

ANC 1C Meeting Minutes



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Minutes of Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

September 1, 1999

A meeting of the Commissioners of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C (the "ANC") convened at the Marie Reed School at 7:00 p.m. on September 1, 1999.

1. Attendance.

Commissioners Present: Faith, Eleanor Johnson, Eric Letsinger, Richard Mason, Andrew Miscuk, Peter Schott and Mark Wright.

Commissioners Absent: Carolyn Llorente and Linda Softli.

Also Present: Approximately 15 additional persons were present or signed the meeting attendance sheet.

2. **Notice of Meeting.** Each Commissioner and the community received notice of the meeting.

3. **Presiding Officer and Secretary.** Commissioner Miscuk presided and Commissioner Mason kept Minutes of the meeting.

4. Call to Order and Introduction of Commissioners.

Commissioner Miscuk called the meeting to order as soon as a quorum was present and the Commissioners introduced themselves to the community. He announced that the ANC was sponsoring a Town Hall meeting on a proposed liquor license moratorium for Adams Morgan on September 22, 1999 at the Marie Reed Learning Center Auditorium between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. He also noted that the Zoning, Permits and Licenses Committee would hold a special meeting to address CR to CT license conversions in Adams Morgan later this month at the ANC office on a date to be announced.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the July 1999 and August 1999 meetings of the Commission were unanimously approved.

6. **Treasurer's Report.** In the absence of Commissioner Llorente, the Commission did not hear the Treasurer's Report.

7. **Grant Guidelines.** The Commissioners reviewed the draft Grant Guidelines prepared for community review. The Commissioners proposed minor changes to correct typographical errors and to specify that if grant recipients fail to report the status of their grant funds,

they will become ineligible for future grants.

Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Grant Guidelines attached to these Minutes shall be and hereby are approved; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

8. ABC Matters. The Commissioners discussed the Commission's failure to receive timely notice from the ABC Division regarding pending liquor licenses. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall send a letter to the ABC Board and Division, with a copy to the Mayor, Councilman Graham and the At-Large Council Members, informing them of their failure to provide timely and accurate notice of pending ABC applications and urging them to deliver such notice to the Commission; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

9. Omega Liquor License Application. The Chairperson recognized Louis Nichols, attorney for Omega Restaurant. He explained that Omega has applied for a DR liquor license for the establishment to serve beer and wine only. The Chairperson confirmed that the Zoning and Permits Committee had not had the opportunity to complete a voluntary agreement in advance of the meeting. In order to facilitate the process, the Chairperson interviewed the owner of the establishment and his manager. As a result of the discussion during the meeting, the Commission completed a voluntary agreement. Upon further discussion, Commissioners Faith, Johnson, Letsinger, Mason, Miscuk and Wright voting in favor and Commissioner Schott voting against (on the grounds that the final agreement between Omega and the ANC differed from the responses on the applicant's formal application before the ABC Board), it was:

RESOLVED, that the Commission supports the DR application of Omega Restaurant; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Commission approves the Voluntary Agreement presented at this meeting to the extent it does not conflict with any existing law or regulation of the ABC Board; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolutions.

10. Presentation by the Office of the People's Counsel. The Chairperson recognized Lawrence Jones from the Office of the People's Counsel. He explained the function of the Office and how it acts on behalf of residents of the District before the various public utilities. The Office also represents the community when public pay telephone banks are proposed. He then distributed a flyer and informational booklet to the Commission and the community. In particular, he stressed the need for public input on the pending divestiture planned by PEPCO. Public

Service Commission Community Hearings on the divestiture proposal will be held on Tuesday, September 21, Saturday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 5 at various locations in the District. He asked the community to call 727-3071 for more information.

The Commission noted that it would consider recommending extending the jurisdiction of the Office of People's Counsel to additional utilities matters and the Community Services Committee would follow-up with the Office. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Jones and he was excused at this time.

11. ChiCha Lounge Public Space Application. The Chairperson recognized Mauricio Fraga from ChiCha Lounge. He explained that his establishment had applied to have an outdoor café. Commissioner Mason explained that the Zoning & Permits Committee had noted that the proposed café was within the 10 foot clearance guidelines supported by the Commission at an earlier meeting, but that its hours of operation went beyond that of other outdoor café operators. Specifically, the application proposed hours until 1:30 a.m. on weekdays and 2:30 am on weekends. Commissioner Johnson noted that outdoor cafes at other Dupont Circle establishments were restricted to 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends and that this application would be inconsistent with other establishments in the area. A resident from the Blake House Condominium close to the applicant noted that there is already a fair amount of noise from the indoor activities and expressed concern about late hours at the proposed café.

Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Commission supports the public space application of ChiCha Lounge to the extent it provides for hours of operation limited to 11:00 p.m. weekdays and midnight on weekends; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

12. Appearance of Electrical Distribution Center. Commissioner Letsinger introduced the following resolution which, upon a motion duly made and seconded, was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, an electrical distribution center is an outdoor area containing a variety of electrical wires, conduits and transfer apparatus; and

WHEREAS, there is such a distribution center at Florida Avenue and Ontario Road, NW; and

WHEREAS, the residents of our Commission acknowledge the value of the distribution center but are dissatisfied with the physical appearance of the site: Located next to an elementary school, the site is a mixture of exposed electrical equipment, chain link fencing, cement and pavement - suboptimal for both a residential area and a school neighbor; and

WHEREAS, area neighbors have demonstrated their commitment to improving the aesthetics of the site by completing a lengthy neighborhood survey; and

WHEREAS, neighbors believe that PEPCO's improvement costs would be minimal in this case; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Commission supports the neighbors in their efforts to encourage PEPCO to improve the outward appearance of the site by drafting and submitting a letter to PEPCO and the appropriate District agency to express our eagerness to have the appearance of this site promptly improved; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

13. Adams Morgan Festival Status. The Chairperson recognized Tom Oliver of Western Public Interest to discuss the status of the Adams Morgan Community Festival scheduled for the weekend of September 18-19. The Commission noted that it was unlikely that it could fund the expenditure authorized at the August meeting designed to support payment of supplies for the Children's Fair during the Festival. In order to finally resolve the issue, upon further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Commission requests a letter from the DC Auditor explicitly explaining whether or not it could contribute to the Children's of Art's Fairs taking place during the Adams Morgan Community Festival; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

14. Community Discussion. The Chairperson recognized a woman representing the owners of the establishment formerly known as Café Lautrec. She stated that the owner intended to reopen the establishment soon. The Chairperson explained that the community would be most interested in that establishment and it would be the subject of a public hearing when the time came.

The Chairperson then recognized James Coleman and Victor Kibunja. They explained that Mr. Kibunja owns the former Kilimanjaro establishment and intended to reopen sometime soon, following the blueprint of the new Lauriol Plaza in providing a stylish and upscale dining and entertainment experience.

15. Adjournment. There being no further business, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned. The Commission noted that the next meeting had been previously scheduled and would be at Marie Reed School on October 6 at between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Richard Mason
Secretary

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