

ANC 1C Meeting Minutes



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Minutes of Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C November 3, 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 November 3, 1999.

1. Attendance.

Commissioners Present: Eleanor Johnson, Carolyn Llorente, Richard Mason, Andrew Miscuk, Peter Schott and Linda Softli.

Commissioners Absent: Faith, Eric Letsinger and Mark Wright.

Also Present: Approximately 20 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 Softli presided and Commissioner Mason kept Minutes of the meeting.

4. **Call to Order and Introduction of Commissioners.** Commissioner Softli called the meeting to order as soon as a quorum was present and the Commissioners introduced themselves to the community.

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

6. **Treasurer's Report.** Commissioner Llorente distributed the fourth quarter 1999 financial report for the Commission covering the third calendar quarter of 1999. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Fourth Quarter 1999 financial report for the Commission covering the period from July through September 1999 as presented at the meeting shall be and hereby is ratified and approved; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Treasurer and such other 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, including the filing of such financial report with the appropriate city agency.

7. **Administrative Matters.** Commissioner Schott explained that the Arts Committee recommended using the Commission's office as a continuing exhibit for local artists. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and

seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall use its office as a continuing exhibit for local artists pending resolution of any liability issues or other legal implications of such use and that the determination of whether such issues have been resolved shall be decided by vote of the Commission at a future public meeting; and

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

Commissioner Johnson joined the meeting at this time.

8. Neighborhood Action Summit. The Chairperson recognized Diane Sims Moore, who introduced herself as the Mayor's Ward 1 Coordinator, a volunteer position. She announced that on November 18-20, a neighborhood action summit would be held, with the Citizen Summit being held on Saturday, November 20, 1999 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the DC Convention Center. The purpose of the summit was to have citizens determine priorities in coordination with the comprehensive plan and the Districts future budgets. She stated that she could be reached at the Ward 1 Committee, 265-7866, home 462-2109 and by fax at 265-1082. Registration forms were made available to the community. Ms. Geneva Perry introduced herself to the community as the Ward 1 liaison to Councilman Graham's office. She stated that she could be reached at 518-0987.

9. Police and Public Safety Committee Report. Lisa Duperier discussed crime statistics and introduced Lt. Cullen (pager number 202-886-0356). He explained that overall crime was up. He noted that new shifts would begin soon with fewer officers off on weekends and evenings. During the course of the report, a number of residents discussed how they had very recently been victims of crime in Adams Morgan, including personal assaults. The residents noted that MPD response was timely, but were unaware of any coordinated effort to identify the criminals. Commissioner Johnson then engaged the Lieutenant regarding crime in her SMD.

Mr. Mike Gould stated on behalf of the Kalorama Citizens Association that community policing was unsatisfactory.

Commissioner Schott explained that a new orange hat patrol has been established in north/central Adams Morgan and there is an increased focus on Walter Pierce Park.

Upon further discussion, Commissioner Miscuk introduced the draft of a letter addressed to Commander Acosta requesting reconsideration of the planned reassignment of experienced officers outside of their areas of expertise and familiarity. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall request Commander Acosta in writing to reconsider planned reassignment of officers and to state any such other matters as the Commission believes will improve the Third District's crime fighting success; and

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

10. Pending Matters.

Matter of Mr. Henry's Temporary Wall. Mark Petruzzi was pleased to announce that, in response to continuing pressure by the ANC in general and its Zoning and Permits Committee, a permanent cinderblock wall had been erected to block the noise emanating from the temporary plywood wall behind Mr. Henry's restaurant and bar. He noted that the noise has been significantly reduced and he presented a snapshot of the new wall.

Matter of the Renovations to the S and T Streets Parks. Commissioner Mason explained that he had held a duly noticed Single Member District meeting following the presentation of the Friends of S and T Streets Parks at the Commission's October meeting to further discuss their renovation proposals at length. He explained that a compromise was reached which appeared to address the concerns of all members of the immediate community who had come to the meeting. Although Commissioner Mason explained that the renovation plans for fencing conformed to the architecture of the neighborhood, Commissioner Johnson objected in principal to fencing of any kind at any city parks. After further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioners Llorente, Mason, Miscuk, Schott and Softli in favor and Commissioner Johnson opposed, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Friends of S and T Streets Parks has proposed to improve such small "Pocket" parks by installing irrigation and fencing; and

WHEREAS, the initial renovation details are contained in the proposals as proposed at the Commission's October 6, 1999 meeting (and generally refer to irrigating the parks and dividing the S Street park, with the use of wrought iron fencing, in half, one half attempting to prohibit dogs altogether, the other half without the prohibition); and

WHEREAS, the Friends of S and T Streets Parks has polled the community regarding desired uses of the parks; and

WHEREAS, the proposal was discussed at the Commission's meeting on October 6, 1999 at which time the Commission determined that further neighborhood discussion was prudent; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed Single Member District Meeting was held in SMD 1C-09 on October 19, 1999 at which the original proposal was discussed; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such SMD meeting, the affected community determined that it would be appropriate to revise the previously proposed plans to specify the following:

1. That both halves of the S Street Park and the entire T Street Park should be fenced in a similar manner so as to stop pedestrians from unleashing or otherwise releasing their dogs in both parks without control or supervision.
2. That both S and T Street Park entrances at which persons walking their dogs would be permitted to enter have clear signs stating applicable District law regarding dogs and the parks, including, but not limited to: the requirement that dogs be kept on a leash, the requirement that owners clean up their dog's solid waste and the times at which the parks are deemed closed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the S and T Street Parks' current usage is almost exclusively as unofficial "dog runs", that people without dogs are currently disenfranchised from using such parks, and that fencing and irrigation represents a unique opportunity for the community served by these parks to address the problems caused by the popularity of the parks with dog owners by promoting:

1. increased respect for the parks as public spaces,
2. mutual respect for the competing community uses for the parks; and
3. adherence to applicable District regulations through adequate notice at park gate entrances; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the unique solution proposed for the small pocket parks supported by the Friends of S and T Streets Parks may not help resolve dog-related problems currently affecting other parks in Adams Morgan or the District of Columbia generally and that the solutions supported by the S and T Street community may not reflect solutions acceptable to communities living near other neighborhood parks:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Commission supports the proposal of the Friends of S and T Streets Parks to raise funds and install fencing, irrigation and appropriate signage as described in its written submission presented to the Commission; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Commission's support is contingent upon revision of the proposal as follows:

1. to include fencing of the T Street park as well as the S Street Park;
2. to specify that signage will succinctly state District law and regulation applicable to dog owners including all applicable leash laws, clean-up laws and park hours;
3. to specify that the Friends of S and T Streets Parks will make all necessary efforts to ensure that, if the proposed solution is unsuccessful (i.e., dog usage of such parks increases in an objectionable manner), it will take steps necessary to address such developments including, for example, locking the park gates when the park is closed and vigorously pursuing police enforcement against scofflaws); and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such action as is necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing resolutions.

Matter of the Finances of the 1999 Adams Morgan Festival. Tom Oliver presented a final accounting of the 1999 Adams Morgan Festival. He noted that there was an excess of revenue over expenses of approximately \$13,000. He explained that the festival raised significant funds for local area charities and exempt organizations. H noted that WPI would likely return to the Commission for its support for the Year 2000 Festival to be held September 10 or 17, 2000.

Matter of Cafe Aristide (formerly Lautrec). Mr. Leul Dawit Haile addressed the Commission, accompanied by his attorney, Nigel Scott (Messrs. Haile and Scott are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Applicant".) The Applicant explained that the existing CR license for the location had been surrendered. Upon further questioning, it appeared as if the license had not been surrendered but was, instead, in safekeeping. The Applicant then stated that it was a different owner than the prior owner. Upon further questioning, it appeared that the Applicant was being managed and financed by one of the previous owners. The discussion continued, at which there appeared to be contradictory or inconsistent statements by the Applicant compared with previous statements by representatives of the Applicant before the Commission or to individual Commissioners. After further discussion, upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioners Miscuk, Schott and Softli voting in favor, Commissioners Johnson and Llorente voting against and Commissioner Mason abstaining, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Commission opposes the application of Cafe Aristide for a new ABC license for the reasons stated at its October meeting on the same issue and because it continues to be unclear what the current Applicant's relationship is to prior licensees at its location, the Commission does not have the ABC license application for review and granting of the license would be detrimental to the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood under the circumstances; 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.

Matter of Jegoll Change of Hours. Commissioner Schott noted that members of the community had opposed the proposed extension of hours of Jegoll Restaurant and that the period for comment before the ABC Board had passed.

11. Litter Baskets. Commissioner Miscuk introduced the following motion, which, after further discussion, was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic between two commercial districts that offer plenty of carryout food, the Calvert Street corridor becomes increasingly littered with trash:

RESOLVED, that the Commission requests the Department of Public Works (or any other appropriate agency) to place trash receptacles at the following locations:

1. the bus stop at the corner of Adams Mill Road and Calvert Street;
2. the bus stop at the corner of Cliffbourne Street and Calvert Street (south side of Calvert); and
3. the intersection of Lanier Place and Calvert Street on the same corner as the gas station.

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.

Commissioner Johnson then offered the following resolution, which, upon further discussion, was also unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Mayor's Clean City Initiatives, a number of actions can improve the quality of life in Adams Morgan:

RESOLVED, the Commission requests litter baskets at the following locations and, to the extent there is an existing litter basket, it be replaced by a new basket consistent with the current city design:

1. Champlain and Kalorama Road (northeast corner)
2. Fuller at 17th Street
3. Euclid at 17th Street
4. Kalorama Road at 17th Street
5. 2400 block to 2600 block of 16th Street

RESOLVED FURTHER, that mechanical street sweeping should be instituted throughout areas in Adams Morgan where such sweeping is supported by the residents; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that steam cleaning of the sidewalks on Columbia Road be performed; and

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

12. Presentations to the Public. The Chairperson recognized Kathy Schmidt and Andy Dreiheim who represent the Coalition for DC Representation in Congress. Ms. Schmidt asked for Commission endorsement of the educational purposes of the Coalition. She then explained its purposes and distributed materials to the Commission and the public. She stated that she could be reached at 202-872-8683. Commissioner Schott noted that the DC Statehood Commission met last week and would meet again. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Schmidt and stated that the Commission would act on her request at a subsequent meeting.

The Chairperson then recognized Jude Crenitch who discussed the "Stars War" Arts proposal. He explained that it referred to a revival of the kind of arts outreach that occurred during the Roosevelt administration in the nature of the Works Project Administration. The proposal addresses how the arts can address community concerns and, by eminent domain, the government can take unused property and apply it to public arts use. He then distributed materials to the Commission and the public. The Chairperson stated that the December meeting would begin at 6:30 so that Mr. Crenitch could present a prepared video on the proposal at the beginning of the meeting.

13. Other Matters. There was no remaining time to address other matters.

14. 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 December 1 between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Richard Mason
Secretary

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