

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION IC

Adams Morgan

Minutes of March 4, 2009

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on March 4, 2009 at Mary's Center. Commissioner Bryan Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Approximately 20 members of the public attended.

In attendance were Stacey Moyer (1C01), Chris Otten (1C02), Bryan Weaver (1C03), Mindy Moretti (1C04), Michael Logsdon (1C05), Nancy Shia (1C06), Wilson Reynolds (1C07) and Kathie Boettrich (1C08).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Commissioner Weaver discussed his meeting with the DDOT regarding unresolved issues with curb cuts and the renovation at Columbia and Adam's Mill Rd.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner Boettrich made a motion that the secretary's report be accepted. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed by voice vote.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Moretti announced that the Lanier Fire Department turned 100 years old last week. They are holding a BBQ and open house on Sunday, March 8 from 2 – 6 pm.

Commissioner Weaver announced the opening of a Fidmi Mi Tierra food and arts center that is now open and city-supported at the park at the corner of Euclid, Ontario and Columbia Rd.

Commissioner Boettrich announced a neighborhood meeting to be held in April to discuss parking and other issues associated with the Meridian International activities. The meeting will be held in April – date TBD and held in the lobby of 1661 Crescent Place.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Janet Phoenix from the D.C. Environmental Health Collaborative to discuss health risks for the residents of the District of Columbia.

Lisa Duperier from Adams Morgan Main St. announced "Stand Up by Sitting Down" in which several restaurants are participating by donating 25 to 50 percent of their revenue on Thursday, March 5 to Food and Friends. She also announced the Bow Wow Pow Wow Festival for Dogs and Cats to be held on Sunday, April 26.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Gabriel Rojo from the Mayor's Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education presented the mission and charter of the new office. They are set up to help mediate issues and

advocate for parents with DCPS. Mr. Rojo is the associate ombudsman.

Archie Williams and Chris Wright presented an update of the design and renovation of the Mt. Pleasant Library. They circulated project specifications and the results of their meeting with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; which did not approve the concept as presented and requested several design modifications. The next board of Trustee's meeting is either March 24th or 25th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MPD Report

Officer Penn addressed the commission. Crime statistics presented are compared to last February and indicate a 39 percent decrease in crime year over year. Reductions were seen across all categories, but most significantly in violent crimes, stolen cars and cars break-ins.

ABC & Public Safety

Commissioner Moretti made a motion to protest the substantial change (entertainment endorsement) for Adams Mill Grill due to its adverse effect on peace order and quiet. It was seconded, discussed and passed by voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm at the Kalorama Rec. Center.

Public Services

Commissioner Weaver made a motion that we waive the guidelines. It was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Commissioner Shia made a motion to grant \$1,000 to the AMYLA to support purchase of specific audio-visual equipment. It was seconded, discussed. Commissioner Weaver offered a friendly amendment to the motion, to broaden the proposal to support their audio-visual center. It was seconded, discussed and passed by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on March 25 at the Kalorama

Recreation Center.

PZT Committee

Commissioner Reynolds reported on the DPW, DDOT meeting on the Marie Reed School zone improvement and road reopening project

The meeting for March 9 will be cancelled unless any new agenda items are offered.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Moye offered a resolution for support for the Gynecological Cancer ½ Marathon and 5K. The resolution was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote:

Whereas the inaugural Gynecological Cancer Half Marathon and 5K is scheduled to occur on Sunday, November 8, 2009; and

Whereas the course of the Half Marathon is currently slated to run through Adams Morgan, entering the neighborhood at Connecticut Avenue and Columbia Rd. and exiting the neighborhood at Columbia Road and 16th St.;

Whereas the race organizers anticipate runners will enter the boundaries of ANCIC at approximately 7:40 a.m. and the final runners should exit the neighborhood by approximately 9:10 a.m and;

Whereas the organizers only anticipate rolling street closures during this time; and;

Whereas, parking will not be restricted along the course, although movement from parking spaces may be limited during the rolling street closures; and

Whereas, race organizers have instituted an outreach program to area places of worship to inform them of the race and the impact it may have on Sunday services.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Adams Morgan ANC supports the Gynecological Half Marathon and 5K Marathon route that includes the Adams Morgan community.

Commissioner Moretti offered a resolution to Support the “Anacostia River Clean-up and Protection Act of 2009.” The resolution was seconded, discussed and approve by roll call

vote:

YEA: 6; Moye, Weaver, Moretti, Shia, Reynolds, Boettrich

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 2; Otten, Logsdon

Whereas, on May 7, 2008, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C unanimously voted to support a resolution under authorship by Commissioner Nancy Shia (1C06) that called on the Council of the District of Columbia to pass an ordinance titled: Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, banning the use of non-compostable plastic bags and reusable checkout bags in large grocery stores, pharmacies and chains stores in the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, Council Bill B18-150, the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009, was co-introduced by 12 members of the Council of the District of Columbia on February 17, 2009; and

Whereas, 20,000 tons of trash enter the Anacostia River each year, of which, a recent DC Department of the Environment report cites plastic bags comprising 47% of the trash in the river's tributaries and 21% of the trash in the river's main stem; and

Whereas, extraordinary cleanup efforts are made by city agencies, by DC Water and Sewer Authority which removes 477 tons of trash from the Anacostia River annually, and by Anacostia Watershed Society volunteers who have removed 842 tons of trash from the river to date; and

Whereas, the District of Columbia offers a robust and expansive public recycling program for paper, plastics and other materials, but at a significant cost to District taxpayers; and

Whereas, despite cleanup and recycling efforts, the Anacostia River remains a polluted river and the District will soon be subject to new fines from the Environmental Protection Agency for exceeding limits on allowable trash levels in the Anacostia River; and

Whereas the cost of taking no action to clean up the Anacostia River will result in continued pollution of the river, loss of economic opportunity for surrounding neighborhoods, and the lack of a public amenity for residents to enjoy the river as a contributing asset

Whereas, placing a small fee on single-use carryout bags has been shown to reduce

their usage by over 90 percent and provides the customer the choice to use a bag with the small fee, or avoid the fee altogether by bringing a reusable bag; and

Whereas the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009 creates a dedicated Fund for the cleanup and restoration of the Anacostia River cleanup, a public education, and the provision of multiple free reusable bags to DC residents, in particular for seniors and low-income families.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that ANCIC urges the Council of the District of Columbia to promptly consider and approve the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009.

Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to protest the Raze Permit of 2335 Champlain St. N.W. Reynolds asked for the motion to include that the Historic Preservation Office consider this structure for a landmark application and to file an objection with the Office of Zoning charging the raze of 2335 Champlain St., N.W., as an ungranted variance. It was seconded, discussed and passed by voice vote.

Commissioner Shia made a motion that ANCIC, under the signature of the Chair, write a letter requesting a meeting as soon as possible between the Chancellor's office, architects for the H.D. Cooke renovation project at H.D. Cooke, focusing on what "green initiatives" have already been undertaken and going forward what "green initiatives" can be included. It was seconded, discussed and passed by voice vote.

Commissioner Moretti offered a resolution opposing the "Hot Spot Loitering Zone Act of 2009." The resolution was seconded, discussed and approved by roll call vote:

YEA: 8; Moye, Otten, Weaver, Moretti, Shia, Reynolds, Boettrich

NAY: 0

Abstain: Logsdon

***Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C Opposition to Council Bill B18-152,
Hot Spot No Loitering Zone Act 2009***

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, the "Hot Spot No Loitering Zone Act of

2009” (B18-152) was introduced to the Council of the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, the legislation allows the Chief of Police to designate “hot spot no loitering zones” that may encompass any public area including areas surrounding schools, recreation centers, business districts and other areas where law-abiding citizens are known to congregate; and

Whereas, the legislation is so limited in scope that it would make criminals of any two or more people lingering in designated areas, regardless of their purpose; and

Whereas, in 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ruling of the Illinois Supreme Court (City of Chicago v. Morales, et al) that Chicago’s Gang Congregation Ordinance violated due process of law in that it was impermissibly vague on its face and an arbitrary restriction on personal liberties; and

Whereas, in the 1999 ruling, writing for the plurality, Justice John Paul Stevens said “[i]f the loitering is in fact harmless and innocent, the dispersal order itself is an unjustified impairment of liberty;” and

Whereas, despite an attempt to alleviate concerns, the proposed legislation clearly violates the Constitutional rights of individuals to associate and assemble freely; and

Whereas, this legislation does nothing to truly address crime prevention, such as strengthening youth sentences for violent crime, or charging DC crew members under federal RICO statutes; and

Whereas, true and effective crime prevention needs to be addressed holistically and is not merely a sum of many parts, and

Whereas this serves only as a panacea and fails to also address fundamental crime reduction methods such as extended hours and programming at recreation centers, libraries and schools, among other things.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that ANCIC opposes Council Bill 18-152, the “Hot Spot No Loitering Zone Act of 2009;” and

Be It Further Resolved that ANCIC urges the Council of the District of Columbia to vote against this legislation.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to allow representatives from ANCIC to speak on behalf of the Commission, after vetting testimony before all the commission; at any or all of the upcoming Council Oversight Hearings: ABRA, DCRA, Office of the Tenant Advocate; Parks and Recreation; and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moretti made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.