

Minutes of ANC3E April 10th, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Vice-Chair Lucy Eldridge. Commissioners Anne Sullivan and Carolyn Sherman were also present.

Announcements:

There were no announcements from the Commission.

Open Forum:

Jane Waldmann invited the community to a program at Point Reno at Fort Reno Park to celebrate DC's Highest Natural Elevation and discover how it influenced Tenleytown history. The program will be held on Saturday, April 26th and begin at 11:00 am.

The relative of an elderly lady living in Ward 3 alerted the community to two con men who were charging unsuspecting residents large sums of money for unnecessary repairs. The names of the two men matched those in a recent news report of similar crimes in Virginia. She urged the community to report any like incidents to PSA 202 at 202-282-0043.

A resident asked for an update on the Commerce Bank and Commissioner Eldridge agreed to look into the status of the development.

Update from PSA 202:

MPO Williams gave an update on crime statistics in PSA 202.

Commissioner Eldridge welcome At-Large Council member Kwame Brown to the meeting. The council member spoke in support of the neighborhood's continued opposition to large-scale development and congratulated the Commission on their work in the community.

Discussion and possible vote on an application for a variance at 4614 Warren Street, NW:

Walter Boggs, the owner of 4614 Warren Street, asked for support from the Commission for his application for a special exception to construct a free-standing one-car garage, not meeting the side yard requirements at his house on Warren Street. Mr. Boggs provided evidence of community support for the building and that no neighbor had opposed the project. Commissioner Eldridge moved that ANC 3E not oppose the application and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. The commission voted 3-0 not to oppose the application.

Informal presentation of planned improvements to Friendship Park/Turtle Park by Maria Creighton, President of Friends of Friendship Park:

Ms. Creighton gave an update of the redesign of Turtle Park which includes the relocation the dumpster. The design is still very much in the planning stages but funding has been found through the park's primary user and the friends of Friendship Park.

Presentation by Natasha J. Wilkins, from the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education:

Ms. Wilkins distributed flyers from the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education describing the services provided by the office. The office was created by Mayor Adrian Fenty to help people with unresolved issues at their local schools. The office reports directly to the mayor. Residents should contact the office for advice about public school policies and procedures, resolution meetings and for referral information. Further information about their services can be found on their website: www.ombudsman.dc.gov.

Discussion and possible vote on the nominations to be heard by the Historic Review Board:

Jane Waldmann, representing The Tenleytown Historical Society (THS) reviewed the nominations of the following properties for Historic Landmark Designation by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) and asked for support of their nomination from the Commission:

1. Eldbrooke United Methodist Church, located at 4100 River Road,
2. The Methodist Cemetery, located on Murdock Mill Road behind the

- Eldbrooke Church; and
3. The Western Union Tower, located at 4623 41st Street.

THS also has submitted for Thematic Nomination a multi-property listing: Tenleytown in Washington, DC: Architectural and Historic Resources, 1791-1941, the boundaries of which are outlined in the nominating document. The Commission also heard from David Maloney, DC State Historic Preservation Officer, who supported the nominations. Commissioner Eldridge moved that the Commission support the resolution, with the following caveat regarding the Western Union Tower nomination, that only the tower itself and not the three-story building behind it be granted historic designation, which is consistent with the wishes of the owner of the property. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman. The resolution was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Presentation by Armond Spikell of Roadside development about a proposed development at 5201 Wisconsin Avenue:

Mr. Spikell gave a presentation of a proposed 44-unit, four-story condominium building to be developed on the site of the present parking lot of Bank of America at 5201 Wisconsin Avenue. The condominium building will comply with the present zoning. The design will be a U-shaped building with a courtyard in the center made up of studio, one and two bedroom units and will have 30 underground parking spaces. The Bank of America branch will remain in tact and will keep about 14 of its parking spaces and its drive-through window. Roadside Development also plans to build a single-family home on the part of the land that abuts the residential houses on Harrison Street. The construction will take about 14 months. David Maloney congratulated the developers on their decision not to tear down the bank as, built in 1956, it was likely to be nominated for historical preservation.

Discussion of and possible vote on an application to appeal a decision to deny a building permit for 5013 Belt Street, NW:

Commissioner Eldridge reviewed the history of permits issued to the Stephanie Wallace of 5013 Belt Street since the house had been purchased in April 2004 and the subsequent development at the site which has since resulted in the Zoning

Administration denying the developer's request for a fifth building permit. Commissioner Eldridge read a proposed ANC 3E resolution urging the BZA to affirm the Zoning Administration's decision. The conclusions drawn in the resolution were based on evidence that the developer had demolished the original part of the building which had allowed her to build an extension with a non-conforming side yard as the non-conforming yard no longer existed; that the collapse of the original part of the building could have been foreseen had a home inspection taken place prior to purchase; and that the doctrine of laches put forward by the owner is not applicable in this case. Commissioner Eldridge moved that the Commission support the resolution and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. The resolution was approved by a vote of 3-0.

ANC Business:

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the treasurer's report.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 2007, January 2008, February 2008 and March 2008 meeting minutes.

The being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Eldridge, ANC Vice Chair