioner Eldridge reviewed the history of the application process and noted that the plans for the bank had changed since the original application had been filed. A revised map has now been filed which indicated curbs cuts not previously noted. The new plans called for an entrance/exit from Wisconsin Avenue (24 feet wide), an exit onto Ellicott Street and an entrance from the alley to the drive through teller (14 feet

wide). Twelve parking spaces, including a handicapped space, will be available on the south side of the site.

Ken Laden, of DDOT, and representatives from the architectural firm who were designing the site, presented the plans to the community and a drawing of the development site was available to the public. He explained that bank would widen the alley by three feet and would implement a maintenance plan (from Ellicott Street to the alley entrance) as well as "heavy-up" the space to accommodate the cars that would use the entrance. It was anticipated that 270 cars a day would make use of the alley entrance and 1000 cars (using suburban industry standards) would be using the drive-up teller services. Ken Laden said that DDOT had worked hard to come up with this solution to the traffic flow, and noted that while the plan was not perfect, it addressed anticipated safety and the congestion concerns.

Before going to the Commission the discussion was opened to the community. Concerns were expressed that the purpose of the alley should be for private access and use, and should not be used for public access; that an exit onto Ellicott Street was potentially unsafe on a pedestrian street; and that the required zoning regulations that require a width of ten feet for queuing were not reflected in the current plans. The community voiced particular concern that the proposed use of the site was not appropriate for an urban setting, and that the anticipated increase of cars using the drive-through teller would cause transit problems in a neighborhood where the goal was to attract those who would use public transportation.

The Commission supported the views of the community noting that the development had been designed neither for the site nor the neighborhood. It was suggested that the bank should review the design and consider not including a drive-through teller as part of their proposal. It was also noted that the queuing cars could potentially block the handicapped parking space. Chairperson McVey repeated a request to have an updated application dated August 23, 2007 sent to the commissioners. She also requested that DDOT come before the next meeting of the Commission in October and bring with them a traffic engineer who could address the community concerns.

Discussion and possible vote for an application for a new driveway at 4319-4321 ½ Fessenden Street NW:

Commissioner Sherman reviewed the application by Dunn Whiskey, LLC for a public space permit for a 14-foot drive that would carry two-way traffic at 4319-4321 ½ Fessenden Street. She noted the discrepancy of the zoning regulations that allow for a minimum 14-foot curb cut for driveways carrying two-way traffic and the DDOT specifications which require a 24-foot curb cut for driveways carrying two-way traffic. She also noted that DDOT had raised particular safety concerns about the present plan to install a 2-way driveway with only a four-foot width. Commissioner Sherman proposed a resolution that DDOT work with the developer to find a solution to alleviate the potential problems that the 14-foot driveway and curb cut presented and satisfy the immediate neighborhood. This was seconded by Chairperson McVey and the resolution was approved by a vote of 5-0.

ANC 3E Business:

The August 2007 meeting minutes were tabled until the October 2007 meeting.

The August Financial report was approved by a vote of 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy McVey, ANC 3E Chair