

Minutes of ANC3E September 11, 2008 Meeting

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

Announcements:

Lucy Eldridge announced that the ANC had mailed out ballots to all those who live in the area being considered for a historic designation.

Commissioner Sullivan gave an update from the ANC Special Committee on the PPP with Tenley Library and the Janney School and specified that the school's needs still have to be determined.

Open Forum:

Dr. Tievsky reviewed Safeway's proposed development plans as reported in the Washington Business Journal. Susan Rogers of Capitol City Nurses requested support for their application for a Certificate of Need. Marilyn Simon gave a brief update of the zoning process. A resident requested the installation of a camera at the red light at Wisconsin Avenue and Fessenden Street and Commissioner Eldridge stated she would pass on the information to Commissioner Sherman who was not present at the meeting. Commissioner Eldridge reviewed a resolution to ease the permit process for block parties. The resolution will be voted on at the October meeting.

Update from PSA 202:

MPO Williams gave an update on crime statistics in PSA 202 and distributed burglary prevention leaflets.

Presentation of Grant Applications:

Kersti Colombant requested a grant of \$1000 for the Wisconsin Avenue Beautification Project. The money will go towards professional maintenance of the project by Terra and provide mulch, soil and fertilizer as well as mowing services.

L. Ward Orem of the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-hurt home requested a grant of \$1000 for a Neighborhood Zoo Day for the Tenleytown/Friendship Heights community, and particularly for families and children. The event will have a Halloween theme and will

include child-focused music with arts and crafts, face painting, a petting zoo and pony rides.

Update from Armond Spikell of Roadside Development on the proposed development at 5201 Wisconsin Avenue:

Mr. Spikell gave an update of a proposed 44-unit, four-story building to be developed on the site of the present parking lot of Bank of America at 5201 Wisconsin Avenue. At the April 2008 meeting residents had expressed their concern that the building did not provide each unit with a parking space, thus encouraging residents of the building to park on the street. While OP is generally encouraging developers to provide less parking, they have agreed to reconsider in this case and Roadside has requested extra spaces from Bank of America. The request will require a zoning variance but it is hoped that this will appease community concerns. The hearing date will take 90 days after the application is filed and Mr. Spikell requested support from the ANC for the variance.

Presentation on the Commerce Bank site at Wisconsin Avenue and Ellicott Street:

Kinley Dumas at Arent Fox presented to the community the revised plans for a public space permit application dated May 2008. The proposal seeks to construct two curb cuts—one on Wisconsin Avenue through which customers can enter or exit the property and one on Ellicott Street that would be used solely for exiting traffic. The current proposal also offers 15 parking spaces, nine more than required under the applicable zoning laws. In addition, the plans reflect the Bank's design to erect a landscaped screen between the property and the adjacent alley that runs along the east side of the lot. The Bank had initially expressed its desire to use the adjacent alley as an entry point for the drive-thru. The most recent proposal under consideration no longer seeks to use the alley.

Commissioner Eldridge expressed disappointment that the District of Columbia is supporting the plan for the drive-thru bank and emphasized that the concept is at odds with the community's vision of a vibrant, pedestrian friendly neighborhood that embraces transit oriented development. The Commissioner reviewed a resolution that is contingent on the Bank's abandonment of the use of the alley for accessing the property and included the following recommendations:

- The Bank agrees to install a "No Right Turn" sign at the Ellicott Street exit;
- The District of Columbia agrees to release the covenant granting it the right to widen the alley, and Commerce Bank agrees to erect a screen comprised of a brick wall (as high as the law will allow), accompanied by landscaping to run the entire length of the eastern property line;
- DDOT agrees to provide ANC 3E, in writing, with a determination that Commerce Bank's plan will not result in traffic queuing onto Wisconsin Avenue;
- Commerce Bank will exercise reasonable efforts to solve traffic problems related to queuing on Wisconsin Avenue;
- Commerce Bank will meet with neighbor Tom Hall to explore means of mitigating the impact of the Bank's activity to his property.

The resolution was proposed by Commissioner Eldridge and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

ANC Business:

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the treasurer's report ending July 31, 2008.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 2008 meeting.

The following checks were approved:

Check # 1244 for \$35 payable to the DC treasurer for a tape of a press conference.

Check #1245 for \$46.00 payable to Amy McVey for parking fees associated with ANC meetings with council members.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Eldridge, ANC Vice Chair

