

FOGGY BOTTOM & WEST END
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2A
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2010
ST. STEPHEN MARTYR PARISH HALL
25TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.

Call to order

Chair Rebecca Coder called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. She and commissioners Irizarry, Malinen, Harmon and Corson introduced themselves. A quorum being present, the Commission adopted the draft agenda with two modifications.

General agenda

Public comments

Ellie Becker called attention to the forthcoming centennial celebration of Firehouse 23 on October 16. The Friends of the West End Neighborhood Library annual meeting was announced. Richard Weston provided information on Capital Bikeshare, which plans seven stations in ANC2A neighborhoods. One is already operational (Eye St. @ 21st St. NW) and two additional stations will open soon at 25th & Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. and 19th & Constitution Ave., N.W. A representative of George Washington University Office of Community Relations urged attendance at the GWU block party scheduled for October 17 on the Eye St. mall. A community yard sale at Francis-Stevens school was also announced for October 16.

Safety report

Sergeant D. Weldon of the Metropolitan Police Department 2nd District gave the crime statistics for PSA 207. Interest focused on a sexual assault reported in the Washington Circle vicinity. Sgt. Weldon stressed that little information was available due to the ongoing nature of the

investigation and the fact that a police unit other than the MPD 2ND District was handling it. Other officers accompanying Sgt Weldon also declined to offer information, citing the same factors. Commissioner Corson and community members present expressed frustration at the dearth of information provided.

Informational presentations

Charles Brodsky presented information about the 6th running of the Nation's Triathlon, scheduled for September 11, 2011. The route will include the National Mall and East Potomac Park. A preliminary event, the Washington DC Triathlon, will precede it on June 19, 2011., which will affect New York and Pennsylvania avenues and E St. in Foggy Bottom. Commissioners raised no objection to either event and directed the executive director to send a letter so stating to the Mayor's Task Force on Special Events.

Brittany Waddell of GWU's Office of Community Affairs gave an account of preliminary planning for the redevelopment of Square 55, the site of the university's planned Science and Engineering Center. She noted that a full and detailed plan was under development and would be in due course presented to the Commission, as required under the university's 20-year Campus Plan. The overall objective is to consolidate academic programs now dispersed among ten different buildings. Discussion focused on parking issues, specifically how the elimination of the parking building at 22nd and Eye sts would impact other locations in the neighborhood, on the impact of construction-related congestion on nearby sidewalks and on the Foggy Bottom Metro station, on the need for a coordinated timeline for all GWU redevelopment projects and on the impact of blasting on neighborhood residents.

Planned presentations on Circulator bus service and on the impact of proposed open meetings legislation were postponed until later meetings.

Regulatory agenda

The Commission reviewed a proposed minor alteration in the planned unit development at the WestEnd25 building at 1255 25th St., N.W. David Avitabile and Patrick Burkhardt, representing the developer,

explained the purpose of the “sculptural sign element” plan now pending before the Commission of Fine Arts. Commissioner Coder moved a resolution supporting the plan, which was approved by a vote of 6-0. A copy of the resolution may be found in Appendix 1.

ABRA

The Commission reviewed applications for the renewal of liquor licenses at West End Bar & Grill, Inc., dba Marshall’s at 2524 L St., N.W. and Acott Ventures, LLC, dba Shadow Room, 2131 K St., N.W. and heard a status report on a pending application from Walgreen’s at 22nd and M sts., N.W. It took no action in the case of Marshall’s and, after discussion, encouraged ongoing community efforts to negotiate a voluntary agreement with Walgreen.

In the case of the Shadow Room, commissioners voiced strong objections to the renewal of this license, citing a long history of disturbances and threats to the neighborhood’s peace and order, property values and the club’s impact on local traffic. On motion of Commissioner Harmon, commissioners voted 6-0 to protest the application and designated her or Commissioner Coder as the Commission’s representative in this matter. A copy of the resolution and protest can be found in Appendix 2 of these minutes.

Administration and Committee Reports

Commissioner Malinen, as Treasurer, presented the 4th quarter financial report and moved its adoption, which passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Coder presented a resolution continuing budget expenditures at their currently planned levels into the 2011 fiscal year.

Commissioner Coder moved adoption of the minutes for the July 21 and September 15 meetings, both of which passed by votes of 6-0.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Appendix I

Government of the District of Columbia

Foggy Bottom and West End

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A



c/o West End Library

1101 24th St., N.W.

Washington DC 20037

October 13, 2010

Mr. Anthony Hood
Chairman, D.C. Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 06-35A

Dear Chairman Hood:

At its duly noticed, public meeting on October 13, 2010, with 6 of 6 commissioners in attendance, constituting a quorum, ANC 2A considered the above referenced application, which is for a minor modification to the PUD approved by the Zoning Commission Case No. 06-35, which is the WestEnd25 residential building at 1255 25th Street.

The Applicant has satisfied the benefits and amenities proffered in the PUD, to the satisfaction of ANC 2A. In addition, the Applicant has meet with representatives of ANC 2A and the community to discuss the proposed sign and other issues related to the new building, and has represented that it will address those issues.

Because the location of the sign is on property that is under the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the Applicant has concurrently filed for approval of the sign by the CFA.

ANC 2A finds that the proposed sign is a sculptural sign element that will identify the building at its courtyard entrance, is appropriate in scale and design for the proposed PUD, and is a minor change to the proposed building design.

Therefore, ANC 2A, by a vote of 6-0, has no objection to the proposed sign, and agrees that it is a minor modification to the PUD with little or no consequence. Furthermore, ANC 2A designates the chair of ANC 2A or her designee to be authorized to represent ANC 2A on this matter.

Thank you for giving great weight to the position of ANC 2A. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 253-2612 or 2A02@anc.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Coder, Chair

cc: David Avitabile, Goulston & Storrs
Thomas Luebke, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts

Appendix II

Government of the District of Columbia
Foggy Bottom and West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A



c/o West End Library 1101 24th St., N.W. Washington DC 20037

November 6, 2010

Mr. Charles Brodsky, Chairman
Alcohol Beverage Control Board
1250 U Street, N.W., 3rd Floor
Washington DC 20009

Re: ABRA-075871 Acott Ventures, LLC, t/a Shadow Room, 2131 K Street NW

Dear Chairman Brodsky and Members of the Board:

At its regular, duly noticed meeting on October 13, 2010, the matter of the renewal of the liquor license of Acott Ventures, LLC came before the Commission. With a quorum present, ANC2A voted unanimously to protest the renewal of this license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, impact on residential parking, and vehicular and pedestrian safety, and impact on residential real property values.

The Commission further voted to designate Commissioner Florence Harmon, in whose single-member district the applicant's business is located, to serve as the ANC's representative in this matter, and Commissioner Rebecca Coder as her alternate.

At this meeting, as at earlier meetings where the Shadow Room was discussed, neighborhood residents and commissioners offered abundant reasons for protesting this application. The deleterious effect of this business on the peace, order and tranquility of the neighborhood are well documented both by police records and citizen complaints. The traffic and noise generated by the Shadow Room, especially on weekends and most especially in the alley immediately adjacent to the club, disturb the peace and quiet of the vicinity. This disorder further has a negative impact on property values, particularly in the apartment houses and condominiums that border this alley on the west and north and also on nearby properties such as the historic townhouses of Schneider's Triangle.

At the time of the original issuance of this license, the applicant gave assurances that it would act to prevent these negative effects. Given the record that has accumulated in the interval, such assurances are no longer creditable. We therefore urge the Board to deny this application.¹

¹ Recently, the Acott owners sought a new license (ABRA-083267, Retail Class "CN") to expand the hours and occupancy of this location at the basement of 2131 K Street, under the name of Panutat, LLC t/a Sanctuary 21.

Sincerely,

Rebecca K. Coder
Chair

Cc: Swaptak Das, Owner Accott Ventures
Florence Harmon, ANC 2A-06

ABRA records demonstrate that the basement of 2131 K Street is subject to the Shadow Room Retail CN license (No. ABRA-075871). In granting the Panutat, LLC license, ABRA ignored its own regulations and license orders by permitting issuance of a new Retail CN license for the basement of 2131 K Street, NW, when it was clear that the basement of 2131 K Street, NW was subject to the Shadow Room Retail CN license and the ANC voluntary agreement for Shadow Room.