

Minutes of ANC3E April 14, 2009 Meeting

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

Announcements:

Commissioner Sklover announced that a work order had been submitted for the installation of a stop sign at 43rd and Yuma Streets. In addition a work order will be submitted for a 15-foot center line scheduled along 43rd Street and the offset line between 44th and 45th between 44th – 45th Streets at Yuma will also be refurbished.

Commissioner Eldridge announced that Commerce Bank was moving ahead with plans to open a branch on Wisconsin Avenue. The Commissioner proposed that research be done to determine if the DDOT and/or building permits could be subject to legal challenge. She proposed a resolution authorizing the ANC to file an appeal if three Commissioners agreed there was a legal basis and otherwise agreed an appeal made sense. The resolution was seconded by Commissioner Sklover and it was passed by a vote of 5-0.

Open Forum:

A representative of the Little Falls Watershed Alliance called for volunteers to help raise awareness of the problems caused by storm water run-off. Teams of volunteers will apply "Do Not Pollute" labels to storm drains in the Little Falls watershed on April 25 and 26.

Kirsty Columblant asked residents to celebrate Earth Day by picking up trash along Wisconsin Avenue between Fessenden Street and Tenley Circle. Volunteers were requested to meet on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 2:00 pm at Fessenden Park.

A resident requested support for a 4-way stop sign at Belt and Fessenden Streets, expressing concern over speeding traffic. Commissioner Sklover suggested she contact Emanuel Briggs at DDOT to obtain the guidelines for requesting the stop sign. Chairperson Bender noted that he was discussing with DDOT the possibility of a joint DDOT/ANC task force to address traffic safety issues in the neighborhood holistically, but, he suggested, in the meantime the resident should work with her SMD representative, Commissioner Eldridge, to address the issue at the block in question.

Update from PSA 202:

There was no update from PSA 202.

Presentation by DC WASA of the Capital Improvement Program:

Representatives of DC WASA gave an overview of the Capital Improvement Program. As part of this program existing 20-inch cast iron water mains will be replaced at the following locations in NW Washington:

- 41st Street NW (between Ingomar Street and Harrison street)
- 42nd Street NW (between Military Road and Legation Street)
- Donaldson Place NW and the intersection of Belt Road

The mains were installed over 75 years ago and are approaching the end of their service life. DC WASA has evaluated their condition and determined they were in need of replacement. The project is scheduled to start in late spring 2009 and is estimated to last one year. Normal working hours will be from 7:00 am until 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Work requiring lane closures will occur during non-rush hour periods (9:30 am – 3:30 pm). DC WASA will make sure that residents are notified in advance each time contractors plan to work in the area. If a planned water service shut-off is necessary, affected residents will be notified 48 hours in advance and service interruptions will be kept to a minimum, normally lasting no more than four hours. Commissioners suggested that WASA also disseminate information on the work on Military Road, a heavily-traveled street, on radio traffic reports. WASA representatives said they would do so.

Presentation of Plans for Chevy Chase Park:

Jason Turner, Acting Chief of Staff for DC Parks and recreation, presented plans for the first step of a two/three year plan for Chevy Chase Park. Mr. Turner suggested the finished park could have multiple uses including a baseball field, tennis courts, a playground, a dog park and a walking loop. He explained that the first phase of the work on the park, currently underway, focuses on safety improvements. Residents requested that the water fountains be fixed during the first phase and that the community be given adequate notice in advance of the commencement of phases two and three. They also requested that the restrooms be made ADA compliant and Mr. Turner said that this was planned for completion by 2011.

Mr. Turner announced he would like to hold four special meetings within the next two months to refine the plans for the park and make a presentation to the ANC at the July

meeting. Chairperson Bender requested that, if lighting is to be part of the final plan for the field, that it be discussed at the special meetings. It was agreed that Jason Turner would coordinate with Commissioner Eldridge to schedule the meetings.

Presentation by Northwest Neighbors Village on its aging-in-place assistance initiative and discussion of possibilities for creating such an organization to serve the area within ANCs jurisdiction:

Francis Mahnke from Northwest Neighbors Village (NNV) gave a description of the aging in place program modeled on Beacon Hill Village and Capital Hill Village and outlined the Volunteer Program which is part of the initiative. NNV is a new non-profit organization created to provide support for residents of the community who wish to stay in their homes as they grow older. Participants pay dues to cover services and referrals provided by NNV.

Services include:

- transportation to members for planned trips or at the last minute.
- help with electronic issues and light home maintenance like light bulb changes and mattress flipping and gardening
- at home assistance with paper work, meal preparation and companionship, regular check-in, and the sorting and disposing of belongings

Chairperson Bender proposed a resolution to form a taskforce with Commissioner Sklover and resident Nancy LeRoy as co-chairs to look into the different "Aging in Place" models with the idea of forming such an organization in AU Park. Commissioner Eldridge seconded the motion and the resolution passed 5-0.

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

Paul Millstein, of Douglas Development Corporation, presented two rendering for the Babe's Billiard site each with six stories including one partially below ground level. One option included one and a half stories of retail with four stories of office above. The other included two and a half stories of retail with three stories of offices above. Both would be at the height of the Carey Winston Building across Brandywine from the site. Mr. Millstein requested comments from the community and the Commission so that the company could decide with which plan to go forward or whether to revise the plan again. Commissioner

Sklover observed that the density of the proposed building might be problematic to many in the community and asked that the company consider set backs in the architectural design. Commissioner Serebin concurred with Commissioner Sklover's sentiments regarding setbacks, ones that would foster a pedestrian and seating friendly environment. Commissioners Frumin and Serebin and Chairperson Bender noted general support for the proposals but echoed the concerns of meeting attendees about the loading dock and the parking issues. Commissioner Frumin urged Douglas Development to explore creative solutions to ameliorate the risk of increased use of the nearby alley for short term parking and focus on improving the proposed plans for a loading dock. Commissioner Frumin and Chairperson Bender also suggested that the company look into the possibility of using nearby parking lots to serve the building, perhaps through a voucher system. Chairperson Bender invited the company back to the next meeting to present more concrete plans.

Discussion and possible vote on IONA Senior Services proposal to DDOT seeking installation of benches at several Tenleytown sites:

This agenda item was tabled for a future meeting.

ANC Business:

The Commission agreed to approve the Treasurer's report and the FY 2009 Quarterly Report by a vote of 4-0

The Commission voted to approve the February meeting minutes by a vote of 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Bender', is written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Bender, Chair