

## MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2004 MEETING OF ANC-3D

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D was held on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at Sibley Memorial Hospital's Ernst Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alma H. Gates at 7:30 pm. Present were Commissioners Shapley, Heuer, Finney, and Haas. Absent per notice were Commissioners Mullane and Hamilton

### **1. POLICE REPORT - PSA 203 - BY LT. SULLIVAN**

**1.1** The Lieutenant reported three incidents to the commission, a predator who is approaching teen-age children, two recent robberies, and a destructive incident on Potomac Avenue involving rock-throwing. On traffic, there were 322 tickets issued exclusive of photo radar. She said they were hoping to receive more speed cameras

**1.2** She announced that the changeover in PSA names and boundaries would take place on May 15th. We in PSA 203 will become PSA 205; however, our boundaries will not significantly change.

**1.3** With regard to our letter on the need to meet the city's goal for staffing of PSA's (per March ANC-3D meeting), no response had yet been received from Ward 3 Council member Patterson.

**1.4** Second District Commander Jeff Moore will address the commission and community in May on outstanding issues and the operation of the new PSA's.

### **2. COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

**2.1** The proposed new boathouse for Georgetown University was raised by Larry Schuette, who heads the Washington Canoe Club that objects to the siting and the size of this structure. The current state of approvals involves the BZA, the District's State Historical Preservation Officer, and the National Park Service, which executed the land swap of the original university parcel, deemed unbuildable, for another that places the huge structure where it endangers the fragile C&O Canal bank. Also at risk is the intersection of the project with the Capitol Crescent Trail. Sally Strain, who had used the Freedom of Information Act to secure documents on this project, said that three miles of the canal are at issue. The Foxhall Community Citizens Association has voted to oppose the project.

**2.1.1** **ANC ACTION:** *The commission voted to approve sending a letter of objection to the decision-making government authorities, which letter would cover both the flawed process (e.g., environmental assessment, structural engineering, size, failure of alternative site selection).*

**2.2** Kent Slowinski appealed for volunteers to help in the April 24th clean-up of the Whitehaven Parkway land. This effort is supported by several local businesses.

**2.3** The Chairman announced that there will be "charrette" (architectural design exercise) on the W Street Park to be held at the Palisades Public Library on Tuesday, April 27th. The DC Department of Parks & Recreation and DC Green Spaces are hosting this for DC. All are welcome to participate.

### **3. MICHAEL RYAN, 5104 SHERIER PLACE - BZA #17159**

**3.1** This is an application for a special exception to build an addition to their home. The home is a 1924 semi-detached house with a party wall at 5102 Sherier Place and

does not meet the side-yard requirements in a zoned R-1-B district. Their architect Peter Grina appeared to present the case.) The addition runs to the rear and does not add to the width of the house. The present house sits seven feet from the lot line. The addition raises the lot occupancy percentage from 30% to 34%, still well under the limit of 40%. The Ryans have resided there 16 years. Their adjacent neighbor, Mr. James McMahon, appeared to support the application. The BZA hearing is on Mary 18th. Chairman Gates of this SMD had visited the site and had no objection.

**3.2** ***ANC ACTION:** The commission voted unanimously to approve the application and to send a letter with their reasons to the BZA (att.A)*

#### **4. AINSLEY CALDWELL, DC UFA - DALECARLIA PARKWAY TREE**

**4.1** Mr. Caldwell, the Associate Director of the DC Urban Forest Administration, located in DC's Department of Transportation, was invited to explain the plan for removing hazardous trees along Dalecarlia Parkway. This invitation was issued in response to citizen demand to understand the project, which appeared to involve some 300 trees on both sides and the median. He explained that after the first alert, when many trees fell during Hurricane Isabel, UFA had decided to do a full evaluation of all the trees there. Trees that were rotten and/or were leaning at an angle greater than 30 degrees, which is considered a likely "downer" and hazardous, were identified for removal. The project will take place gradually over a period of 18 to 24 months. Reforestation will occur naturally; although some new plantations may be allotted, which would likely be oak and beech. He stated that not every red dotted tree, which citizens had observed, would be removed. One rationale for proceeding this way is that if the city waits for a tree to be blown down it costs twice as much to remove the "downer" as it does to remove it preventively; and this cost is apart from the hazards inflicted on citizens and drivers.

**4.2** Discussion centered on the problem of bureaucratic jurisdiction for our tree canopy, as it was revealed that UFA is only responsible for trees in public space on the street side of the sidewalk. Other areas are handled by DPW's Landscape Division. The commissioners greeted this complexity with dismay, and the need for clarification was raised. The tree expertise resides in the UFA, which now has seven certified arborists on staff.

**4.3** ***ANC ACTION:** In response to both citizen and commission requests, Mr. Caldwell agreed to do a walk-about of the Dalecarlia Parkway with interested local people. Commissioner Haas will coordinate the date and publicity.*

#### **5. CANAL ROAD WATER AND SEWER LINE REPAIR**

**5.1** Karen Goode LeBlanc of DDOT announced the details that would affect the community in the upcoming repair the WASA sewer line along the Canal. Access to the Canal will be gained by blocking off the curb lane to traffic on Canal Road. There will be trucks operating between 9:30am and 3:30pm; and the southside lane will be used for this. A cap of 50% has been set for the amount of time the lane can be blocked and should the trucks use more time the hours of operation will be changed to require the work to be done during the night. She was seeking approval of the permit for this project and asserted that ANC-2E had already recorded their approval.

**5.2** Commissioner Finney inquired as to whether this would clear out the stench that permeates areas along the canal. Mrs. LeBlanc will provide him with a contact on this.

**5.3** **ANC ACTION:** *The commission voted unanimously to approve this permit.*

## **6. LAWYERS HAVE HEART RACE**

**6.1** This local race (10K and 3K fun walk) was founded in 1991 as a fund-raiser (ca. \$500K) for the American Hearth Association. Several local residents are on its organizing committee and its co-founder lives in Spring Valley. Sponsors include the Greater Washington Board of Trade and United Parcel Service. The committee was seeking ANC approval or non-objection to a police permit for the newly proposed route for the event, which will take place on Saturday, June 12th, between 7:00am and 10am. This item was added to the agenda only in the past week. A notice e-mailed April 6th stated that two weeks ago the DC police informed them that they would not be able to use the route of the previous two years but could use an alternative route proposed by the police. This route starts and ends at Washington Harbor at 31st and K streets, a staging area for racers; it would proceed east on K street and turn left on to Whitehurst Freeway; from the freeway it turns left on to M street (south side) and runs west out Canal Road up to Reservoir Road where, east of Reservoir, it turns around and heads back the same way. The course would mean closing Canal Road for about 1 1/2 hours (7:30 - 9am). The course does not go through the neighborhood, as in MacArthur Blvd., Arizona Ave. Foxhall Rd. or Reservoir Rd; it does not block access to churches or Sibley Hospital. Speaking on behalf of the race committee were Karen Goode LeBlanc, Lauren Frank, Adam Chase, Richard Toren, and Alan Raul. In addition, there were twenty-nine other supporters in the audience.

**6.2** The commission's discussion centered on the unhappy experiences in our community with previous races and the previous position of this ANC to oppose any more races in this area.

**6.3** **ANC ACTION:** *The commission voted on a motion to support 2-3-0. The motion was defeated.*

## **7. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SPRING VALLEY PROJECT**

**7.1** By invitation Gary Schilling, project manager for the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) clean-up in Spring Valley, gave an update on the Arsenic and WW1 munitions clean-up and details on the upcoming excavation and removal of potentially hazardous debris in what is known as Lot 18, an area at the southeastern corner of American University and involving six homes along Rockwood Parkway. (See Attachment B.) This briefing may be viewed on the Army's website:

<<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>> The other website with the public health studies is: <<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/springvalley/index.html>>

**7.2** He also announced that the next meeting of the community's Restoration Advisory Board would deal solely with the Lot 18 plan (Tuesday, April 13, 7pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street) as would a special public meeting to be held on Monday, April 19, 7 pm, at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, Nebraska and New Mexico avenues.

## **8. LAB SCHOOL PLANS FOR NEW PARKING FACILITIES**

**8.1** Allyn Kilsheimer, a long-time local resident, engineer and board member of the Lab School, presented their options for providing 129 parking spaces needed by the school. This is an increase over the current number of 86. However, the adult staff complement is now 178. The calculus is 119 spaces for faculty and 30 others for a subtotal of 149 and then 20% use of program facility (e.g., gym) by 1/3 of school population. He said he had done 12 traffic studies related to the options and presented map schematics of the five options, which ranged from building where there is now a wetland, moving the Carriage House, and cutting into Reservoir Road slope. The preferred approach is to get to 119 by combining the present 86 on their property plus 33 diagonal spaces on their end of Whitehaven Parkway and then secure 8 more on their land near the wetland. This makes for a total of 127, which would meet the required ratio for city institutions' provision for employee/user parking. However, the student teachers and tutor trainees who are at the school on a daily basis are not included in the number. He said that interns from AU would be getting to and from the campus by shuttle bus. St. Patrick's School already has negotiated such an arrangement with the District for diagonal parking at the top of Whitehaven Parkway. The Lab School would pay an annual fee (estim. \$100K) and must provide amenities. Mr. Kilsheimer acknowledged that the school would also have to return to the BZA for approval of their current staff level, which is considerably higher than the forth full-time and fifty-four part-time employees approved by the current BZA Order. The Lab School has a very low ratio of faculty to students (ca. 2:1), because of the special needs of their 330 pupils.

**8.2** Discussion centered on how to proceed. Commissioner Finney encouraged the school to seek a new staff cap and to contact Lars Etzkorn at DDOT regarding the diagonal parking spaces. Then it would be appropriate for the ANC to consider their request for the additional parking spaces. Commissioner Gates requested that The Lab School obtain a letter from Our Lady of Victory School, which shares the lower segment of Whitehaven Parkway with The Lab School.

**8.3** **ANC ACTION:** *The commission agreed to the statement that at present we have no objection to the general proposal but await other steps and particulars*

## **9. HISTORIC STATUS OF TENLEY AND OTHER FIRE HOUSES**

**9.1** The Palisades Fire House (Engine Company #29, at MacArthur Blvd. & Whitehaven Parkway) will have its status as an historic landmark reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board on May 27th, 2004. Chairman Gates had drafted a resolution to register our concern that no modernization in the interest of public safety be compromised or obstructed by a historic designation and to oppose such a designation for this building. The commission took note of the sorry case of the Tenley Fire House. Commissioner Finney said that since this Board was a federal one, there was not the same procedure for consideration of ANC views as with other city actions.

**ANC ACTION:** *The resolution below was approved unanimously by the commission.*

RESOLUTION:           *“Whereas: On July 10, 2001, the Capital Fire Museum filed an application to designate Engine Company 29, located at 4811 MacArthur Boulevard, NW, for landmark status; and  
Whereas: A hearing will take place before the Historic Preservation Review Board on May 27th, 2004, to consider that appellation: Be it resolved that ANC-3D strongly urges the Historic Preservation Review Board to place the safety of communities at the fore of its considerations of landmark designation for any public safety facility in the District of Columbia; and therefore, ANC-3D is opposed to any action that would complicate or prevent modernization of public safety buildings in the District of Columbia today or in the future.*

**10. CROSS-WALK PROTECTION FOR PEDESTRIANS 10.1** Commissioner asked for commission support for the bill known as “Right-of-Way at Cross-Walks” Amendment Act of 2003, which was originally introduced by Councilmember Fenty. This bill, which is currently in the office of Carol Schwartz and Chair of the Public Safety Committee, would prevent vehicles from passing a cross-walk when a pedestrian is crossing a roadway without coming to a complete stop to allow the pedestrian to cross.

**10.2 ANC ACTION:** *The commission approved this support and agreed that a letter would be sent to Councilmembers Schwartz and Patterson.*

**11. ANC ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**11.1** The commission voted unanimously to approve the March minute.

**11.2** The commission reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. There is a balance of \$22,455.39 in the Bank of America checking account. The Second Quarter Report (FY January - March 2004) of receipts and disbursements was presented and reviewed. It was signed by the officers for submittal to the city.

**11.3** The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

**11.4** The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 5, 2004

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sarah Stowell Shapley,  
Secretary, ANC-3D*