

ANC 1C Meeting Minutes



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Minutes of Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C December 1, 1999

A meeting of the Commissioners of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C (the "ANC") convened at the Marie Reed School at 6:30 p.m. on December 1, 1999.

1. Attendance.

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

Also Present: Mark Petruzzi, Community Chair, Zoning & Permits Committee
Bill Falls, ANC 1C Webmaster

Approximately 30 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, as is their custom, the Commissioners introduced themselves to the community.

The Commissioners reminded the community that the Mayor's office continues to sponsor Y2K meetings. The Commissioners urged the community to support the new Link shuttle bus service. Commissioner Miscuk noted that Cocktail Charities would benefit a neighborhood gift drive for the holidays and would be held on Sunday, December 5, beginning at 3 p.m. at Tryst.

During the meeting, Mr. Bill Duggan announced that Madams Organ would host a musical event for charity on Thursday, December 16.

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

6. **Administrative Matters.** The Chairperson noted that the Commission had timely filed its Annual Report with the Mayor and City Council. Commissioner Mason noted that the Commission had already heard from DCRA regarding a number of the recommendations contained in the report.

Commissioner Wright noted that the Annual Report would be posted on the Commissions web site shortly.

Commissioner Miscuk then stated that the Commission needed to set its monthly "business" or "agenda" meeting so that if the community had a particular issue to be included on the agenda, it would know by what date it needed to communicate the information to the Commission. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioner Johnson and Llorente abstaining (the latter noting her abstention was due to her late arrival that did not permit her to participate in the discussion), it was:

RESOLVED, that all business meetings of the Commissioners to set the agenda for the Commission's regularly scheduled public monthly meetings shall be held at 7 p.m. at the Commission's office on the Monday, nine days prior to the public meeting; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any changes to this schedule, other than another resolution passed by the Commission at a public meeting, must have the agreement and consensus of two-thirds of the then-sitting Commissioners.

7. Councilman Graham's Report. Scott Pomeroy represented Councilman Graham's office and announced that the Parking and Transportation Task Force will hold its third town hall meeting at Marie Reed School's auditorium on Monday, December 13, 1999 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. He encouraged all interested persons to attend. He also announced that the Task Force is no longer recommending replacement of the "No Parking Entrance" spaces in front of multi-family buildings with normal street parking in response to community concern.

8. Police and Public Safety Committee Report. Commissioner Wright introduced Lt. Halblieb who provided a summary of the results of the Summer Mobile Task Force. He also noted that a new Task Force was established November 1 and is funded through the fiscal year. He explained that the Task Force resulted in the incarceration of 9,000 individuals, issued approximately 60,000 notices of infractions and confiscated \$1.5 million worth of narcotics and 137 weapons. He then explained that Detective Scully was detailed from the Fourth District to head the Task Force. A general discussion followed between the task force members and the rest of the community.

Lt. Cullen (pager number 202-886-0356) then arrived to represent the Third District. He provided a general report and addressed a number of crime-related questions and concerns voiced by the Community, including Katie Davis of the Lanier Heights Association and Mike Gould of the Kalorama Citizens Association.

Commissioner Miscuk then introduced a proposal that would require the Third District to provide the Commission and, hence, the community, with certain information and would establish monthly reporting requirements so that the community can understand matters affecting its public safety and actions taken by MPD that could result in an adverse effect on the public safety of Adams Morgan. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall request the following information from the MPD's Third District:

- PSA Maps
- Chain of Command above Third District Commander to the Chief (including phone numbers, addresses and e-mails)

- Chain of Command within Third District
 - .. Overall Staff for Third District (ideal vs. actual)
 - .. PSA Staff Rosters (ideal vs. actual)
 - .. Including phone numbers, pagers and e-mails
 - .. Years of service for the police officers
 - .. Non-PSA staff rosters (ideal vs. actual)
- Immediate notification of any policy that would shift or result in reassignment of officers within Third District regardless of shift or magnitude.
- Immediate notification of any individual shift or reassignment of officers within Third District regardless of shift or magnitude.
- Information should be written and oral.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Commission requests the following monthly reporting (unless otherwise noted) at its regularly scheduled meetings:

- Consistent personnel for monthly report, perhaps a junior officer.
- Any change in Chain of Command above Third District, including phone numbers, addresses and e-mails
- Overall police force number of officers shortfall or surplus
 - + or - since last report
 - Comparisons to other cities
- Third District number of officers shortfall or surplus
 - + or - since last report
 - Comparisons to other districts
- Number of officers pulled from the street
- Number in fluctuations in each non-PSA unit
- Number and fluctuations in ANC 1C PSA's
- Updates and changes on PSA Staff Rosters
- Semi-Annual Report (February and August) to be given by Third District Commander
- A detailed report of the top crime in each PSA for the previous month
- A detailed report of two other high profile crimes within ANC 1C for the previous month
- Information should be written and oral.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the leadership of the Public Safety Committee, Commissioners Miscuk and Wright and Community Chairperson Lisa Duperier, shall be and hereby are authorized to adjust or revise such requests as necessary or appropriate.

A general discussion followed at which the community expressed its general frustration with recent Third District personnel policies.

9. Tivoli Theater. Commissioner Faith discussed the need to return live entertainment to the neighborhoods and, in particular, explained how the Tivoli Theater should be a human-interest facility. Upon further discussion, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, the Tivoli Theatre in Columbia Heights may be lost as a performing or film arts venue in favor of retail or other development; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of the District of Columbia and its citizens to preserve its cultural heritage and maintain venues for the arts:

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that this Commission:

1. supports preservation of the Tivoli Theater as a performing, film arts venue or multi-arts center,

2. calls upon other Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to join its resolve, and
3. shall communicate the collective recommendation to the appropriate city agencies and officials.

10. Traffic Concerns. Commissioner Wright noted that drivers are not honoring pedestrian right of way along Columbia Road. A number of members of the community also voiced their concern that this was a problem throughout the area. There was overwhelming consensus that drivers and those who enforce traffic laws are unaware that pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks. Commissioner Wright stated that he is working with Councilman Graham to help address these issues.

11. Zoning and Permits Issues.

1906 Biltmore. Commissioner Mason stated that the Zoning and Permits Committee met on November 29 and addressed a number of matters. The Committee recommended the Commission support the application of family at 1906 Biltmore Street for a zoning variance to allow construction of a third floor addition to their home. He noted that all neighbors and the Historic Preservation Board had consented to the proposed addition. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioner Johnson abstaining, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Commission supports the application for a zoning variance at 1906 Biltmore Street, NW for the purpose of constructing a rear addition to the home; and

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

Moratorium-Related Issues. Commissioner Schott then introduced two resolutions addressing liquor license issues for the purpose of addressing such matters prior to the ABC Board hearing on the moratorium supported by the Commission in October. The first would require the Commission to disapprove of any new license or license change effective immediately. The motion was not seconded and there was no discussion on the matter. The second would require the Commission to request the ABC Board to not act on any new license or any license for substantial change until the issue of the moratorium is resolved. This motion was duly seconded.

A general discussion followed on the motion during which a number of Commissioners and members of the community expressed their opinions, both for and against. After further discussion, Commissioner Schott withdrew the motion.

Ghana Cafe Move. Commissioner Llorente then explained that Ghana Cafe intended to move its location further up 18th Street. Commissioner Mason added that the proprietor had spoken to the Zoning and Permits Committee and indicated he intended to move from 2305 18th Street to 2465 18th Street and that the Committee had no objections, pending placarding. Since the transfer had not yet been placarded, the Commission took no action other than to note the absence of known opposition.

Hilton Hotel Zoning Variance Application. Commissioner Schott then explained that a hearing was held that day before the Board of Zoning Adjustment regarding an application by the Hilton Hotel to add 35,000 square feet of exhibit space. Commissioner Softli noted that the changes would impact parking, the 19th Street loading zone and a number of issues. She added that she had met with representatives of the Hilton who indicated the hotel

intended to perform renovations because its pool was leaking, but did not effectively communicate the extent of its plans to her. Commissioners Mason and Schott noted that, due to the timing of the notice the Commission received regarding the matter, the Zoning and Permits Committee was not able to address the matter until its November 29 meeting. At that time, the Committee requested an extension of time to comment. Commissioner Schott explained that the hearing on the matter had been postponed until February 2000 for a variety of reasons. As a result, the Commission will address the matter either at its regularly scheduled January meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose.

12. Other Matters.

Recognition of Cocktail Charities Supporters. Commissioner Miscuk proposed to recognize the various establishments that have supported Cocktail Charities during the year. After further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioner Schott abstaining (noting the good works of additional organizations), it was:

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall send a letter to the following establishments, recognizing their involvement and support of Cocktail Charities:

Duplex Diner, Pharmacy Bar, Pearl, Peyote Cafe, Felix, Tryst, Madam's Organ, Toledo Lounge, Chief Ikes Mambo Room; and

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

UDC Matters. Commissioner Johnson stated her desire to introduce a motion to recommend the Mayor (1) fill the vacancies on the Board of UDC and to (2) keep the campus at Van Ness. Commissioner Mason requested that she introduce her motion as two motions so that he could support the former since he did not wish to make the latter recommendation to the Mayor. After further discussion, Commissioner Johnson chose not to introduce any motion on the matter.

Trees. Commissioner Johnson then introduced a motion to have Adams Morgan as a focus of the Mayor's reseeded and tree replanting efforts. Katie Davis suggested that the Commission wait until the community could give specific recommendations in this regard, e.g., 17 trees in a particular park, etc. Ms. Davis noted that she and others in the community were already preparing such a detailed recommendation. Commissioner Johnson agreed and withdrew her motion until more specific information could be given.

13. 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 January 5 between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m., unless a special meeting on the Hilton is held beforehand.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Richard Mason
Secretary

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