

**ANC 3E Meeting
Minutes of November 13, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Amy McVey, Amy Hoang Wrona, Lucy Eldridge, and Chapman Todd were present.

ANC Business/Actions:

- The Commission voted 4-0 to support DC Council Bill #B15-303 – the Owner Occupied Residential Tax Credit act and D.C. Council Bill #B15-188 – the Homestead Exception Act of 2003, but suggested that, should the Council have to decide between passing Bill #B15-303 and Bill #B15-188, preference should be given to Bill #B15-303, on the grounds that it will provide more long-term protection. The resolution also asked that the Commission support D.C. Council bill #15-0210 – the Equity in Real Property Tax Assessment Act of 2004 with amendments.
- The Commission voted 3-0 to ask that the Historic Preservation Board look favorably on Tenleytown Historical Society’s application to dedicate Bon Secours Convent in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites
- The Commission voted 4-0 to adopt of Minutes of October 9, 2003 Meeting
- The Commission voted 4-0 to approve the Treasurer’s Report

The following checks were issued and approved:

- Check No 1147 to Polly King for \$240.00
- Check No. 1145 to Verizon for \$32.85

Discussion with Council member Patterson:

Council member Kathy Patterson discussed various neighborhood concerns and responded to resident questions. Topics included;

- The Upper Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Study
- The modernization of Dean School
- The December target date to accept a bid for a contractor to work on the Tenleytown Fire House
- Plans for the Tenleytown Library

Council member Patterson confirmed her role as an ombudsperson for the neighborhood, especially in regard to the Upper Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Study, stressing that neighborhood wishes are an important part of the planning process. She agreed to weigh in on ANC 3E ‘s request for a 90-day period for the community to review the study and submit their comments to the Office of Planning. She asked that problems related to tree boxes caused by recent developments and tree debris collection as a result of Hurricane Isabel be directed to her office, or to Jill Diskan, the Ward 3 coordinator.

Announcements:

The date of the Mayor's Citizen Summit has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Presentation by the 2nd District Police:

Lt. Aiello gave an crime update for PSA 202.

Update on the Hechinger Building:

Armond Spikel and Richard Blake gave an update on the development of the old Hechinger building. Best Buy, located at street level, has opened and the Container Store is due to open in April 2004. Sale of the condominiums will begin in March 2004 and the move-in date is scheduled for November 2004. Mr. Spikel discussed landscaping plans for the development, which included working with The Wisconsin Avenue Beautification Project to replace some of the plantings that were damaged during construction, working on tree preservation and implementing the original plan of making the streetscape pedestrian friendly.

They also discussed the traffic impact that the development will have on the neighborhood. To relieve traffic congestion they will be asking for a left hand turn signal to be installed at Wisconsin Avenue and Albermarle Street. Their long-term plan is to improve the congested traffic flow at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and River Road by moving the triangle to the other side of the building.

They also expressed concerns about the students of Janney School walking to the after school program at the back of the building where there is presently no sidewalk. They are working with the cemetery on installing a sidewalk and adding landscaping to ensure greater safety for the students.

Community comments included asking the developers to keep a lookout for drug activity in the alley behind the building and to remove the Best Buy signs from residential streets.

Discussion of and possible vote on current D.C. Property Tax Proposals:

Steve Posniak presented a resolution on proposed legislation to control D.C. homestead property taxes. The resolution asked that ANC 3E support DC Council Bill #B15-303 – the Owner Occupied Residential Tax Credit act and D.C. Council Bill #B15-188 – the Homestead Exception Act of 2003, but suggested that, should the Council have to decide between passing Bill #B15-303 and Bill #B15-188, preference should be given to Bill #B15-303, on the grounds that it will provide more long-tern protection. The resolution also asked that the Commission support D.C. Council bill #15-0210 – the Equity in Real Property Tax Assessment Act of 2004 with amendments. Several members of the community spoke in favor of supporting the resolution. The resolution was passed by a vote for 4-0.

Discussion of and possible vote on Bon Secours Convent:

Dorothy Maloney, representing the Heights Foundation who own the Bob Secours Convent located at 4101 Yuma Street, updated the community on plans for the building

and distributed a fact sheet. Ms. Maloney stated that she regretted the community's support of an historic designation for the building, but that the Foundation will continue plans to renovate the interior of the building and to add an addition. The site will become a woman's education center and will include four classrooms, four conference rooms, two libraries, a chapel and staff living quarters. Several residents spoke in favor of the historic preservation of the building, citing not only its history, but also its pleasing architectural features. The Commission voted 3-0 to ask that the Historic Preservation Board look favorably on Tenleytown Historical Society's application to dedicate Bon Secours Convent in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites with Chairperson McVey abstaining.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hoang, Secretary