

MINUTES – February 7, 2007 ANC3D

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of ANC3D was called to order at 7 PM by the chair, Rachel Thompson. Commissioners present: Gates, Heuer, Wells, Thompson, Smith, and Sandza. Commissioner Haas was absent due to illness. There were 15 people in the audience.

Police Report

Officer McElwee gave a brief police report. There is a panhandler working along MacArthur Boulevard using a broken down car and a child as a ploy. Officer McElwee urged residents to not give the panhandler money. There have been a number of speeding cars stopped by radar gun. Most are from Virginia and Maryland.

Community Concerns

There were no community concerns raised.

5056 MacArthur Boulevard – Application for a new driveway/curb cut

This address is in Commissioner Gates' SMD.

Michael Finn, architect, and Julia Himelstein, owner, appeared in support of the owner's application for a curbcut on MacArthur Blvd to install a new driveway. There is a tree 10' from the proposed curb cut. The owner has agreed to put a 2' buffer along the property line with the adjacent neighbor and to follow the slope of existing contours. Ms. Himelstein agreed to provide continuing care of the tree during the construction. She provided the Commission with written support of several of her neighbors for her application.

Commissioner Gates motioned to accept this application based on DDOT Traffic Services Administration approval. Commissioner Sandza seconded the motion and offered an amendment. The amendment failed 3-3-0. Commissioner Gates' motion passed 6-0-0.

Abby Frankson, the mayor's new Neighborhood Services Coordinator spoke briefly to the Commission. There will also be an outreach coordinator who will help constituents. To reach Ms. Frankson: Abby.Frankson@dcd.gov. Or 202-727-3624

American University- Application for Special Exception to Expand the McKinley Building

AU's SMD seat is currently vacant

David Taylor, (Chief of Staff in the President's Office) representing the University along with Jorge Abud (Asst. VP for Facilities and Administrative Services) appeared before the Commission to answer further questions about the Proposed expansion of McKinley Center and other issues.

The BZA hearing on the McKinley Center application will be March 15 – AU is seeking to expand McKinley by 3,152 sq. ft. beyond what is allowed in the Campus Plan thereby requiring a special exception. The renovated McKinley Center will include a new 200 seat theater which will be used mainly by AU students and faculty but will also host public events at times. Nonetheless, no traffic analysis was performed for the application because AU felt it was not necessary.

Campus housing in Bethesda is being phased out because demand has diminished. AU still leases the property and is renting to the public.

Commissioner Wells questioned the AU representatives regarding parking on Rockwood Parkway. Commissioner Smith questioned the use of the facilities and whether AU's statistics of students housed on campus included those living in Bethesda apartments leased by AU for its students. He also raised questions about fraternities housed off campus and voiced concerns of neighbors' reports of ongoing behavior problems caused by students living off campus in neighborhoods adjacent to the university.

Commissioner Smith then proposed a Resolution supporting the proposed renovation and rebuilding of the McKinley Building with the following conditions:

The American University be required to document as part of its application how it plans to make housing available for 85 percent of its full-time freshman and sophomore students and for two-thirds of all full-time undergraduate students as required under Condition No. 4 of the Zoning Commission's Order No. 949-B;

The American University will agree to expand its Liaison Committee to include neighborhoods represented by ANC's 3E and 3F (to include neighborhood groups, individuals, and ANC Commissioners from those affected areas) whose communities now border an expanding University campus;

American University be required to complete a new traffic analysis that takes into account use of the new McKinley auditorium and document that the McKinley renovation will not have a significant impact on traffic as required under Condition No.9 of the Zoning Commission's Order No. 949-B;

The American University be required – in cooperation with the affected ANC's and neighborhood groups – to develop an action plan in writing – agreed to by the University, the affected ANC's, and neighborhood groups – outlining strategies and processes to address disruptive off-campus conduct by students living in neighborhoods adjacent to the campus; and that

The American University be required to develop a policy outlining how it will shut down fraternities that violate local zoning or other regulations and implement the policy.

Commissioner Heuer seconded the Resolution. Commissioner Gates offered the following amendment:

And Whereas, previous applications for new projects by the University for “further processing application of an approved campus plan” that were not envisioned in the 2000 Campus Plan have been considered by ANC 3D, including an addition to the Kogod School of Business and the construction of a new building to house the School of International Service; and the need to add new projects outside the plan should be brought to the attention of the Zoning Commission even though these changes would not exceed the square footage allowed under the 2000 campus plan.

Commissioner Smith's resolution accepted with Commissioner Gates' amendment 6-0-0.

Commission Business

Commissioner Thompson proposed two possible website developers who have made proposals to build an ANC 3D web site. There are two bids that she would like the Commission to consider.

She will prepare a one page questionnaire as to what Commissioners want on the website. Commissioner Thompson will send samples around of both companies to commissioners.

Chair Thompson asked each Commissioner to give an update of what is happening in their SMD.

Sandza – Field School is planning to build a new turf field
4840 Dexter – There was a very productive meeting held on Feb. 6, 2007 with several neighbors, Commissioners Gates and Sandza, and city regulators regarding this property where the owner has proposed tearing down the house and building a much larger house.

Gates/Heuer - Parking at CVS is a problem especially with the mini-clinic coming. Parking lot is occupied illegally by teachers and students of Lab School.
BZA application of OLOV – moving into trailers during reconstruction.

Thompson – Sibley's Feb 21st BZA hearing – ANC will make case for one floor reduction
Feb. 15 – There will be a meeting to address traffic concerns on Macomb and Watson Streets

Wells – She reported having participated in community and DDOT meetings about proposed bicycle paths along Dalecarlia, and that she and Commissioner Smith had met with the Army Corps re. Spring Valley environmental issues.

Smith – He reported that he had participated in the AU liaison meeting regarding the proposed McKinley renovation and student issues, in addition to meeting with the Army Corps re: Spring Valley environmental issues.

Treasurers report – there is a balance of \$27,198.61 in the Bank of America checking account. This was approved 6-0-0

The quarterly report for Oct-Dec 2006 was read and approved 6-0-0.

Draft minutes from January 2007 meeting were presented to the Commissioners. Approval was deferred to give the Commissioners time to review them

Meeting adjourned at 9:55

Next meeting March 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth (Betsy) Sandza
Secretary