

Special Meeting Minutes
Saturday, October 20, 2007
Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home, 5425 Western Avenue, NW

Chairperson McVey opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Commissioners Eldridge, Sullivan and Primor were also in attendance.

Councilmember Cheh and Scott James, a traffic engineer from DDOT were present by invitation.

Discussion of and possible vote on the Public Space Permit Application for driveways and curb-cuts at the Commerce Bank on Wisconsin Avenue

Chairperson McVey announced that the meeting had been convened to discuss the Public Space Permit Application for driveways and curb-cuts at the Commerce Bank on Wisconsin Avenue and reviewed the history of the application. The traffic engineers who first reviewed the plans recommended that the request to develop this site as a drive-through bank be denied because the design compromised the existing uses of the alley and the impact of adding several hundred vehicles into the small site would affect refuse collection, residential access and emergency vehicle access. DDOT had later issued a statement that "although the proposed use of the public alleyway for patron access could have some impact to the public access with elevated levels of daily traffic that may create some difficulty to the service and emergency vehicle access within the alley, and queuing into the alleyway, we have no objection to this application." It had been acknowledged at the October 11th 2007 ANC 3E meeting that there had been changes to the site plans originally submitted to DCRA and upon which the building permits were approved and issued in August. The most recent plans (7th DDOT submission) had been delivered to the ANC prior to the meeting as well as a copy delivered to DCRA for a re-review by the Office of Zoning to ensure compliance with zoning regulations. A re-review is required when there are changes made subsequent to the issuance of the building permit as has occurred in this case.

Scott James discussed his involvement as a member of the DDOT technical engineering team asked to comment on the application. He noted that the plans had

now moved to the management team and he had not reviewed the plans since July, 2007. Changes between Plan 6 and Plan 7 showed the following:

- The width of the alley entrance had been widened
- Signs at the alley had decreased from four to two
- The drive-through ATMs had moved closer to Ellicott Street

The community expressed concerns about the volume of traffic that would be using the alley and the negative impact it would have on the drainage system, the pedestrians that used the alley and the trash trucks as well as the anticipated back-up of traffic close to the bus-stop on the corner of Wisconsin and Ellicott. The community expressed a unanimous concern that the site was unsuitable for two drive-through tellers and requested that the Commerce Bank re-think their design for the site.

Chairperson McVey commented that the plans had not yet been reviewed by the Fire Marshall and that the minimum regulation width for the alley entrance must be 20 feet, not the 14 feet suggested on the current plan. She also noted that the plans did not leave room for a designated fire lane as required by DC regulations. In order that all a quorum could be present to draw up a resolution, Chairperson McVey announced a special meeting to be held at noon on Monday, October 22, 2007 at the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home.

Recommendations for inclusion in the RFPs for the Public Private Partnership with the Janney School made by the Special Committee:

Sue Hemberger read the 13 recommendations of the PPP Special Committee for inclusion in the RFP. These recommendations are attached to the meeting minutes and posted on the ANC website www.anc3e.org. Commissioner Sullivan moved to support the recommendations and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Primor. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0. (Commissioner Eldridge was not present for this motion).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McVey, Chair ANC 3E

