

**FOGGY BOTTOM AND WEST END
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2A
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2010
WEST END LIBRARY, 1101 24TH ST., N.W.**

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Armando Irizarry called the meeting to order at 7:08. Commissioners Irizarry, Corson, Malinen and Harmon introduced themselves to attendees. A quorum being present, the agenda was adopted by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Irizarry introduced Kwame Brown, Council Member at Large of the DC City Council, who spoke of the “serious trouble” the city now faced adjusting its budget to current conditions and the possibilities both for revenue enhancement and budget cuts. He spoke of the importance of education, especially middle schools, in attracting and keeping middle-class families. Questions from the audience focused on DC tax rates compared to those of surrounding jurisdictions and the issue of accountability for persistent overspending and for quality of services. Commissioner Corson thanked Council Member Brown for his support of the ANC on the Stevens School issue and spoke of the need in West End redevelopment to harness increased tax revenues to maintenance of the public facilities being created.

General Agenda

Public Comment

Discussion focused on how to respond to pending “emergency legislation” whereby the DC Council would grant the Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Authority (ABRA) the power to extend opening hours for bars wishing to attract viewer of live broadcasts of World Cup games from the host nation of South Africa. Notice was taken of a community yard sale sponsored by the Foggy Bottom Association (June 19, rain date June 26). A representative of Sister Cities International described a race planned for October 23, 2010.

Public Safety Report

Sgt. Phillips of the Metropolitan Police Department 2nd district stated that PSA 207, embracing Foggy Bottom and the West End, had the second highest reduction in crime generally, but that there had been an increase in assaults, mainly domestic violence. Increased patrols have diminished the problem of thefts from autos.

Special Events

Ira Brody announced plans for a Washington DC Triathlon scheduled for June 20 as a preliminary for the National Triathlon planned for the fall. The impact on ANC2A's jurisdiction will be concentrated on Constitution and Independence avenues, with a small portion of the bicycle segment planned for Virginia Avenue and the Whitehurst Freeway. Commissioners had no objection to these plans and agreed to send a letter stating this to the authority to be designated by Mr. Brody.

Informational Presentations

Cheryl Morse, Consumer Outreach Specialist in the Office of People's Counsel (OPC) described the work of OPC and distributed a handout and access information. Commissioner Corson and members of the audience offered thanks for past achievements of OPC and its leadership.

Joel Sternlieb of EastBanc reported that negotiations between his firm and the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development office (DMPED) were going well but deferred to Matthew Troy of DMPED, who is assuming responsibility for monitoring the West End redevelopment project. Mr. Troy announced a schedule for hearings and actions related to the expenditure of surplus city property, namely the existing public facilities whose land and air rights are to be incorporated into the redevelopment. DMPED distribute information on this matter to ANCs beginning May 26 and will hold a hearing on June 9 at 6:00 PM at West End Library; on June 16, DC council committees chaired by council members Mary Cheh and Kwame Brown will hold a joint hearing on the matter, with the Council voting on July 6. Mr. Sternlieb, in response to questions, estimated that ground would not break for new construction until 2012.

Dianne Clapp, representing the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), and Dale Cavanaugh, a consulting engineer in construction management, described the Rock Creek Sewer Separation Project and its planned work at a site near 26th and L streets N.W. The project will include some sidewalk excavation on the south side of Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Commissioner Lehrman asked about plans for pest control in the project area; the speakers stated that the project involved building a new sewer line, not disturbing an existing one. They announced a further informational meeting chaired by Council Member Jack Evans.

Regulatory Agenda

Ellen McCarthy of the Arent Fox law firm and Mike Novotny of Varnado/Charles E. Smith appeared to request ANC approval of a "minor modification" of the PUD order approved by the Zoning Commission in 2006 relating to the rehabilitation of 2101 L St., N.W. The modification would reduce the overall proportion of retail space in the building but would continue the location of retailing on the perimeters of the building facing L and 21st streets.

Barbara Kahlow of the West End Citizens Association objected to the modification, pointing out that an expansion of retailing had been one of the amenities offered by the developers in the original PUD and asking for a “quid pro quo” in connection with the proposed retailing reduction.

Discussion focused on the absolute and proportionate reduction in retailing square footage, on the need for flexibility given current economic conditions, on restricting the right to install a night club, bar or cocktail lounge in the building and on the timetable for action by the ANC and by the Zoning Administrator. Debate continued until the closing time of the Library and action was postponed until a special meeting could be called to complete the agenda.

The library being closed, Vice-Chair Irizarry adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.