

Minutes of ANC3E February 12, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Bender. Commissioners Beverly Sklover, Matthew Frumin, Lucy Eldridge and Sam Serebin were also present.

Announcements:

Chairperson Bender announced that they had received no new significant information as to the status of the public/private partnership at the Janney/Tenley library site and hoped to receive such information before the March 2009 meeting.

Open Forum:

A resident announced that an RFP had been issued on February 2, 2009 for bids on Chevy Chase Park and that bids were due by February 13th, 2009. According to the resident's characterization of the RFP, which had not been noticed to the commission, and of which all commissioners were unaware, it provided that awards for the construction would be announced on February 18th, 2009 and indicated that the park would be dedicated to a baseball field and modeled on Povich Field at Cabin John. The field at Cabin John is fenced and has an announcer's box which is two stories high. The commissioners expressed concern that the request had been issued before bringing the plans before ANC 3E. Commissioner Frumin said he would look into the matter once he had received a copy of the RFP.

Two residents who lived on 38th and Fessenden Streets asked that PSA 202 enforce the prohibition of trucks on Fessenden Street and MPO Williams said she would report back on this issue at the next month's meeting.

Update from PSA 202:

MPO Williams gave an update on crime statistics in PSA 202 and introduced Lieutenant Gregory as well as Officers Hayes and Prior.

Discussion of and possible vote on Friends of Friendship "Turtle" Park's request to close the 4500 block of Van Ness Street, NW:

Maria Creighton requested support from the commission for the closure of the street for their 12th annual May Fair event to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009. She explained that the event was the park's only fundraiser and that the funds were used to maintain the park

during the year. The event traditionally has about 1500 attendees and the request asked that the street be closed between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm for safety reasons. Chairperson Bender moved that the request be approved and Commissioner Eldridge seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Discussion of and possible vote on the scheduling of a special meeting and/or the formation of a special committee to address issues of safety, accessibility and homelessness at and around Tenley Metro station:

Chairperson Bender reported that Tenley Metro was cited as one of the top ten most dangerous stations in the District of Columbia in a WAMATA study. He noted as well that the residents have consistently complained about homeless individuals loitering, sleeping, and storing their possessions at the Metro stop. With the idea of putting together a taskforce to find possible solutions to this, introduced Jean-Michael Giraud, Executive Director of the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, Fred Davidson, from the City Line association board and Scott Rusey, property manager of the retail division at City Line. Mr. Giraud opened the discussion by describing the history and mission of Friendship Place and its service to the homeless population of the area. He announced that he would be pleased to be part of an ongoing discussion in the hopes of finding a solution to community concerns of hygiene and safety as they pertained to homelessness. Mr. Davidson, emphasized the concern that the residents of City Line had expressed over hygiene and safety issues, in particular aggressive pan handling by the homeless population and the debris left in newspaper boxes and the area in general. It was reported by Mr. Rusey that the retail tenants had hired a private security officer who, it was hoped, would help to address the retailers' concern about loitering around the metro. He also expressed an interest in part of the community discussion.

It was noted by MPO Williams that it was the responsibility of the Metro Transit Police, as owners of the property, to ask the homeless population to move and that PSA 202 had no authority to do so. She suggested however, if loitering by homeless persons around the loading dock of City Line was a concern, that the owners, or owner's designee ask the police to bar them from the property and they would do their best to see that this was enforced.

Commissioner Sklover recommended that the police coordinate with Wilson School officers and come up with a plan of action to address the issue of drug sales on the east side of

Tenley Metro. Commissioner Frumin expressed support for a taskforce to address these issues.

Chairperson Bender noted that several agencies had overlapping jurisdiction over the problems discussed, and that inter-agency coordination would be crucial to addressing the problems successfully. Mr. Bender note further that durable progress on the homelessness issue could only be made if more members of the homeless population could be offered, and would accept, social services. He concluded the discussion by offering a resolution to form a special taskforce to address the issues of safety, accessibility and homelessness at and around Tenley Metro station. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and the motion passed 5-0.

ANC Business:

The renewal/affirmation of the By-laws was tabled until the March meeting by a vote 5-0.

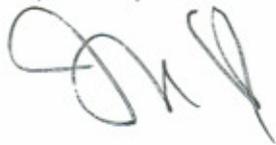
The Commission agreed to approve the passage of the 2009 budget by a vote of 5-0.

The Commission agreed the Treasurer's report and the 4th Financial Quarterly Report by a vote of 5-0

The Commission agreed to approve the December 2008 and the January 2009 meeting minutes by a vote of 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Bender', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Bender, Chair