

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 July 10, 2013**

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

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on July 10, 2013 at Mary's Center. Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Approximately 18 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), Wilson Reynolds (1C07), and Jimmy Rock (1C08).

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

#### **a. Secretary's Report**

Secretary Guthrie moved to approve the minutes of the June regular monthly meeting of ANC 1C. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by voice vote of 5-0 (Commissioners Dehbozorgi, Reynolds, and Rock had not yet arrived).

#### **b. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Dehbozorgi reported that ANC 1C is still owed money from the DC government from 2012. [Note that the Treasurer's report was given following agenda item VI.a.i.]

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

- Commissioner Guthrie reported on a recent meeting on remediation of Kalorama Park. Representatives from the DC Department of General Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and Councilmember Graham's office attended the meeting to discuss what needs to be done to fix the remediation project. No work can be bid on until next Spring, but some small scale patchwork can be done in the meantime. Contact Commissioner Guthrie for more information.
- Commissioner Mossi announced Strengthening Ward One Together! a gathering to be held on Friday, July 12 at 9:30 am to discuss ways to strengthen nonprofit programs for youth in Ward 1.
- Commissioner Mossi also announced a DC Latino Caucus PAC meeting on Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 pm featuring a conversation with Councilmembers Jim Graham and Muriel Bowser.
- Commissioner Reynolds reported that the living wage bill being debated by the DC Council was adopted but the bill changing the primary election date was tabled.

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

- Ernest Springs, President of the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association, announced that the next RCNA monthly meeting would be held on July 18 at 7:00 pm. Items on the agenda include the [Adopt-a-Block](#) program and picking a date for a cook-out.
- Kristen Barden, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan Business Improvement District, announced that Porchfest is coming to the area this Fall. Acoustic music will be performed on six neighborhood porches in the afternoon on Saturday, October 5.
- Marc Morgan, President of Adams Morgan Mainstreet, announced that Adams Morgan Day Festival will be held on Sunday, September 8 this year. He reported that sponsors and musical acts are lined up and there will be fewer food vendors this year in order to prioritize local restaurants.

### **V. Committee Agendas for July**

Chair Simpson announced that the anticipated committee agendas for July could be found on the reverse side of the monthly Commission meeting agenda, except for the Public Services and Environment Committee, which will not

hold a meeting in July. He also noted that the committee meetings which will be held at Goodwill Baptist Church in July.

## **VI. Scheduled Business**

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

#### **i. Funding to edit Envision Adams Morgan reports**

Commissioner Davis requested funding to edit the Envision Adams Morgan reports. The editor will work with authors of the Phase I working group reports to create one document that will be available on the Envision website and the ANC 1C website by October. The report will describe the history, demographics, housing, transportation, schools, businesses and other aspects of the community. Commissioner Davis moved to provide \$300 for editing the report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and passed by an 8-0 voice vote.

#### **ii. Joseph's House grant application**

Commissioner Davis reported on a grant request from Joseph's House, a hospice in Adams Morgan, for a computer equipment upgrade. Commissioner Davis moved to grant Joseph's House \$1,000. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion that passed 8-0 by voice vote.

#### **iii. Adams Morgan Main Street Group grant application**

Marc Morgan, President of Adams Morgan Mainstreet, presented a grant request for \$1,000 to assist with the organization of the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Adams Morgan Farmers' Market. The celebration will be held on September 28. Commissioner Reynolds moved to grant Adams Morgan Mainstreet \$1,000 for the celebration. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion which passed by an 8-0 voice vote.

### **b. ABC and Public Safety**

#### **i. Stipulated license for Tryst sidewalk café**

Commissioner Simpson moved that ANC 1C support Tryst's sale of alcohol at its sidewalk café under a stipulated license while paperwork is being processed by the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion that was passed by voice vote 8-0.

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

#### **i. Public Space Matters**

Matthew Marcou, Deputy Associate Director of DC's Public Space Regulation Administration, was present at the meeting to respond to concerns and complaints about Public Space Committee procedures and practices. Commissioner Rock gave examples of pending matters and actions for which ANC 1C received no notice and asked Mr. Marcou for assurance that the Commissioners will receive statutory notice in the future. Mr. Marcou said notice should be given 30 days before action on various applications and explained internal procedures for mailing notices and for posting them online. He said several ANCs receive electronic notices and he could set that up for ANC 1C. Mr. Marcou also noted that it is a small office and that their work load has doubled in the last year.

Commissioner Rock asked that applications be denied if the ANC has not had a chance to review and respond. Mr. Marcou said that the Public Space Committee would no longer grant "provisional approval" for applications for use of public space within the ANC 1C boundaries, but would table such applications until the ANC has been given time to respond to such applications.

Several Commissioners asked about an incident of misinformation being given out about the Public Space Committee's agenda.

Members of the public asked Mr. Marcou about the new email notification system; establishments that open sidewalk cafés without public hearings; the role of inspectors; and enforcement.

Commissioner Simpson asked about sandwich board advertisements that block the sidewalk on 18<sup>th</sup> street. Mr. Marcou said a letter will be sent to businesses advising them of the permissible size and placement of these signs. The letters will be sent after review by the Office of General Counsel. Notice will come first, followed by documentation and enforcement.

Mr. Marcou said that an inspector will walk through the area with an Adams Morgan BID representative and give notice before enforcement action for signs and structures in violation of public space regulations.

**ii. New Orleans Cafe sidewalk cafe application (DDOT tracking #83203)**

Commissioner Rock moved to adopt a resolution to support the application of New Orleans Café for a sidewalk café since the plans are consistent with the ANC 1C guidelines for sidewalk space. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Ernest Springs, President of the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association, asked that the plans be attached with the resolution when it comes before Public Space Committee. Commissioner Rock agreed. The motion as amended passed by a voice vote of 8-0.

***ANC 1C RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SIDEWALK CAFÉ APPLICATION FOR New Orleans Café at 2412 18th Street, N.W. (DDOT tracking #83203)***

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that ANC 1C supports the proposed sidewalk cafe at New Orleans Cafe, as detailed in the attached drawing, as consistent with ANC 1C's guidelines for sidewalk cafes on 18th Street, N.W., and ANC 1C requests that the Public Space Committee of DDOT grant New Orleans Cafe's application for a permit to operate this proposed sidewalk cafe.

**iii. Alleys in Lanier Heights**

Commissioner Reynolds moved to adopt a resolution agreed to at the June meeting of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee that supports reconstruction of the alleys in Lanier Heights and authorizes a representative of ANC 1C to communicate this support to the District Department of Transportation and to Councilmember Jim Graham. Commissioner Mossi seconded the motion which was passed by a voice vote of 8-0.

***Resolution in Support of the Reconstruction of Lanier Heights Alleys***

*WHEREAS, various alleys in the Lanier Heights section of Adams Morgan are severely deteriorated mostly beyond repair and requiring reconstruction, specifically;*

- (1) The Safeway Alley between the 1700 block of Columbia Road and the 1700 block of Lanier Place, NW.*
- (2) The Lanier/Ontario Place Alley between the 1700 block of Lanier Place, NW and the 1800 block of Ontario Place, NW., and*
- (3) The Ontario Place/Clydesdale Place Alley Between the 1800 block of Ontario Place, NW and the 1800 block of Clydesdale Place, NW.*

*WHEREAS, the aforementioned alleys have not been fully repaired for at least 30 years and Councilmember Jim Graham and Lanier Heights residents have been working with city officials and agencies requesting alley improvement for the past six years.*

*WHEREAS, the current conditions include severe erosion; wide potholes; impassable conditions for cars, bicycles and pedestrians especially after precipitation; the accumulation of large puddles of water that harbor harmful insects and disease; and deep rat burrows and infestation.*

*WHEREAS, DDOT stated in correspondence of April 9, 2012 and April 2, 2013 to Councilmember Jim Graham, ANC1C Commissioners Gabriela Mossi and Wilson Reynolds, residents and business owners of the community that DDOT was prepared to move forward with stamped asphalt during the 2013 fiscal year.*

*WHEREAS, in said correspondence DDOT listed several options and costs for alley reconstruction, and members of the Lanier Citizens Association voted on May 8, 2012 that the Lanier Place, NW alleys be reconstructed with the "red faux brick" option which is reinforced stamped asphalt dyed and plated to assume the "look" of brick. This option was chosen for its durability, lower cost and aesthetic appearance as it is the closest to what was once used for these alleys. Currently, the original materials only exist in patches and fragments.*

*WHEREAS, the Lanier Citizens Association also voted to request that DDOT repair both Ontario Place, NW alleys and the 1800 block of Summit Place, NW alley using reinforced stamped asphalt to provide an affordable and appropriate repair option for the alleys.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 1C supports the efforts of the Lanier Citizens Association, Councilmember Graham, residents, businesses, and DDOT to have these alleys be reconstructed this year to improve the traffic and safety of residents and business owners; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 1C authorizes the Chair of ANC1C or the Chair of the PZT Committee to communicate this support and request of alley reconstruction to the appropriate DDOT office and Councilmember Jim Graham.*

#### **iv. 2019 Allen Place Proposed Renovations**

Commissioner Rock moved to support a request to build a back deck on the property at 2019 Allen Place. Neighbors have been informed and support the addition. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion which passed by a 7-0 voice vote (Commissioner Reynolds had left the room temporarily).

#### **Resolution in support of rear deck renovation at 2019 Allen Place**

***BE IT RESOLVED** that ANC 1C supports the proposed rear deck addition at 2019 Allen Place, N.W., and requests that the Historic Preservation Office approve this project as consistent with the historic nature of the neighborhood.*

#### **v. Federal valet parking application**

Commissioner Simpson moved to adopt a resolution opposing Federal restaurant's application for a valet parking staging zone in partnership with Sun Services on the grounds that the proposed staging zone would severely disrupt traffic turning right from 18<sup>th</sup> Street onto Columbia Road; it is likely to pose a threat to the public safety and welfare of pedestrians passing by on the sidewalk; and Sun Services has a reputation for operating in a disorderly manner in the neighborhood. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion which passed by a voice vote of 8-0.

**Resolution Opposing Federal – Sun Services Valet Application (2477 18th Street NW)**

Whereas Federal Restaurant (Saki, Inc.) and/or Sun Services Inc. have applied to operate a valet parking staging zone at 2477 18th Street NW (the “application”);

And whereas DCMR 24-1603 sets forth the criteria that DDOT’s Public Space Committee is required to consider in evaluating the application;

Therefore Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C opposes the application for the following reasons:

- **1603.2(a): Whether the Valet Parking operation will disrupt vehicular or pedestrian traffic:** The proposed valet parking staging zone would be located in the middle of the righthand turning lane that conveys northbound traffic from 18th Street onto Columbia Road. Accordingly, the proposed valet parking staging zone would severely disrupt vehicular traffic. Further Adams Morgan residents and business owners have testified as to the disorderly and disrespectful manner that Sun Services has operated valet parking staging zones in the past. Accordingly, ANC1C is concerned that the proposed valet parking staging zone would also disrupt pedestrian traffic on the adjacent sidewalk.
- **1603.2(b): Whether the Valet Parking operation will pose a threat to public safety or welfare:** As described in (a) above, the proposed location of the valet parking staging zone in a right-hand turning lane would pose significant threats to public safety and welfare. Further, Sun Services’ history of disorderly and disrespectful operations is likely to pose a threat to the public safety and welfare of pedestrians passing by on the sidewalk.
- **1603.2(e): The anticipated traffic conditions at the time of Valet Parking operations:** 18th Street in the evening, and especially at night, is typically filled with cars. After cruising the street, many turn onto Columbia Road and from there into the residential streets looking for parking. Accordingly, the right-hand turning lane in which the valet parking staging zone is proposed to be located will be heavily used at the time of the proposed valet parking operations.
- **1603.2(f): In the case of permit renewal, previous violations of the Standard Valet Parking permit conditions, or any provision of this chapter, or any other law or regulation:** Sun Services Inc. has a very bad reputation in Adams Morgan. Residents and other business owners have testified and provided photographic documentation to ANC1C and to the Public Space Committee as to the company’s routine practice of parking cars illegally on residential streets and committing other violations. In this connection we note that the purported agreement with Colonial Parking at 1711 Florida Avenue NW that was included with the application is a year old, and was obtained in reference to a different establishment. Accordingly there is no assurance that it remains valid. Further, residents and other business owners have testified before ANC1C as to Sun Services’ aggressive driving, and of the disorderly and disrespectful manner the company conducts itself on the sidewalk. Indeed, ANC1C passed the following resolution in December 2012:

*Whereas* five sitting ANC Commissioners are leaving the Commission and have years of experience with valet services in general and Sun Services specifically; and,

*Whereas* the new commission will potentially be asked to vote quickly on valet services; and,

*Whereas* Sun Services has an unfortunate history of poor operations in Adams Morgan and a willful lack of regard for residents and businesses;

**Therefore be it resolved that** ANC 1C questions Sun Services’ ability to provide safe, reliable valet services that respect the peace, order and quiet of Adams Morgan and recommends that any vote on valet services be postponed until an Adams Morgan valet services policy is enacted.

Finally, we are disappointed to have to note that Federal itself has recently conducted its operations in violation of public space requirements by installing an un-permitted tent over the sidewalk this past Friday evening (see photos attached).

**vi. Dorchester addition curb cut application**

John Hoskinson, developer of the Dorchester House construction, made a presentation asking for support for a curb cut on 17<sup>th</sup> street for a new loading dock adjacent to the existing Harris Teeter loading dock. Tom Madison, construction manager for the project, said that no parking spaces will be lost for the proposed curb cut. Commissioners discussed other options and whether additional space would be needed for trucks to maneuver.

Members of the public asked whether trash removal and resident moves in and out of the building would be done from the loading dock and whether trucks would be using the loading dock during commuting hours.

Commissioner Rock noted that the plans were not received from the Public Space Committee in advance of the meeting. He moved to place the matter on the agenda for the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee for July 24 for further deliberation, to be brought back to the full Commission on August 7. Commissioner Dehbozorgi seconded the motion which passed by an 8-0 voice vote.

**vii. Proposed Meridian Hill Historic District**

[Note that this discussion occurred following agenda item VI.d.ii.]

Kim Williams with the DC Historic Preservation Office asked for support for the creation of a Meridian Hill Historic District. Ms. Williams reported that the HPO has been working for years on an application that will be ready to submit in September. Members of the public asked about impact on buildings and commented on the positive aspects it will add to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Rock moved to adopt a resolution in support of creating a Meridian Hill Historic District and that he be authorized to send a letter to the DC Historic Preservation Office including that resolution. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion that passed by a voice vote of 8-0.

***Resolution in support of creation of a Meridian Hill Historic District***

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that ANC 1C supports the creation of a Meridian Hill Historic District consistent with that proposed on the attached map.

**d. Commission**

**i. July Committee meetings location and full Commission meeting in August**

Commissioner Reynolds moved to authorize \$200 for payment for use of meeting space at Good Will Baptist Church for July Committee meetings and to schedule a meeting of the full Commission on August 7. Commissioner Rock seconded the motion that passed by a voice vote of 8-0.

**ii. July Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee Agenda**

Commissioner Mossi reported on a BID discussion about loading of trucks on 18<sup>th</sup> Street and suggested adding that topic to the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee agenda. Commissioner Mossi moved to add the item to the July 24 agenda. Commissioner Rock seconded the motion and it passed by a voice vote of 8-0.

**iii. Location of ANC meetings starting in September**

In light of the heavy agenda, the Commission agreed to postpone discussion about holding future ANC meetings at Marie Reed Elementary School starting in September 2013.

**iv. Discussion of proposed by-laws amendment**

In light of the heavy agenda, the Commission agreed to postpone discussion of the proposed by-laws amendment.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Reynolds moved to adjourn at 10:16 pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion that was passed by an 8-0 voice vote.