

FOGGY BOTTOM AND WEST END
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2A
MEETING MINUTES (draft)
APRIL 21, 2010
WEST END LIBRARY, 1101 24TH ST., N.W.

Call to Order

Rebecca Coder, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04, and introduced herself and Commissioner Eric Malinen, treasurer. Ms. Coder then introduced Councilmember Jack Evans, representing the Ward 2, who addressed the meeting on the subject of the FY 2011 city budget and invited comments on issues of specific interest to Foggy Bottom and the West End. Discussion focused on the proposed West End dog park in or near Francis Field, on the need or lack of need for stadium lights at Francis Field and the potential for upgraded lights that would meet residents' concerns about light pollution.

Matthew Moeller, the chief operating officer of the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, representing Jesus Aguirre, interim director of DPR, who was invited to the meeting but had a conflicting commitment, explained his department's position on the issue of stadium lights and agreed to convey a renewed invitation to Mr. Aguirre to attend the Commission's May 19 meeting.

Council Member Evans, in response to commissioner and constituent questions, urged the Commission to adopt an unambiguous position on the matter of Stevens School and the current proposal for its redevelopment accepted by the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED).

A quorum having been reached with the arrivals of commissioners Corson and Harmon, Commissioner Coder moved adoption of the agenda, with the addition of the Stevens School action proposed by Councilmember Evans. The agenda was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Corson moved that the Commission specifically rejects the redevelopment plan for Stevens School put forward by Equity Residential, Inc (EQR) and requests that the city cease negotiations with EQR. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The resolution can be found in Appendix 1 of these minutes.

General Agenda

Public Safety Report

Officers Servis and Clemens of the Metropolitan Police 2nd District reported on crime trends in PSA 207, encompassing Foggy Bottom and the West End. They reported the continuation of downward trends in most crime categories, the exception being robberies, which show an increase from nine to ten. They reiterated the need to remove or hide electronic gear and other valuables in parked cars and also the need for discretion for displaying and using expensive cell phones and MP3 players in public locations.

Special Events

George Banker, Operations Manager for the Army Ten-Miler race scheduled for October 24, 2010, described plans for the 26th staging of the race, including its route through the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods and arrangements for security during and clean-up following the race. There being no objection, the Commission agreed to furnish a letter of support for this event.

Greg Billings of the Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA), described plans for "Bike DC," scheduled for the morning of May 23, 2010, and its planned route through Foggy Bottom and the West End. There being no objection, the Commission agreed to furnish a letter of support for this event.

Gary Griffith of West End Friends described plans for the celebration to be held on the occasions of Duke Ellington's birthday (April 29) and the renaming in his honor of the public reservation at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue with 21st and M streets, N.W. There being no objection, the Commission agreed to furnish a letter of support for this event.

Informational Presentations

Chris Ziemann, transportation planner for Ward 2 in the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), described the growth of city biking across the country and reported on DDOT's plans to promote bicycle use and safety in downtown Washington. Discussion focused on three of four bike lane corridors planned for implementation during the summer of 2010 along Pennsylvania Avenue east of 15th St., N.W., and on L and I streets between Washington Circle and 15th St., N.W. Ziemann also mentioned the possible extension of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor to the blocks west of the White House. In response to a constituent question, he described plans for the reconstruction of New Hampshire Avenue between DuPont and Washington circles and the implementation of two-way traffic.

Kimberly Russo, chief operating officer of The George Washington University Hospital, presented plans for Phase Two of the Surgical Program Renovation and Expansion Project at the hospital. There being no objection, the executive director was instructed to provide a letter of support for the project from the Commission.

Iris Miller, director of the Urban Studies Institute at Catholic University (CUA) and her associate David Hathcart, presented the transportation elements of a broader proposal for reconfiguring the Georgetown waterfront and the western border of Foggy Bottom that was developed by an institute class in consultation with community representatives and transportation and planning experts. Commissioner Corson moved the adoption of a resolution requesting the inclusion of these four elements in DDOT's Transportation Improvement Plan. The resolution was approved by a vote of 4-0; its full text may be found in Appendix 1.

Commissioner Coder invited Professor Miller to make a fuller presentation of the CUA study and proposal at the Commission's June 16 meeting.

Regulatory Agenda

Attorney Kyrus Freeman appeared in behalf of M Street Partners, owners of the building site at 2201-2213 M Street, N.W., which is seeking a two-year extension of the Zoning Commission order no. 07-21 authorizing the construction of a planned unit development at this site. The reasons stated have to do with the failure of the developers to find financing during the initial period of the permit. Discussion focused on the location of the site and of the community amenities planned as part of the project. On motion of Commissioner Coder, the Commission approved a resolution supporting the requested extension by a vote of 4-0.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art submitted an "Event Venue Valet Parking Permit" application to DDOT. The executive director was instructed to notify DDOT that the Commission had no objection to the issuance of the permit.

The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration notified the Commission that the following businesses in its jurisdiction have applied for renewal of their liquor licenses: The Exchange, Froggy Bottom Pub, McFadden's, Meiwah, Kinkead's, Lombardy Café, Panda Café, Primi Piatti, Sizzling Express, Thai Place. Skip Coburn of the DC Nightlife Association and a representative of McFadden's appeared in support of the renewals. Discussion focused on the limited number of complaints stemming from alcohol served at these establishments. No objection to the renewals being raised, the Commission took no action.

Commissioner Harmon reported on the status of the Commission's opposition to the issuance of a second liquor license to Panutat, doing business as Shadow Room/Sanctuary 21. She moved that an additional \$3,000 be made available for the Commission's legal representation in this matter. The resolution authorizing this expenditure was adopted without objection.

Attorney Constance Miller, representing ANC2A in the matter of the joint appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) by the Commission and Friends of Francis Field

of the certificate of occupancy issued by the Zoning Administrator for the buildings at 1229-1231 25th St., N.W., in advance of the completion of promised amenities to Francis Field and the adjoining 25th St. streetscape, reported on a settlement reached with the developer/owner of the buildings, Vornado/Charles E. Smith L.P. Discussion focused on the need to remove curb cuts on 25th St. for passageways that no longer exist and on the \$5,000 contribution to Friends of Francis Field that are part of the settlement. No objection being offered, the Commission adopted a resolution requesting DDOT to expedite removal of the curb cuts. The resolution in the form of a letter to DDOT may be found in the appendix to these minutes.

Administration and Commissioner/Committee Reports

At the direction of the chair, the Commission took note of her response to the DC Auditor's "Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A for Fiscal Years 2007 Through 2009." A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 2 of these minutes.

On motion of Commissioner Malinen, treasurer, the Commission approved the 2nd Quarter Financial Report by a vote of 4-0.

On motion of Commissioner Coder, the Commission approved the minutes for the meeting held March 17, 2010 by a vote of 4-0

Appendix 1: Resolutions adopted April 21, 2010

(Unless otherwise noted, all resolutions were adopted by vote of 4-0.)

RESOLUTION OPPOSING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EQUITY RESIDENTIAL, INC. IN THE MATTER OF THE STEVENS SCHOOL SITE

**Foggy Bottom and West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC -2A)**
c/o West End Branch Library 725 24th Street, NW Washington, DC 20037
(202) 386-6207

The Honorable Valerie Santos
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 317
Washington, D.C. 20004

May 5, 2010

RE: Proposed Development of Stevens Elementary School Building by
Equity Residential

Dear Ms. Santos:

At its properly called special meeting on , Wednesday, April XX, 2010, the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2A) considered the matter of the development of Stevens Elementary School, located at 1050 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 by Equity Residential Corporation.

With four of the six Commissioners present, a quorum at a duly called public meeting, the following resolution was approved by a unanimous vote by ANC 2A, regarding the development of Stevens by Equity Residential Corporation.

RESOLUTION ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE THADDEUS STEVENS SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

WHEREAS the commissioners of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“Comission”), serving Foggy Bottom and the West End are and have always been convinced of the historical importance of the buildings on this site; and

WHEREAS the Commission was unanimous in the desire to continue using the Stevens School site for educational purposes; and

WHEREAS the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development rejected all applications by Charter Schools for use of the facility, in contravention of The School

Reform Act 1995, which provides a preference for charter schools to obtain surplus property and Public Law 108-335, Section 342(c) that requires that charter schools are provided a right of first offer on the disposition of any City property, and rejected all other proposals for educational use of the site; and

WHEREAS at no time did the Commission express support for the proposal put forward by Equity Residential, Incorporated (EQR) for redevelopment of the site as rental apartments; and

WHEREAS an existing property developed by EQR at 2401 M St., N.W., does not inspire confidence that this firm is able or willing to manage its rental property in such a way as to foster the West End's growth as a neighborhood of long-term, taxpaying full-time residents whose energies and interests strength the sense of community in the West End and in the District at large; and

WHEREAS the commissioners of ANC2A are convinced that no redevelopment of this property would be preferable to its redevelopment by EQR,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission remains unalterably opposed to the redevelopment plan put forward by EQR, and requests that the City Council, the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and all other agencies of the Government of the District of Columbia should discontinue negotiations with EQR on the future of the Stevens School site.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Coder
Chairman, ANC 2A

cc: Jack Evans, Councilman
Corey Lee, Project Manager, DC DMPED
Florence Harmon, Commissioner, ANC 2A-06

**RESOLUTION ON TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN
WESTERN FOGGY BOTTOM**

WHEREAS the now-abandoned proposal to deconstruct the Whitehurst Freeway aroused strenuous opposition among residents of the Georgetown, Palisades and

Foggy Bottom neighborhoods, the controversy generated a community-driven process for alternative design approaches to the Whitehurst and its abutting Georgetown property, as well as the fragmented parklands on the western Foggy Bottom border; and

WHEREAS the community engaged the Urban Institute Studio, a student landscape architecture and urban planning studio led by Professor Iris Miller of Catholic University (CUA), which generated a detailed proposal; and

WHEREAS the CUA proposal involved extensive, ongoing input from neighborhood residents as well as consultation with other experts in planning and engineering and has addressed numerous longstanding transportation problems; and

WHEREAS opportunities exist for improving the transportation links between the street grid and ceremonial avenues of the L'Enfant and McMillan Commission plans and the recapture for pedestrian and bicyclist use of the public space on the Foggy Bottom side of Rock Creek, now dominated by high-speed vehicular traffic between the Whitehurst, Potomac Expressway and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway; and

WHEREAS the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has indicated an interest in including these alternatives in its ongoing planning,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following transportation-related elements of the CUA studio proposal be incorporated into the DDOT Transportation Improvement Plan, namely

1. Reconfiguration and upgrading of 27th Street, N.W. from primarily a single-use vehicular street to a multi-use boulevard between Virginia Avenue N.W. and K Street N.W., in order to enhance safety, walkability and traffic flow and featuring the addition of sidewalks, landscaping and other amenities to encourage use of this passageway, now virtually inaccessible to pedestrians and bicyclists;
2. Upgrading of the 27th Street, N.W. and K Street, N.W. intersection—including custom paving—to improve traffic flow, pedestrian safety and walkability between Foggy Bottom and the Georgetown waterfront;
3. Reconfiguration of the intersection of Virginia Avenue, N.W. and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to improve traffic and pedestrian safety, walkability and access to the Potomac riverfront;
4. Reconfiguration of the intersections of Virginia Avenue, N.W., 27th Street, N.W. and their links to the Potomac Expressway to improve traffic and pedestrian safety and walkability.

**RESOLUTION IN THE FORM OF A LETTER ON FRANCIS FIELD AND 25TH ST.
STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS**

April 23, 2010



Mr. Gabe Klein, Director
District Department of Transportation
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center
2000 14th Street NW
6th Floor Washington DC 20009

Dear Mr. Klein:

At its regular duly noticed meeting on April 21, with a quorum present, ANC2A approved the following resolution and directed me to bring it to your attention:

WHEREAS there exists along the west side of 25th Street, N.W., in the 1200 block certain “ghost” curb cuts that once led to alleys or other passageways that are no longer in existence; and

WHEREAS these curb cuts remove potential parking places from the street and present a hazard to pedestrians and street-side plantings by facilitating vehicular intrusion into non-vehicular public park space; and

WHEREAS the settlement recently reached between Vornado/Charles E. Smith (the developer) and the Friends of Francis Field regarding the completion of streetscape improvements, as part of its development amenity package, includes the removal of these curb cuts, and replacement with appropriate landscaping, at the developer’s expense; and

WHEREAS these improvements must be completed by June 26, 2010, in order for the developer to secure a permanent certificate of occupancy for its project at 1255 25th Street, NW,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District Department of Transportation work closely with the developer to expedite the removal of the curb cuts and do so in an expedited manner.

I respectfully request that your agency give its prompt attention to this project in order that the plantings and other streetscape amenities can be completed as planned.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Coder
Chair

Appendix 2: Response to Letter Report on Audit of ANC2A 2007-2009

April 22, 2010

Deborah K. Nichols, Auditor
Office of the District of Columbia Auditor
717 14th St. N.W., Suite 900
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Nichols:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A for Fiscal Years 2007 Through 2009, dated September 15, 2009. In this letter report, you make the following findings and recommendations:

- 1.) ANC 2A's treasurer did not maintain adequate documentation to support 3.09 per cent of the disbursements made during the audit period.

Response: It is ANC 2A's present policy to require and maintain documentation to support all disbursements.

- 2.) ANC 2A's treasurer filed seven of ten quarterly reports during the audit period later than the required 30 days.

Response: Since the first quarter of FY 2009, the treasurer has filed the quarterly reports within or in advance of the required 30 days. This practice will continue.

- 3.) ANC 2A did not establish a fiscal year spending plan budget for FY 2008.

Response: ANC 2A has established fiscal year spending plan budgets for fiscal years 2009 and 2010, which were approved in duly noticed public meetings with quorum present. This practice will continue.

- 4.) ANC 2A did not participate in the ANC Security Fund, or establish a cash or surety bond for officers, during calendar year 2008.

Response: During fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the chair and treasurer followed the Letter Report's recommended policy, submitting participation in the ANC Security Fund for approval at the January public meeting.

It is the policy of ANC 2A to comply with all District of Columbia laws and regulations in conducting its business. Thank you for your guidance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Coder
Chair