

MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2004 MEETING OF ANC-3D

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D was held on Wednesday, June 2nd, 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 Mullane, Shapley, Heuer, Finney, Haas and Hamilton. About 15 people attended.

1. POLICE REPORT

1.1 Sergeant Charles Forbes, Second District, reported the month's crime statistics and on the results from the checkpoint at Arizona Avenue and MacArthur Blvd., which has yielded on average 5 arrests per night. In response to two commissioners' requests regarding idling buses on the AU campus, he reported that citations of buses exceeding the regulated idling times can only be issued and enforced on public property. Commissioners Shapley and Mullane will inform both American University and the police of the newly revised AU arrangements for minimizing turnaround time on its parking lot for their shuttle buses. He conveyed the funeral arrangements for Sgt. Ashley who died suddenly this past week.

1.2 ANC ACTION: The Commission voted a resolution of appreciation for Sgt. Ashley's diligent and friendly service to the community.

2. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

2.1 Matt Thorpe circulated a research proposal for community participation "PARTNER COE" (Center for Excellence), a noise and emissions abatement and monitoring effort. The Palisades Citizens Association has applied to be one of the partners. Activities would include monitoring and reporting of aircraft noise resulting from the landing patterns and schedules for Reagan (DC) National Airport as well as coordinating information from other partners across the country.

2.2 Cindy Petkac introduced herself as the newly assigned Ward 3 planner and liaison in the Office of Planning. She will engage in a series of walk-about in our "cluster", #13, of neighborhoods over the summer and review with commissioners the proposals from the SNAP (strategic neighborhood action plan. Also on her agenda is the next stage of the Upper Wisconsin Avenue Corridor study, whose current review will end in September after which it will be presented to City Council as a "small area plan," providing a framework for the next decade's development of the corridor. The chair mentioned that traffic resulting from the proposed expansion of the corridor would spill over onto roads in this ANC and is a matter of concern. She also will see that we are informed and involved in the next round of comprehensive city planning, in both its federal and local dimensions.

2.2.1 Commissioner Finney raised the issue of establishing a new zoning category for "open space," which has been languishing for a long time. As urbanization increases,

this new category in the zoning code becomes more important. Miss Petkac said she would look into this and pursue it with the commission.

3. MT. VERNON COLLEGE (GWU): WHITEHAVEN LAY-BY

3.1 Officials from George Washington University presented their plan to construct a lay-by off Whitehaven Parkway to facilitate drop-off and pick-up of members of the Mt. Vernon campus swimming pool. Susi Cora, project manager for architecture and construction, and Fred Siegel, GW Vice-President for administration, detailed the plan and circulated a diagram. To improve management of water run-off from this area of the campus special attention will be paid to re-configuring the slope and drains. The proposal will be considered by the DDOT Public Space Committee. The commission made clear that all bus traffic will continue to use on campus pick up and discharge locations and that the lay-by will not be used by the GW buses in their rounds. The lay-by remains is located in public space.

3.2 Discussion centered on the private/public equity involved in this amenity. Commissioner Finney noted that St. Patrick's is currently paying rent to the city for use of their diagonal parking spaces which are located immediately across Whitehaven from the proposed lay-by and why should the university not also pay a fee for this use of public space.

3.3 *ANC ACTION: Commissioner Heuer moved to approve the application; Commissioner Finney moved to amend by adding the phrase "recommend an appropriate annual fee for use of public space". The vote on the amendment failed (3-4-0); the vote on the motion passed (4-3-0).*

4. FIRE DEPT RENOVATION OF PALISADES FIREHOUSE

4.1 Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Herlihy (facilities) presented the conceptual plan for renovation of the Palisades Fire Station (Engine Company #29) at 4811 MacArthur Blvd. and the process upcoming to advance this project. The Fire Department has requested a zoning exception to complete the project in an R-1-B district, as certain set-backs would be less than 8 feet. The proposal will include space for additional Emergency Medical personnel and an ambulance. Currently the area must rely on service from the Cleveland Park station or the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad ambulances.

4.2 Chief Herlihy was joined by Captain Bruce Faust (capital projects) and Ralph Cyrus (project manager) and the department's architect, Bruce Zivic of Zivic and Hurdle Co., Fairfax, VA, who had prepared slides showing the ground plan, the floor plan and several elevations as well as photographic views from neighboring aspects. The project has to obtain many permits and clearances (DCRA, Historic Preservation Review Board, Fine Arts Commission, and BZA). The zoning hearing is expected to occur in September. Before that, City Council will hold a June 22 hearing on historic designation

for such facilities, and the Historic Preservation Review Board will hear on June 24 the landmark status application for Engine Co. 29.

4.3 The addition in the rear of the building will allow for program needs of the Fire Department which have changed since the building was constructed in 1925, including an area for decontamination of equipment and ambulances; facilities for amen EMS workers; and, improvement of public safety and health in a community that is currently underserved.

4.4 ANC ACTION: Commissioner Heuer moved to approve the application for special exceptions needed for the new plan, and the Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. BAMBU RESTAURANT, 5101 MACARTHUR.: ADD SEATING OUTDOORS

5.1 Robert Goffman, on behalf of Bambu Restaurant operating under ABRA License #50236 (Class D), proposed to build a summer garden deck to seat 20 at 5 tables and to serve liquor there. The deck would be located on the Dana Place side of the parking lot area in front of the restaurant at 5101 MacArthur Blvd. The deck would be removed in the winter. While certain parking places would be taken over by this, others would be added in this use of the corner space. Bambu is working on a valet parking arrangement with Bon Appetito for the evening hours.

5.2 Appearing from the community to oppose this proposal were Eleanor Roberts Lewis, who said there were already a half dozen such restaurants in the immediate area that used up the parking capacity in the area, and Josephine Baker, who had earlier apprised the commission of continuing problems of delivery traffic and patron parking related to Listrani's Restaurant. Chairman Gates, whose SMD-05 covers this area, seconded the difficulty in enforcing the agreements on cars and trucks made by these restaurants when the ANC has approved their licenses and the need not to lose a single parking space for these commercial businesses. Commissioner Finney pointed out that the Bambu lot was private property, however.

5.3 ANC ACTION: It was moved that the commission would have difficulty in supporting the proposal due to its subtraction of agreed parking places. The vote was 6-1-0. Mr. Goffman said he would withdraw the application.

6. REVISION OF ANC-3D-09 BOUNDARY

6.1 Under the commission's by-laws (Art. 1, Sec 2) a revision of SMD boundaries must be raised in the public meeting for a first and second reading. Due to the revision of the boundary in SMD-09, the by-laws description boundary needs to be revised. It was recommended that the current by-laws description be changed by removing the phrase "Whitehaven Parkway, NW." This would align the Board of Elections definition of the SMD and ANC 3D's by-laws. The proposed revision was read and the change

noted. A second reading of the proposed change to the by-laws will be on the July agenda.

6.2 *ANC ACTION: The Commission voted unanimously to change the boundary description of ANC 3D-09 as read.*

7. ANC-3D GOALS FOR 2004-2005

7.1 The chairman had asked her fellow commissioners to consider what our overarching goals for the coming year should be. Below is the draft listing raised and discussed.

- (1) Give an Annual Good Government Service award.
- (2) Continue and expand requirement of certain agencies (e.g., DDOT, DCRA) to present an annual performance review of their response to our requests and demands for action.
- (3) Consider how to ameliorate the sprawl of parking from commercial areas into residential areas and how to get a better balance between these aspects of our urban life.
- (4) Promote area-wide infill of tree canopy in interior and now-disused public space as well as streetscape tree plantation.
- (5) Reconsider the tree-slope overlays and the need for a new one and how to secure actual enforcement of them, as ever larger house-building continues.
- (6) Promote a private school consortium approach to long-range consideration of transportation, traffic and parking problems associated with the private schools and universities in our area.
- (7) Prepare an in-depth response to the question upcoming of sediment disposal related to the aqueduct and Sibley Hospital construction and road usage.

8. ANC ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

8.1 The commission voted unanimously to approve the May minutes.

8.2 The commission reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$19,399.91 in the Bank of America checking account.

8.3 The meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

8.4 The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 7th, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stowell Shapley,
Secretary, ANC-3D