

ANC 3E Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting November 16th, 2007

Chairperson Amy McVey called the meeting to order to at 5:40 pm. Commissioners Sullivan and Eldridge were also in attendance. Stephen Mordfin from the Office of Planning was also present at the meeting.

ANC 3E convened the special meeting with 48 hours notice when the ANC 3E chair had not received due notice of the Office of Planning's proposal to commercially zone land within the Fort Reno area or the Zoning Commission's scheduled hearing on November 27th, 2006 on that proposal. ANC 3E had requested of OP that it join them in seeking a continuance of the Zoning Commission's hearing so that ANC 3E could explore and discuss the ramifications of the proposal with its community. OP had not agreed to the request.

The Commission heard from Jane Waldman representing the Tenleytown Historical Association that the 11 lots specified in OP's petition included a two-story structure at the corner of Belt Road and Chesapeake Street. While OP claimed that the building was owned by the District of Columbia, they could not provide proof of this contention. Ms. Waldman pointed out that Fort Reno Park is part of the National Park Service and holds a historical significance in Northwest Washington which the Historical Society and the community wish to protect. She disputed that the District owned the property and stated that the building came under the jurisdiction of the Historic Preservation Office.

Stephen Mordfin stated that it was the opinion of the Office of Planning that the building was owned by the District having been transferred from the National Park Service in 1957. He also stated the intention of OP to locate offices within the existing building for their Street and Alley Division and indicated that restrooms in the building may be made available for those using Fort Reno Park. In order to secure permits for the renovation of

the building it must be in a zoned district. A general discussion took place regarding other proposed uses for the structure including strong community support for using it as a community center. Mr. Mordfin agreed to try to provide ANC 3E with a copy of the deed of the property.

Commissioner Eldridge spoke on behalf of the community, stating that they would not support a request to commercially zone the building. Community sentiment favored against the commercial zoning of the building as the surrounding green space of Fort Reno is a unique and historical site. The Commissioner reviewed the DC zoning regulations regarding non-conforming use of land and structures in the District of Columbia. The building in question is a non-conforming building due to its location on unzoned land.

Commissioner Eldridge proposed a resolution requesting that the Zoning Commission continue the request on OP's proposal to commercial zone the land until ANC 3E had been provided with the deed of ownership of the lots. Should the Zoning Commission not agree to continue the hearing, ANC 3E strongly opposed the request to commercially zone the lots. The resolution requested that the District consult with the community and interested parties for a suitable use of the building. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and the resolution passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Amy McVey, ANC 3E Chair

