

MINUTES
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
NORTH CLEVELAND PARK, FOREST HILLS & TENLEYTOWN
PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, September 17, 2007
Capital Memorial Church
3150 Chesapeake Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Wiss called the meeting to order and, finding Commissioners Solomon, Winstead, Gandhi, and Klibanoff present, declared a quorum.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After commissioners agreed to postpone the issue of the fence in public space at 4323 Reno Road until later in the meeting if necessary to allow Commissioner Banta and the applicant time to arrive, the agenda was adopted 4-0-0 (Chair Wiss moving, Commissioner Klibanoff seconding, Commissioner Solomon not voting because she had stepped out of the room momentarily).

3. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2007, MEETING

The minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting were adopted 3-1-1 after making a couple of revisions (Chair Wiss moving, Commissioner Gandhi seconding, Commissioner Winstead opposed, Commissioner Klibanoff voting present).

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Announcements by Commissioners:

Commissioner Winstead announced a protest against giving away public property to be held in front of the Wilson Building on September 18 from 9:00 to 10:00 am. The protest will focus on the decision to give away the West End Library, but also may be of interest to the Tenley Library community. The name of the organization sponsoring the protest appears to be Public Property for Public Use First.

Commissioner Solomon announced that Caroline James, a resident of Gates Road, had come to the meeting with a petition that she is getting signed to ask for a traffic study of the intersection of Gates Road, Chesapeake Street, and 31st Street. DDOT has installed only one stop sign at the intersection, on 31st Street, despite ANC 3F's resolution asking for stop signs on all three streets. Apparently, DDOT will not install stop signs to slow traffic down – the rationale for the ANC's request for stop signs on Chesapeake Street and Gates Road – because the purpose of stop signs is to determine right-of-way, not control traffic. One possible solution is speed humps.

Commissioner Solomon informed the commission that she is starting to address ongoing issues at Rock Creek Academy, a special education school under contract with DCPS located at 4401 Connecticut Avenue. She has talked to business owners, who are concerned about school buses blocking entrances to their driveways. When students get out of school, they have been known to block access to stores and horse around on the Metro. Commissioner Klibanoff reported seeing a dozen or more buses waiting to pick up students. Commissioner Winstead has taken pictures of the buses. They often make left turns that block traffic. Commissioner Solomon will be gathering information from other commissioners. MPD has been involved in the past.

Commissioner Wiss announced that the D.C. Department of Public Works has a new graffiti removal program. Residents and business owners whose properties have been defaced may call 727-1000 to get a voucher for free supplies to remove graffiti. The voucher can be redeemed at McCormick Paints at 15th and P Streets, N.W., and at Duron Paints, 14th and Clifton Streets, N.W.

Commissioner Wiss also announced that the AARP and Councilmembers Jim Graham and Mary Cheh are sponsoring a shred event on October 3 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the intersection of 14th, Park, and Kenyon Streets, N.W. For more information call 202-434-7715.

B. Announcements by members of the community:

Caroline James expressed appreciation for the movie night put on for the community last Saturday by the Capital Memorial Church. She hopes they sponsor more events like it. Commissioner Wiss noted that the church had been looking for ways to reach out to the community for some time.

Gilberto Solano, the new Community Outreach and Services Coordinator for Ward 3, introduced himself and announced that on September 21, all D.C. public schools will be having an open house for the community to learn more about them.

5. OPEN FORUM

Brady Lutsko of Van Ness Street introduced himself and offered to help the commission with its web site. The commission lost its web master when Commissioner Maudlin retired.

6. MPD SECOND DISTRICT REPORT

No one attended the meeting to give the MPD report.

7. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR ANGELICO PIZZERIA & CAFÉ

Commissioner Gandhi recused himself because he is on the Alcohol Beverage Control Board and left the room.

Mustafa Misirci, one of Angelico's owners, stated that although the restaurant's hours of operation on the notice of the liquor license renewal are the same as in the voluntary agreement, the restaurant actually closes earlier. Most of the restaurant's business is selling pizza. The biggest problem they are having is high school and junior high school students who hang out in the restaurant and block the sidewalk, but do not purchase anything. Seniors start gathering around 2:30 pm, then the group becomes larger as others join them. This goes on until 4:00 pm. He has asked them to leave, but to no avail. The students also have marred the restrooms with graffiti. As soon as the restaurant removes the graffiti, the students draw it back. He has called 311, but by the time the police arrive 20-25 minutes later, the students have gone. Last spring he was beaten up by some students. There are no problems on weekends.

Mr. Misirci would like to have a greater police presence on the block. Some of the bigger stores may have their own security officer, but Angelico is not able to do this. Mr. Misirci does not know whether the crime camera at Wisconsin and Albemarle can pick up images from the restaurant. Commissioner Winstead recommended that he attend the CAC meeting to discuss this issue and to get a security camera for the restaurant. Commissioner Wiss offered to work with the new lieutenant for PSA 202 on this problem.

Commissioners noted that although Angelico's original application had been for a Retailers Class CR license, the renewal was for a Class DR license. The distinction is based on the amount of food sales, not alcohol service. Commissioner Wiss, seconded by Commissioner Winstead, moved that the commission send a letter to the ABC Board stating that it does not object to renewal of the license and wants to keep the voluntary agreement in force. Letter 07-22 was approved, 4-0-0.

8. LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AT ITALIAN PIZZA KITCHEN

Commissioner Solomon noted that diners at Italian Pizza Kitchen, 4483 Connecticut Avenue, have been seen drinking wine, even though the restaurant does not have a liquor license. Commissioner Winstead passed around photographs he has taken showing people sitting at the sidewalk café with glasses filled with red wine and a wine bottle. Apparently the restaurant has told customers that they may bring their own bottles. Commissioner Winstead also wondered whether the people at the table in the picture were of legal drinking age. Commissioner Solomon noted that she must recuse herself from further consideration of this matter, even though it is in SMC 3F03, which she represents, because of a financial interest in a liquor license attached to this property that the restaurant is not using.

Commissioner Gandhi returned. He informed the commission that District law does not allow customers to bring and consume their own alcohol at restaurants.

9. TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner Solomon noted that the ANC’s checking and savings accounts now total more than \$100,000. The checking account alone has almost \$27,000. She recommends finding a use for the money, such as grants to the community. Commissioner Gandhi agrees that we need to give some of the money back to the community and that the ANC should consider grants.

Commissioner Solomon reported that earlier in the summer, the D.C. Auditor had released funds based on the 4th Quarter Report for FY 2006, but had docked ANC 3F \$483 because documentation for some of the expenditures had not been provided. This happened under the former commission. Commissioner Solomon was able to track down the documentation and give it to the Auditor. In July the Auditor accepted the documentation, but asked Commissioner Wiss, as chair, to formally request restoration of the funds in writing, which she did. Commissioner Solomon stated that the transfer has not yet appeared on the ANC’s bank statement.

10. QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE 3rd QUARTER OF FY 2007

The commission approved the Quarterly Report by a vote of 4-0-1 (Commissioner Solomon moving, Commissioner Gandhi seconding, and Commissioner Winstead present).

11. CORRECTION TO THE QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF FY 2007

Commissioner Solomon noted that there had been an error of \$.73 on the report for the 2nd Quarter, which would affect the report for the 3rd Quarter if not changed. She moved, seconded by Commissioner Gandhi, to send a corrected 2nd Quarter Report to the D.C. auditor. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Commissioner Winstead present.

12. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM ANC CHECKING TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Commissioner Solomon moved, seconded by Commissioner Gandhi, to transfer \$25,000 from the ANC checking to savings account. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

13. ANC ASSISTANCE

Commissioner Wiss started the discussion by saying that she believes the person assisting the ANC needs more direct supervision than the ANC has been giving its independent contractor doing the ANC minutes for the past several months. Commissioner Klibanoff agreed that more direct supervision is necessary. He would like to have someone in the ANC office on a regular basis who could work during business hours, file things with government agencies, and help commissioners look things up. Commissioner Wiss moved that the ANC look for an “employee” in IRS terms instead of an “independent contractor”. This was seconded by Commissioner Winstead. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Solomon moved, seconded by Commissioner Gandhi, to return to having an independent contractor take the minutes of ANC meetings until an employee is hired, no later than the end of the calendar year. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Commissioner Winstead present.

Commissioner Klibanoff moved, seconded by Commissioner Gandhi, to name one commissioner to be responsible for writing a job description, to be approved at the next ANC meeting, and one person to interview candidates for hiring. Commissioner Solomon volunteered to be the point person. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Commissioner Winstead present.

Commissioner Solomon suggested reorganizing the ANC office and deciding what materials can be recycled, like old D.C. Registers, or sent to Archives. September 21 was chosen for this activity.

14. APPLICATION FOR A FENCE IN PUBLIC SPACE AT 4323 RENO ROAD, N.W.

The commission did not consider this issue because neither Commissioner Banta, the lead commissioner, nor the applicant attended the meeting to discuss it.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting then adjourned, 4-0-1 (Commissioner Klibanoff moving, Commissioner Gandhi seconding, and Commissioner Winstead present).

These minutes were approved 5-0-2, with a quorum present (a quorum being 4), at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC 3F on October 15, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cathy Wiss

Cathy Wiss, Chair

Attachments:

Agenda

Ltr 07-22: Not objecting to renewal of liquor license for Angelico
Quarterly Report for 3rd Quarter of FY 2007