



**Foggy Bottom & West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A**
(www.anc2a.org)

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 8, 2013 7:00 pm School Without Walls
2130 G Street NW, Washington, DC

Call to Order

Chair Florence Harmon (06) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Asher Corson (03), Armando Irizarry (04), Graham Galka (05), Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present.

Chair Harmon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

Regulatory Agenda

Matters before the DC Surveyor and DC Council

GW- Closure of an alley on Square 77

Chair Harmon gave an explanation of recent updates on the alley closing process for an alley on GW's Square 77 site, including the fact that the final bill introduced into the DC Council to close the alley included no amenities for the city or the neighborhood.

Commissioner Corson explained that he does not oppose the idea behind the Square 77 project or the alley closing itself; he just wants to see appropriate compensation given to the neighborhood for the alley closing. He explained that he has examined alley closing processes from different municipalities and has not found an example where city alleys were given to adjoining property owners without compensation.

Commissioner Corson explained that he would prefer to see GW pay the full value of the land - \$2.8 million- to the District of Columbia, rather than funding for a second Metro entrance as an appropriate amenity for the alley closing.

Chair Harmon voiced her support for having some sort of an amenity given to the neighborhood or the city in exchange for the alley.

Commissioner Kennedy mentioned the process the International Monetary Fund went through for an alley closing on the site of their future home a few years ago, where they helped pay to move Western Presbyterian Church to a new location in Foggy Bottom and to establish a feeding program for the local homeless population.

Chair Harmon stated that particular councilmembers names should not be included in the resolution.

Dina Modianot-Fox, a local resident, supported the inclusion of a clause in an ANC 2A resolution that tells council members about the large amount of construction projects GW is carrying out in the neighborhood right now, which block the streets and sidewalks.

Susi Cora from GW's Division of Operations explained that GW had already agreed to provide the neighborhood with certain amenities under the 2007 campus plan, and thus GW feels as though it does not have to give any additional amenities for the alley closing.

In crafting the resolution, Commissioner Corson stated that he wants the names of the councilmembers who were not supportive of the ANC's requests to be included in the resolution.

Multiple GW students present in the room voiced their support for the alley closing.

Commissioner Carnes moved to adopt the resolution as read. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 6-0-0, Commissioner Sacco recused)

Administrative Agenda

Adoption of Minutes

Chair Harmon moved to adopt the April minutes, pending Gottlieb Simon's advice. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 6-0-1, Commissioner Corson abstains)

Authorization of Funds for Legal Counsel

Chair Harmon moved to authorize ANC funds for legal counsel to advise on Square 77 alley closing legal issues in the amount of \$600. Commissioner Irizarry seconds this motion, which passes 6-0-0, Commissioner Sacco recused.

Chair Harmon adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Attachment 1 – ANC 2A Resolution on Square 77 Alley Closing

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

July 8, 2013

Phil Mendelson
Chairman
District of Columbia Council
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 102
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

At its duly noticed, Special Meeting on July 8, 2013 with seven of the eight commissioners present, constituting a quorum, the Foggy Bottom-West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2A unanimously passed the following resolution.¹

Whereas, ANC 2A passed a unanimous resolution on May 15, 2013 that ANC 2A conditionally supports The George Washington University's ("University" or "GWU") application for closing of a public alley in Square 77 provided sufficient amenities were provided to the community as the alley closing provides the University with public property valued at more than \$2.8 million;

Whereas, ANC 2A's unanimous resolution on May 15, 2013, noted the need for relief from (a) the burden of the additional congestion in the University's Square 77 Planned Unit Development ("PUD") Application (to the Zoning Commission) and (b) the adverse impacts imposed by the University on the Foggy Bottom-West End residential community;

Whereas, ANC 2A only recently became aware of the Council of the District of Columbia's ("Council") opposition to conditioning the Square 77 alley closing;

Whereas, there is inconsistency in the way that the Council has historically disposed of public alleys in the District of Columbia;

Whereas, ANC 2A seeks to be flexible and collaborative with Chairman Mendelson and other Council members, and ANC 2A reiterates its support for an appropriate public benefit to compensate the District for the transfer of public land valued at more than \$2.8 million to a private entity;

Whereas, time is needed to coordinate with the Council, in particular with local Councilman Evans and Chairman Mendelson, on appropriate benefits to the District and/or community for the transfer of more than \$2.8 million worth of public property to GWU, which would not impair GWU's development of its Square 77 PUD;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests the DC Council at its second reading, scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2013, table Bill 20-156 about the permanent closing of a public alley in Square 77 until an agreement conditioning the closure is reached between ANC 2A and Council.

Sincerely,

Florence Harmon, ANC 2A Chair

Cc: Commissioner Jackson Carnes, 2A07
Cc: Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2
Cc: Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large
Cc: Councilmember David Catania, At-Large
Cc: Councilmember Vincent Orange, At-Large

¹ Commissioner Peter Sacco abstained from the vote; however, abstention would not affect the existence of a quorum.

Cc: Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large
Cc: Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Ward 4
Cc: Councilmember Tommy Wells, Ward 6
Cc: Councilmember Jim Graham, Ward 1
Cc: Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3
Cc: Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
Cc: Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Ward 7
Cc: Councilmember Marion Barry, Ward 8