

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C

Adams Morgan

Minutes of April 5, 2006

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at Mary's Center. Chairman Alan Roth called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Approximately 35 members of the public attended the meeting.

In attendance were: Alan Roth (1C01), Jon Canty (1C02), Bryan Weaver (1C03), Mindy Moretti (1C04), Andy Miscuk (1C05), Graham King (1C06), & Wilson Reynolds (1C07).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner Moretti, secretary moved the approval of minutes from the March 3, 2006 regular meeting. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote. Commissioner Moretti moved the approval of the minutes from the March 21, 2006 public forum. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Canty, treasurer announced that the ANC has a bank balance of \$81,200. Commissioner Canty made a motion that ANC1C approve the increased fee for Storage U.S.A. to \$69 per month, retroactive to March 2006.

MPD REPORT

Lt. Gottert provided the monthly crime report and reported that overall crime is down for all types of crimes in PSA 303 except for stolen autos which are up 400 percent from this time last year. Because many of the autos that are being stolen or broken into are on private property in alleys, Lt. Gottert said he would make sure that officers know to patrol the alleys.

Lt. Gottert announced that the next PSA meeting will be Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kalorama Rec. Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A representative from Adams Morgan MainStreet announced that the group's next wine tasting will be at Toro Mata on April 11.
- Scott Pomeroy with the Mid-City Business Assoc. announced that there would be a free jazz concert on April 28th at the Lincoln Theatre as part of the Ellington Jazz Festival.
- Pat Patrick announced that the workers from Ready, Willing and Able that have been hired by the BID to clean the streets are working from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.
- Teresa Lopez had questions about a development fence taking up several parking spaces along Ontario Rd. and she also had questions about the Laundromat on Ontario possibly closing.

- Lizette King publicly thanked Commissioner Roth for his testimony (on behalf of the ANC) opposing the Dorchester PUD.
- Vic Miller noticed that people were moving into the former half-way house at 19th and California and wanted to know if anyone had any information about it.
- Gabriela Mossi announced that Adams Morgan MainStreet was in the process of having about 37 new bike racks installed throughout the neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Miscuk announced that he would be guest bartending on Thursday April 4 at Saki in support of the Young Playwrights
- Commissioner King announced that Goodwill is offering pre-apprentice training programs and that if anyone is interested they could contact him for more information. Commissioner King also announced that UDC will hold A New Day A New Opportunity event on April 6th and he announced that WMATA will be holding a series of public meetings about proposed changes to the transit system.
- Commissioner Reynolds reminded the public that D.C. Public Schools would be holding one of their public meetings on school closings the following night at Janey Elementary school in Tenleytown. Comm. Reynolds also announced that the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Assoc. would have a community clean up on April 22.
- Commissioner Weaver announced that three local unions have apprenticeships that are unfulfilled and to see him if anyone needed more information.

GUEST SPEAKER

Representatives from WASA gave a presentation about upcoming lead pipe replacement work to take place from June through August this year from 1954 to 2220 Columbia Rd., 2000 blk of Allen Place, and the 1900 to 2000 blk of Kalorama. A notice will be sent to residents along those streets at least 45 days prior to the work beginning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ABC & Public Safety

Commissioner Weaver announced that the next meeting of the committee will be on Wednesday April 12th at 7 p.m. at Kalorama Rec. Center — in conjunction with the PSA meeting.

Commissioner Weaver provided the Commission and the public with an update on the Timerhi case and announced that the ABC Board had suspended the establishment's license until May 22, effective on April 5.

B. Planning, Zoning and Transportation

Commissioner Reynolds made a motion that ANC1C support the banner program as presented to the PZT Committee for the 1600 to 1700 block of U St. The motion was seconded and discussed. Commissioner Roth offered an amendment, which was adopted by unanimous consent, to add the caveat that the banner on the lamppost at U Street and Florida Ave. would only be used for a non-commercial or cultural attraction. The motion, as amended, was further discussed and approved by voice vote.

Commissioner Reynolds offered a resolution to support the public space permits for construction to the development project known as Lot 33 subject to various conditions. The resolution was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote.

*Resolution of Support for the Public Space Needs Requested for the Improvements at
1654 Euclid Street, NW – “Lot 33”*

WHEREAS, there are physical improvements planned for the property at 1654 Euclid Street, NW, “Lot 33” throughout the next year, and

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C (ANC 1C) Planning, Zoning and Transportation (PZT) Committee members were contacted by the developers to discuss and review the draft plans for public space needs during the demolition and building process, and met with both the Development Manager for the project, prior to submission of the plans to DDOT, and

WHEREAS, 1654 Euclid Street, LLC will submit its plans to DDOT on or about April 7, 2006, and

WHEREAS, representatives of 1654 Euclid Street, LLC formally presented the plans to the ANC1C PZT Committee at its meeting on March 15, 2006 where there was much discussion and debate among Commissioners and the community at large,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 1C supports the issuance of permits for construction and public space needs based on the plans to be submitted to DDOT with the following conditions throughout the construction process:

- 1) Port-a-Johns will be kept inside the building at all times following completion of the garage level.*
- 2) Monthly notification would be given to the community/neighbors through electronic notification, fliers, and with signs posted on the property of each significant phase of construction impacting streets and parking, such as: Erection of a crane; Relocation of a crane; Closing of a section of street.*
- 3) The developers are aware of the need to respect that they are working in a residential neighborhood and will minimize noise as much as possible, such as keeping the garage doors closed as much as possible.*
- 4) A responsible point of contact for the developers (name, office telephone, mobile telephone, email address) will be assigned for the ANC and neighbors for the duration of the project.*
- 5) Parking restrictions will be activity driven, with proper signage and notice to be posted (A minimum of 72 hours in advance). Parking restrictions would be no earlier than 7am and no later than 5pm. Street parking will only be taken away on one side of the street, for work on Euclid Street, NW.*
- 6) Employees and subcontractors will avail themselves of parking in the Lot 33 facility following completion of the garage level, and will not occupy parking spaces on the residential streets at any time.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, with concerns for the residents living in the vicinity of the property 1654 Euclid Street, NW – “Lot 33”, absent the above conditions placed upon the applicants ANC 1C will not support the issuance of permits for construction and public space needs based on the plans to be submitted to DDOT.

Commissioner Reynolds made a motion that ANC1C support the District Department of Transportation obligation FY06 funds to create actual designs to widen the sidewalks on 18th St. and redo the intersection at 18th & Florida Ave./U Street. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKER

At-Large Councilmember Phil Mendelsohn spoke about the status of the District's budget proposal within the Council including his committee which covers MPD and the fire department. He said there would be some tough decisions to make on the public safety front and that the Judiciary Committee would be holding an oversight hearing on emergency management on May 11.

C. Public Services

Commissioner King offered a resolution to support the historic district designation for the Washington Heights area of the neighborhood. The resolution was seconded and discussed. Commissioner Roth offered an amendment that added square 2557, lot 19 in the first Whereas clause, which was approved by unanimous consent. The resolution, as amended was discussed and approved by roll call vote:

YEA: Roth, Canty, Weaver, Moretti, King, Reynolds
NAY: Miscuk

RESOLUTION ON WASHINGTON HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) has completed an application to designate an area within Adams Morgan as a new historic district known as "Washington Heights," with the boundaries shown to ANC 1C on April 3, 2006 and described in their application and amended to include square 2557, lot 19, and

WHEREAS, the KCA is required to present the application to ANC 1C for a recommendation prior to submitting it to the Historic Preservation Review Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 1C supports and recommends approval of the proposed Washington Heights Historic District, with the caveat that any committee, subcommittee, or other entity established by the KCA to represent the interests of the new historic district before governmental bodies must be composed solely of persons living, operating businesses, and owning property within the boundaries of the new historic district, and that it will include representation from both residential and commercial interests without requiring formal membership in the KCA.

Commissioner King made a motion that ANC1C write a letter to D.C. Public Schools to support the St. Brendan's Day Festival on the grounds of Marie Reed. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote.

Commissioner Miscuk made a motion that ANC1C accept an amended grant application for Jubilee Jobs in the amount of \$1,000 to help the organization purchase a photocopier. The motion was seconded and discussed. Because Jubilee Jobs has a budget of over \$50,000 and does not fit within the ANC1C grant guidelines, Commissioner Miscuk

made a motion that ANC1C waive the grant guidelines. The motion was seconded and discussed and approved by roll call vote:

YEA: Roth, Canty, Weaver, Moretti, Miscuk, King, Reynolds
NAY: None

The original motion to support the grant was then approved by voice vote.

Commissioner Miscuk made a motion that ANC1C enter a 12-issue contract with Street Sense for ½-page advertisements in the amount of \$4,224. The motion was seconded and discussed. Commissioner Roth offered an amendment that the contract would be entered into subject to confirmation of the legality of this expenditure from Gottlieb Simon, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. The amendment was approved by unanimous consent. The motion, as amended was discussed and approved by voice vote.

Commissioner King announced that the next meeting of the Public Services Committee will be on April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at Kalorama Rec. Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Reynolds offered a resolution on ANC1C’s position on the future of the three public schools in Adams Morgan. The resolution was seconded and discussed. Commissioner Weaver offered an amended that was seconded and approved by unanimous consent. Commissioner Miscuk offered an amended that failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Canty made a motion to postpone the vote until the next regularly scheduled ANC meeting. The motion was seconded and discussed. Commissioner Miscuk made a motion to call the question on all pending motions. The motion was seconded and approved by roll call vote:

YEA: Roth, Canty, Miscuk, King, Reynolds
NAY: Weaver
ABSTAIN: Moretti

Commissioner Canty’s motion to postpone failed by voice vote. The original resolution, as amended, was then approved by roll call vote:

YEA: Roth, Weaver, King, Reynolds
NAY: Canty, Moretti, Miscuk

RESOLUTION FOR RECOMMENDED TREATMENT OF ADAMS MORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN DCPS MODERNIZATION PROCESS

WHEREAS, Adams Elementary School, H.D. Cooke Elementary School, and Marie Reed Community Learning Center are basic parts of the Adams Morgan community, each in its own way and for its own reasons, and

WHEREAS, Adams Elementary School, H.D. Cooke Elementary School, and Marie Reed Community Learning Center define the history and contribute to the diversity of Adams Morgan, and

WHEREAS Adams Elementary School is one of the two schools from which our community draws its very name, and the only one of those two still in existence, and

WHEREAS, all three schools have unresolved issues concerning the deteriorated condition of their respective buildings and grounds, including DCPS's failure over many years to maintain them properly, and

WHEREAS, other issues including past, present, and projected academic performance, enrollment numbers, demographics, and operational efficiencies, as well as the condition of the school buildings themselves, will drive decisions about school closures and consolidations under DCPS's forthcoming Master Facilities Plan, and

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C and the Adams Morgan community desire to keep all three DCPS elementary schools open and operating,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 1C makes the following recommendations to DCPS with respect to the three elementary schools within its boundaries:

- *Adams – There is good potential in the evaluation of cross-school interaction and collaboration with Oyster Bilingual School, and a further period of consultation and discussion between the schools, as well as among the schools and the local community, could produce a result that will enhance opportunities for all. We therefore urge DCPS to encourage and foster that dialogue, in cooperation with ANC 1C. In the event a collaboration with Oyster proves not to be in the best interests of the students at both schools, we urge DCPS, in cooperation with ANC 1C, to explore other collaboration opportunities for Adams.*
- *H.D. Cooke – With a building closed for two school years, the need to transport daily more than 300 students by bus to and from swing space at great expense and considerable loss of time to students and staff, a current plan to rebuild the school to a capacity of 550 students, and no convincing evidence that DCPS will actually begin its projected \$23 million renovation in the foreseeable future, the current situation at Cooke is not in the best interest of students, staff, and the community of Adams Morgan. DCPS must make a priority of clearing all legal and bureaucratic hurdles and beginning the Cooke renovation on the schedule presented to ANC 1C on March 21, 2006. However, the size and scale of the planned school building should be scaled back to a more realistic and appropriate student body size. If DCPS is not capable of accomplishing this and moving forward with the project on schedule, then the parents of in-boundary and near-boundary Cooke students should, during the summer of 2006, be given the option of having their children enrolled in Adams or Marie Reed (to the extent space permits and after encouraging the voluntary transfer of out-of-boundary Reed students to Adams or other schools). In the event the Cooke renovation plan is either “right-sized” or terminated, any funds saved must remain within Adams Morgan for the needed improvement of Adams’ and Reed’s facilities in the near-term – without prejudice to any future decisions about the best approach to improving those schools’ physical plants over the long-term. Furthermore, any exploration of the future use of the Cooke property must be done in full consultation and cooperation with ANC 1C and the Adams Morgan community.*
- *Marie Reed – Reed is currently operating at or above capacity. We see no reason for DCPS to contemplate the closure or consolidation of Reed at this time. However, the condition of Reed’s physical plant must be addressed in the near future. There is an ongoing and active community discussion about whether it would be best for the Reed facilities to be renovated by DCPS or entirely rebuilt using a public/private partnership. This decision cannot be made in the absence of additional information on both options. We request DCPS to work in good faith with ANC 1C and the community to develop*

reliable information on which further decisions about Reed's future can be made, particularly as to the relative costs and benefits of both options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to all three schools, ANC 1C believes that the priorities for the use of these school buildings to be explored are, in the following order:

- *Continued use as a DCPS public school;*
- *Use as a charter school;*
- *Adaptive reuse as a DC Government facility providing benefits to the community, such as a library, recreational facility, health center, community center, or combination of such uses.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer of DCPS, members of the Board of Education, and Councilmember Jim Graham with a request that they support and implement this resolution, and that they engage the active participation of ANC 1C in crafting solutions to the challenges faced by the Adams, H.D. Cooke, and Marie Reed.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion that ANC1C protest the application for a conversion from a C/R to a C/T for Ventnor Sports Bar based on adverse effect on peace, order and quiet and the ANC's of opposing all further tavern conversions. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved 5 to 2 by a show of hands.

Commissioner Roth made a motion that he be authorized by ANC1C to withdraw the zoning appeal of 1825 Vernon St. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote.

Commissioner Miscuk made a motion that he be authorized by the ANC to speak at an April 11th hearing of WMATA to oppose the proposed elimination of the H5 and H7 lines and to study the possibility of consolidating the 98 with other lines to save money. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Roth offered an amendment to remove the language about the 98. The amendment was seconded and failed on voice vote. The original motion was approved by roll call vote:

YEA: Cauty, Miscuk, Weaver, Reynolds
NAY: Roth, Moretti
ABSTAIN: King

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moretti made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 12:13 a.m.