

Minutes of November 8, 2001 ANC 3E Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. Chairperson Jill Diskan, Chris McNamara, Frank Gordon, Leslie Quynn and Tad DiBiase were present.

1. Announcements

Asher Epstein of Silent Frog announced his web site that assists local people in finding help for odd jobs was up and running. The web site can be found at www.silentfrog.com.

It was announced that Councilmember David Catania will be at the ANC meeting next month.

2. Business

The Minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved with the only change being that the discussion in the Minutes of the American Tower lawsuit it should say that the company is considering whether to appeal the U.S. District Court decision. The October Treasurer's report was unanimously approved. The following checks were also approved: Check #1037 to Scolaworks for \$40 [August], #1038 to Scolaworks for \$40 [July], #1039 to Verizon for 229.99, #1040 to Kinko's for \$65.70 and #1041 to Polly King for \$360.00. The ANC 3E budget for FY 2002 was unanimously approved. It was noted that this ANC gave the largest amount of grants of any ANC in the city.

3. Open Forum

Pamela Kinola of Chevy Chase Children's Center requested either speed bumps, 1-way signs or increased police enforcement of the intersection of Military and 43rd St., NW. Chairperson Diskan noted that the Ward 3 Traffic committee had met with Commander Peter Newsham of the 2nd District and that putting up new signs was the first priority.

Mr. Scott noted that WAMU had raised over \$111,000 in its most recent pledge drive. He reported that he had seen the new voting machines and that the ballots would now be marked with a pencil.

Carolyn Lawrence reported that a group of citizens from Emery and Ellicott Streets was organizing a Christmas Boutique on November 17th in the 4900 block of 41st to raise money to fight the renewal of the liquor license for the Roundtable Restaurant. She further reported that the group's yard sale had raised \$4,848.45 towards the legal fees associated with the fight.

Dorothy Sabol noted that Councilmember Fenty had introduced a bill, #14-279, that would have the city pay for all new sidewalks requested by citizens rather than the current policy where the community must pay half the cost.

Lucy Eldridge of Military and 41st St. requested a stop sign for that location. It was noted that the recommendations given for a traffic study of ANC 3E included a recommendation of a crosswalk at 42nd and Military.

It was announced that a group of historic preservationists had filed an application to have the firehouse on Wisconsin Ave. designated as historic. Commissioner McNamara reviewed the history of the agreement between the ANC, the Fire Department and the Tenley Historical Society (THS) that resulted in the Fire Department agreeing to maintain the exterior walls in rebuilding the firehouse. It was noted that THS had not withdrawn its application, however. Chief Ronnie Few was alleged to have said that the contract for the rebuilding of the firehouse had already been awarded. It was resolved that the ANC would write a letter to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) opposing any designation of the firehouse as historic.

4. Second District Report

The police reported that there were currently 8 officers working the evening shift and 5-6 on the midnight tour in PSA 202. Many officers have been doing duties related to the 9/11 attacks. In the past month there had been 8 burglaries, 17 thefts from autos and 8 stolen cars in PSA 202. The police have written 900 tickets over the last three months. They are specifically targeting Western Avenue.

5. Grant Presentations

The Janney School band played a selection of melodies in support of their grant request for a tuba and xylophone.

Iona Senior Services presented a proposal for the printing of Community Outreach brochures.

The Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home presented a proposal for a Neighborhood Zoo Day and a Volunteer Celebration Lunch.

6. Arsenic in Spring Valley

A lengthy presentation was made by Major Mike Peloquin of the US Army Corps. of Engineers regarding the on-going arsenic testing in Spring Valley. It was noted that some houses on Tindall St. had very high concentrations of arsenic and it was not clear why this was so because the location of those houses was formerly a tent city, not where weapons were being tested or disposed of. No children at American University's Child Care Center have tested positive for arsenic. The Corps. is trying to get the proper right of entry forms signed to test at Turtle Park. The area in which the Corps. can test is restricted by its funding and there is no planned expansion of that test area. There are no plans to test at Janney ES. Private testing of homes costs about \$500 per house if results are made available in one month.

7. Variance request for 4325 47th St., NW

The owners of 4325 47th St. requested ANC approval for three variances to build an addition to their home that would exceed 40' and be slightly closer to their neighbor's side lot that is permitted. They presented five letters of support. The ANC unanimously voted not to oppose their request.

8. Grant Road Historic District

Dorothy Beard made a presentation asking that the ANC support the Grant Road Historic District designation pending before the HPRB. There are 13 homes in the application and one commercial building that dates from the 1880s. The newest home is from 1930. Ms. Beard presented 10 letters of support for the project and said there had been no opposition to the designation by any effected residents. The ANC voted to support the designation unanimously.

9. Washington Clinic

Doug Firstenburg of Stonebridge Associates presented his plans for the Washington Clinic at Wisconsin and Military. Currently doctors' offices, he proposes to build a mixed-use project of retail and residential apartments. He hopes to go forward on a planned unit development. He set forth in some detail the specifics of the project which will include 3 levels of underground parking and 10 stories of apartments with about 225 units with an average size of 950 square feet. The land is currently zoned for R-5-B with a FAR of 1.8. The final project would cover 70% of the lot and be 90 feet high. The developer's view was that the traffic from this project would be far less than a busy group of doctor's would generate. They did not expect there to be any need for blasting. There would be about 30-40 parking spaces for visitors. The expected retail could be Dean & Deluca and a florist. Firstenberg would be back in January and try to get an agreement with the ANC.

Some of the nearby neighbors expressed concern over the size of the project and the loss of trees.

10. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board representative

The ANC unanimously approved Jill Diskan as its representative before the ANC Board on matters relating to the Roundtable Restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Tad DiBiase
Secretary