

**ANC 3E Meeting
Minutes of July 12, 2001**

Chairperson Jill Diskan called the meeting to order at 7:40pm. Commissioners Chris McNamara, Leslie Quynn, and Tad DiBiase were present.

Announcements:

Cheryl Browning announced that the T.N.A. passed a resolution supporting the Gibson proposal for Tenley Park.

Commissioner chair Diskan announced there would be a ABC hearing on August 22, 2001 for a requested stipulated liquor license for the restaurant Murasaki at 4620, Wisconsin Avenue. Petitions must be filed on, or before August 7.

Commissioner chair Diskan announced the application deadline for the District of Columbia Youth Advisory Council had been extended to Monday, July 16. Ward 3 residents between the ages of 13 and 22 were encouraged to apply to the Youth Council.

ANC Business:

The commission voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of the June 2001 meeting, approve the Treasurer's June 2001 Report, and approve the Third Quarter Financial Report.

Actions:

- Unanimously adopted the minutes of the June 2001 meeting.
- Unanimously adopted the Treasurer's June 2001 Report.
- Unanimously adopted the Third Quarter Financial Report.

Open Forum:

David Scott referred to a recent article in the Metro section of the Washington Post that mentioned original mile markers in the District of Columbia. Several of these monuments are in the Tenleytown area.

A resident requested an update on the future ANC meeting space.

Commissioner chair Diskan responded that the site would include an ANC office and a meeting place that will be available for ANC meetings as well as other community groups. The space was tentatively scheduled to become available in August.

Clem Gaskill inquired about the status of Tenley Park.

Commissioner chair Diskan cited the motion to approve the concept of the development of Tenley Park that was approved at the June meeting.

Update on the old Hechinger site:

Armond Spikell and Richard Lake of the Madison Retail Group presented three proposals for the old Hechinger site on Wisconsin Avenue. The first option proposes a data center on the lower level, and 2-3 retail stores on the first level with parking on the roof level. The second option is to rent the entire building to a national discount store or to an auto dealership that would use the basement to service cars. The third option, which was the preferred option of the Madison Retail Group, is to build residential units on top of the building, 3-4 stories above the existing height, and offer 75,000-85,000 sq. ft of retail space on the first floor. 470 parking spaces will be available in the third proposal by utilizing the basement and the existing roof and adding 100 spaces across the street.

The third proposal will require approval from the Historic Preservation Review Board. Mr. Spikell and Mr. Lake said they hoped to finalize a proposal by August 1 and implement the plan by the end of 2001.

A resident inquired about the amount of retail space available.

Mr. Spikell responded that there is 90,000 sq. ft available on the first floor. This would allow for three or four stores with some of the space being used for a lobby which would exit onto Albemarle Street.

Several residents voiced their enthusiasm for a neighborhood hardware store.

Commissioner McNamara asked if the Madison Retail group had been approached by a “start-up” hardware store.

Mr. Spikell responded that a “start-up” hardware store posed a risk, particularly in the light of Home Depot’s decision not to rent the space.

Commissioner McNamara asked the principal reasons the building had remained empty for so long.

Mr. Spikell responded that some buyers had objected to the tenants across the street, and that the Historic Preservation Review Board was a perceived obstacle.

A resident inquired if the building would be de-listed by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

Commissioner DiBiase responded that the likelihood was extremely rare since it would set a bad precedent.

One resident stated she would like to see a car dealership in the neighborhood.

Lt. Mark Carter of the 2D Police presented the following issues:

The number of auto thefts, and thefts from automobiles have risen due to cars being left unlocked. Residents were cautioned to be more careful about locking their cars.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 17.

The police have been targeting automobile violations between the hours of 7:00am – 9:30am and 4:00pm and 6:30pm. To date they have issued 233 moving violations, 250 parking violations and 80 warnings.

Several residents raised the issue of pedestrian crossings and the problems encountered by drivers who are unwilling to stop for pedestrians.

Lt. Carter responded that jaywalking was also a problem and warning tickets will be issued for pedestrians who do not cross at designated crosswalks.

A resident requested enforcement of “no-through trucks” at Yuma between 37th and 38th Streets.

Several residents requested a delay on the left-turn signal at the Chevy Chase Center opposite the Washington Clinic so that pedestrians could cross Western Avenue.

Commissioner McNamara noted this would be added to the next DPW list of recommendations.

A resident requested that the general public become more educated on traffic issues and crosswalks in particular.

Commission chair Diskan responded that the DMV were planning to address these issues in their next brochure.

Discussion of ANC Re-districting:

Councilman Phil Mendelson described the next phase of redistricting in Ward 3. The task force has until September 27th to submit recommendations on Ward re-districting. A The Ward 3 task force will meet on July 17 to provide the opportunity for public comment and the task force progress report is due by August 7. The bill will be presented at a public hearing on November 8th and November 10. The subcommittee will meet on November 29th and the Council will vote in January.

The purpose of the task force is to shift boundaries so that each single member district encompasses approximately 2000 residents.

A resident asked if the re-districting task force intended to keep proposed ANCs within “cluster boundaries”.

Councilman Phil Mendelson responded that no one had testified about “cluster boundaries” at previous re-districting meetings but the intent of the task force was to respect neighborhood cohesiveness.

Several residents questioned the resident population within a single member district.

Councilman Phil Mendelson responded that boundaries of the single member districts should conform with the boundaries of the census blocks of the US Bureau of the Census and that each commission area should be located within the boundaries on one election ward.

Commission chair Diskan asked when maps would be available.

Councilman Phil Mendelson replied that Ward 3 single member district maps would be available at the July 17th meeting.

A resident asked if Councilman Mendelson’s office was making recommendations of proposed boundaries.

Councilman Phil Mendelson responded that his office was not making those recommendations.

Discussion of proposed changes to “no turn on right” regulations at various intersections in ANC 3E

Commissioner DiBiase announced that the proposed changes had been posted in the ANC 3E web site.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tad DiBiase
Secretary

