

Please note: In addition to the text and vote counts of the official actions taken by the Commission, these minutes may contain summaries of comments that were made and discussions that took place at the meeting. Such summaries are not intended to be a verbatim account of the meeting.

## **Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C Adams Morgan Minutes of August 7, 2013**

### **I. Call to Order and Introduction of Commissioners**

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on August 7, 2013 at Mary's Center. Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Approximately 25 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Brian Hart (1C01), Martis Davis (1C02), Ted Guthrie (1C03), Gabriela Mossi (1C04), Elham Dehbozorgi (1C05), Billy Simpson (1C06), and Wilson Reynolds (1C07).

### **II. Officers' Reports**

#### **a. Chair's report**

Chair Simpson reported that attempts to negotiate with DC Public Schools about holding future ANC meetings at local elementary schools have proven unsuccessful, so ANC 1C will continue to hold meetings at Mary's Center. Chair Simpson made a motion to authorize payment to Mary's Center for monthly meetings from September through December at \$110 per month. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion which passed by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Commissioners Mossi and Hart had not yet arrived).

#### **b. Secretary's Report**

Secretary Guthrie moved approval of the draft minutes from the July 10, 2013 meeting of ANC 1C. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion that was adopted by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

#### **c. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Dehbozorgi reported that ANC 1C financial report for the third quarter is being prepared and will be voted on at the September meeting.

### **III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments**

- Commissioner Davis reported that editing has begun on executive summaries for phase one of the Envision Adams Morgan project. He noted that the template for the education section has already been used to reach out to the three elementary schools in the area.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that volunteers are needed for the Adams Morgan Day Festival on Sunday, September 8. Those interested in volunteering can sign up on the Adams Morgan Mainstreet website: <http://www.ammainstreet.org/index.php/volunteer>.
- Commissioner Simpson announced that Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> is DC Public Schools beautification day and that volunteers are welcome at the three elementary schools in Adams Morgan. He suggested that volunteers contact the schools in advance so tasks are prepared for the appropriate number of people.

### **IV. Public Announcements/Comments**

- Juan Barragan from Mayor Gray's office announced that a gathering for DC Statehood will be held in conjunction with the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the March on Washington Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM at the DC War Memorial on Independence Avenue. Mayor Gray is expected to attend.
- Kristen Barden, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan Business Improvement District, announced that the Adams Morgan BID and the Hispanic Chamber of Congress are co-hosting an information session on small business participation in new health exchanges on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2pm at Mellow Mushroom restaurant.
- Kristen Barden also announced that the Adams Morgan BID will post small signs reminding people to respect the residential nature of the neighborhood and to keep the community quiet and clean.

- A representative of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association requested support for a permit for a check-in point at Walter Pierce Park for participants in a ride on Saturday, September 21. Commissioner Mossi will send a letter of support for the permit application.
- Kristen Barden announced that the District Department of Transportation will begin enforcement of restrictions on A frame sidewalk signs along 18<sup>th</sup> Street the week of August 12. Enforcement will begin with a walk through of the neighborhood to inform businesses of the restrictions.

## **V. Committee Agendas for August – no committee meetings in August**

There will be no ANC 1C committee meetings in August, so there were no agendas to preview.

## **VI. Scheduled Business**

### **a. Commission**

#### **i. Funding for canopy for Adams Morgan Day Festival**

Chair Simpson made a motion for ANC 1C to spend up to \$300 to purchase a canopy for an ANC 1C table at the upcoming Adams Morgan Day Festival and for other outdoor Commission events. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion which then passed by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Commissioner Hart had not yet arrived).

#### **ii. Discussion of proposed by-laws amendments**

Chair Simpson introduced a discussion of proposed amendments to ANC 1C by-laws and additional changes that have been made based on comments received. He noted that a copy of the by-laws showing the amendments is posted on the website and that additional comments and feedback will be considered at the September 4 ANC 1C meeting.

Chair Simpson highlighted significant additions in Articles 7 and 8. He explained that the purpose of Article 7 is to create structure for setting agendas for committee and general meetings and to ensure that the public has sufficient advance notice of items that are expected to come up. He noted that committee chairs have been announcing agenda items for upcoming meetings at the monthly general meeting, but this can be difficult for committees that meet later in the month. Chair Simpson proposed using the Commission's website to provide public notice of meeting agendas at least two weeks prior to a committee meeting. Matters voted out of committee would automatically be put on the agenda for the next general meeting of the Commission. An exception could be made for last minute items that could be added as long as members of committee hold a procedural vote determining either that the community would not be harmed by adding the item or that the community would be harmed if the item was *not* added. Article 8 focuses on the Commission's obligation to get information on meetings and votes to the public including through the use of listservs

Commissioner Davis suggested posting a summary of these changes on the website and asking for comment. Commissioner Reynolds suggested meeting with Gottlieb Simon to go over the details and how the changes differ with Robert's Rules of Order. Chair Simpson agreed that would be helpful. Commissioner Dehbozorgi supported continuing with advance notice of agenda items, noting that matters before the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee can be complicated, requiring review in advance. Davis Kennedy, publisher and editor of the Current newspapers, suggested sending an email message to the press cover meeting issues. Chair Simpson agreed to work on suggestions made. Commissioner Reynolds agreed to contact Gottlieb Simon regarding meeting.

### **b. Public Services and the Environment Committee**

#### **i. Grant application from Adams Morgan Basketball Association**

Hector Rodriguez and officers of the Adams Morgan Basketball Association presented a grant request for \$1000 for costs related to its annual basketball tournament. They reported on other activities the association plans to take on including youth services, basketball camps, and career counseling for high school students. They have successfully raised \$1200 for the tournament to be held on Saturday, August 10. Commissioners asked about specific costs for the tournament (t-shirts, medals, pay for referees, etc.); how invoices will be

received; and whether the association was registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the IRS. Commissioners also suggested broadening the games to include elementary school kids from Adams Morgan, young women, and to increase their marketing.

Denis James, president of the Kalorama Citizens Association, offered to talk to the officers about having the KCA act as a fiscal sponsor for the Adams Morgan Basketball Association. The officers agreed to return at a future meeting with a revised grant application.

**c. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee**

**i. Paper alley at 1753 Seaton Street NW**

The owner of the residence at 1753 Seaton Street requested ANC 1C's support for removing from the District surveyor's records a 5 foot area in front of her home that is designated as an alley but that does not in fact exist. Commissioner Simpson moved to pass a resolution in support of closing the alley and sending a letter prepared by Commissioner Rock to convey this support to the DC Office of the Surveyor. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion which passed by a 6-0 voice vote (Commissioner Hart had not yet arrived).

***Resolution re Closing of Paper Alley in Square 150 (1753 Seaton Street NW) – S.O. 13-10218  
BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 1C supports the proposal to close the paper alley in Square 150  
(1753 Seaton Street NW) as set out in S.O. 13-10218, and requests that the Office of the Surveyor  
grant that proposal.***

**ii. Curb cut for new Dorchester building in 2400 block of 17th Street NW**

Developers of the new construction at Dorchester House presented a request for support for a curbcut on 17<sup>th</sup> street for a loading dock next to the Harris Teeter loading dock. John Hoskinson and Tom Madison, construction manager for the project, addressed concerns previously raised by the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee and responded to proposed conditions suggested by the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association.

In answer to commissioners' concerns about long trucks blocking the sidewalk or street, Tom Madison said the loading dock would be recessed 8 feet farther back than the Harris Teeter loading dock and therefore trucks would not be on the sidewalk. Hoskinson said they can request that shippers use trucks smaller than 32 feet, but they cannot control that. They agreed they would not permit unloading from the street or letting trucks idle for more than ten minutes, and they would keep the loading dock doors closed when not in use. The loading hours requested by commissioners were similar to the current Dorchester moving hours and would work if the Sunday hours were from 12 to 5 instead of 12 to 4.

Tom Madison said a sign to warn pedestrians about the loading zone is reasonable, but an alarm or warning signal would be disruptive to neighbors. John Hoskinson agreed to look into installing a mirror so that truck drivers can see if there are people on the sidewalk when backing up. The developers also confirmed that Dorchester House employees would monitor loading with a closed-circuit television.

Commissioner Simpson offered a motion that ANC 1C support the proposed curbcut subject to a final written agreement reflecting the conditions discussed. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion that passed by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

**Conditions:**

A. All deliveries for the new building will be made in the loading area served by the new curb cut on 17th Street NW, or else in one of the existing entrances at the existing Dorchester building. Delivery vehicles will never be permitted to load or unload from the street. Delivery vehicles will enter the loading area completely to load or unload, and will not block the sidewalk while they load

or unload. Delivery vehicles will never be staged, parked, or idled except in the loading area. Delivery vehicles will not idle in the loading area for more than 10 minutes.

B. From Monday through Saturday, no delivery vehicles will be permitted in the loading area prior to 8:00 am or after 7:00 pm. On Sunday, no delivery vehicles will be permitted in the loading area prior to 12:00 pm or after 5:00 pm. Signage will be posted in front of the loading area door notifying the public of the permitted hours.

C. The management company will advise prospective tenants moving into the new building and existing tenants moving out of the new building not to use moving trucks larger than 32 feet.

D. The loading area will be equipped with an overhead door that dampens sound to the extent possible. The overhead door will be maintained in good working order, and will be kept closed at all times except when delivery vehicles are actually entering or exiting the loading area.

E. There will be management company staff on duty whenever delivery vehicles are moving in or out of the loading area, and whenever delivery vehicles are being loaded or unloaded in the loading area.

F. Mirrors will be installed at the loading area entrance to assist drivers in seeing pedestrians and oncoming traffic.

### **iii. Commercial loading zones**

Kristen Barden, of the Adams Morgan BID, asked for ANC 1C support for a proposed District Department of Transportation (DDOT) pilot study of commercial loading in Adams Morgan and whether it can be done safely from the median.

Commissioner Reynolds reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted to oppose this study for safety concerns. Other Commissioners said a study could provide more data on the situation and that median loading seems preferable to double-parking of trucks.

Members of the public raised concerns about safety risks of median loading and pointed out that loading zones were designated along the street during the 18<sup>th</sup> Street streetscape project. 18<sup>th</sup> Street business owners urged that unloading from the median should be considered if DDOT determines it can be done safely. Business owners also said they do not have control over size of truck or delivery schedule and warned that deliveries will continue to increase as more businesses open in the area.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to pass a resolution stating that ANC 1C supports having a study by DDOT to seek increased efficiencies for commercial loading and unloading in Adams Morgan consistent with public safety, but that ANC 1C does not endorse or support street medians for truck parking. There was no second to this motion.

Commissioner Simpson moved to pass a resolution stating that ANC 1C supports DDOT conducting a study seeking increased efficiencies for commercial loading and unloading in Adams Morgan consistent with public safety. Commissioner Mossi seconded the motion. Commissioner Reynolds offered an amendment to clarify that trucks unloading from the median roadway is inconsistent with public safety. There was no second to the amendment. The resolution as proposed by Commissioner Simpson passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 1 with Commissioners Davis, Guthrie, Simpson, Mossi, and Hart voting aye and Commissioner Reynolds voting no because the resolution lacked clear language specifically addressing median safety. (Commissioner Dehbozorgi had left the meeting).

**d. ABC and Public Safety Committee**

**i. Doner Bistro entertainment endorsement**

Commissioner Simpson reported that he has scheduled a meeting with the owners of Doner Bistro restaurant to discuss their plans to add entertainment. ANC 1C has a settlement agreement with the restaurant and ANC 1C will consider reasonable amendments to the agreement. Commissioner Simpson moved to preserve procedural rights in the matter by protesting the addition of entertainment on the grounds that it would have an adverse effect on peace, order, and quiet in the neighborhood. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion that passed by a voice vote of 6 to 0.

**VII. New Business**

**a. Public Services and the Environment Committee**

**i. VIDA Senior Center outdoor health fair**

Commissioner Mossi introduced a motion to support the Vida Senior Center's health fair to be held on Thursday, September 26 at 1842 Calvert Street from 10 am to 4 pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion that passed by a voice vote of 6 to 0.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn at 10:09 pm. Commissioner Mossi seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 voice vote.