

Minutes of ANC3E March 12, 2009 Meeting

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

Announcements:

Commissioner Sklover, referring to a discussion about the PPP with Janney School and the Tenleytown library on the local listserve, thanked the previous ANC 3E commissioners for their dedicated service to the community over the past few years. Chairperson Bender announced a special meeting to be held by Council Members Mary Cheh and Kwame Brown at St. Columba's Church on Monday, March 16 to discuss plans for the library and the school. Chairperson Bender and Commissioner Frumin both stressed the importance of gaining clarity on outstanding issues and the hope that Council members Cheh and Brown would be able to open a frank dialogue between the DC Government and the community.

Open Forum:

The property manager of the parking lot in the alley between Fessenden and Ellicott, behind Wisconsin Avenue asked for feedback as to whether he should remove a tree and repair the damaged wall of the back part of the property which overlooks a public alley, or simply leave the tree and repair the wall as necessary so the two could co-exist peacefully. The roots of the tree are damaging the wall of the private property, which is the parking lot, and the pavement of the alley owned by the District. The Commission suggested that he try to learn from the relevant agencies whether he had discretion to make such a decision.

A neighbor of Chevy Chase Playground asked the Commission to reconsider their support of the proposed ball field at the park. ANC 3E Commissioners reiterated that they are withholding a decision until they receive and can review written proposed plans for the park. Chairperson Bender also made clear that ANC 3E has yet to be given notice of any specific new plans for the park.

A resident voiced concern over the proposed developments at the Tenleytown Safeway. Chairperson Bender noted that he would try to contact Safeway representatives within the next few days and would report back on their discussion at the next meeting.

The manager of the local Marvelous Market, located at 4530 Wisconsin Avenue, asked for assistance in opening an outside café, plans for which had been refused by DCRA as the store was not licensed as a restaurant. Chairperson Bender suggested that he contact Council Member Mary Cheh's office and Andrea Limauro of the Office of Planning to see whether alternative avenues existed to place outdoor seating around the market.

Update from PSA 202:

MPO Williams gave an update on crime statistics in PSA 202 and followed up with a report on the request by residents of 38th and Fessenden Streets that PSA 202 enforce the prohibition of trucks on Fessenden Street.

Presentation by and discussion with representatives of Douglas Development regarding re-development of the former Babe's Billiard site at Brandywine and Wisconsin Avenue

Paul Millstein, of Douglas Development Corporation, presented renderings for three plans for the site at 4600 Wisconsin Avenue and requested comments from the community as well as the Commission. The proposal called for up to five stories (one of which would be partially below ground level) with a mixed use of office space and retail. It was the belief of the development company that the project would not require provision of garage parking. After considering the comments from the community, the company will return with an expanded concept for the space at the next ANC 3E meeting. Attendees generally supported the project of five stories but requested that the company be mindful of residents in nearby houses when scheduling hours for trash pick-up and deliveries to the loading dock. In addition, some attendees raised questions about the lack of parking at the site and the effect this might have on nearby residential streets if other accommodations for parking were not made. Commissioners Sklover, Frumin, Bender and Serebin noted their support for a five story mixed retail and office space but stressed the importance of making the building architecturally pleasing and otherwise likely to facilitate vibrant sidewalk life. Chairperson Bender, noting the project could stimulate revitalization of the surrounding commercial area, encouraged Douglas Development to move ahead quickly with their plans and invited them to return to the April meeting to continue dialogue with the community. Mr. Bender also observed that the ANC might ask for changes to parking regulations in the area to protect residents and/or ask that the company agree to exclude retail uses that would likely be automobile dependent.

Presentation by and discussion with representatives of the Office of Planning (OP) regarding OP's ongoing program to rewrite the zoning regulations

Andrea Limauro, the Ward 3 representative from the Office of the Mayor and Stephen Varga, Development Review Specialist from the Office of Planning, invited the community to become involved with the Zoning Review Program and participate at upcoming meetings. A formal draft will be presented to the ANC at the end of 2009 or early in 2010. Information about the program be found on the their website www.dc.zoningupdate.org and meeting dates will be forward to the Commission who, in turn, will make the dates public to the community.

Discussion of and possible vote on a resolution concerning DC Historic Preservation and Review Board's proposed amendments to procedures for historic district designation

This agenda item was tabled for a future meeting because proposed regulations have not yet been formally promulgated.

ANC Business:

The Commission affirmed the By-laws without changes.

The Commission agreed to approve the Treasurer's report and the February meeting minutes by a vote of 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jonathan Bender, Chair