

ANC 1C Meeting Minutes



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Minutes of Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C February 2, 2000

The following is a draft of the Minutes of the Meeting of ANC 1C held on February 2, 2000. This draft may be revised by the Commission before approval in March.

A meeting of the Commissioners of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C (the "ANC") convened at the Marie Reed School at 7:00 p.m. on February 2, 2000.

1. Attendance.

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

Also Present: Lisa Duperier, Community Chair, Public Safety Committee

Mark Petruzzi, Community Chair, Zoning & Permits Committee

Approximately 30 additional persons were present or signed the meeting attendance sheet.

Commissioner Letsinger arrived after a quorum was determined and his arrival is described below.

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. She and Commissioner Schott also announced a number of events of interest to the community.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Commissioner Mason explained that the draft Minutes did not accurately reflect Commissioner Johnson's request regarding changing of agenda items to permit her to participate in the approval of the January Minutes and election of officers and read the reference as corrected. Upon further discussion and on a motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the January 12, 2000 meeting of the Commission were unanimously approved, as revised.

6. Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Llorente distributed the first quarter 2000 financial report for the Commission covering the fourth calendar quarter of 1999. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioner Johnson abstaining, it was:

RESOLVED, that the First Quarter 2000 financial report for the Commission covering the period from October through December 1999 as presented at the meeting shall be and hereby is ratified and approved; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Treasurer and such other officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution, including the filing of such financial report with the appropriate city agency. Commissioner Llorente then explained that the Treasurer's bond premium had been lowered from \$174 in the 1999 calendar year to \$89 for 2000. Upon further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously: RESOLVED, that the ANC is authorized to pay \$89 (or such other amount as may be required by law, if different) to bond the Treasurer and each such other officer as is required to be bonded in accordance with legal requirements; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the ANC shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution, including certification of the District's bonding resolution form provided for such purposes.

Next, Commissioner Llorente noted that the Commission was required to authorize payment for the Commission's office space and equipment for 2000. She explained that the Commission could authorize such payments monthly or pass a standing resolution for the entire year for the normal monthly office expenses the Commission incurred. She further explained that office expenses covered by the standing resolution were intended to be usual and reasonable. Unusual expenditures, including any unusual use of office equipment and supplies, still needed Commission approval. Upon further discussion and a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, that expenses incurred for utility services, telephone services, ordinary office expense, office rent and other rent, including post office box and water cooler, are hereby authorized, and the Commissioners are hereby directed to pay providers or reimburse Commissioners for these charges, as incurred, in a timely manner. RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission are authorized to take such actions as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

7. New Computer. Commissioner Schott explained that the City Council would supply the Commission with a new computer if the Commission accepted it and designated a responsible person. Commissioner Miscuk expressed his opinion that accepting the computer was not a good idea since he did not believe it would be sufficiently used and because taxpayer money would be better served by donating such computer to a local school. Commissioner Llorente noted that the computer would have ANC-specific software preloaded. After further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioner Faith abstaining and Commissioner Miscuk opposed, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Chief Technology Officer of the District of Columbia has offered each ANC a new computer, and WHEREAS, this computer will allow the Commissions to facilitate their daily functions including maintaining financial records, corresponding with constituents, DC agencies, and

will provide Commissioners with access to e-mail, the Internet and webpages, and WHEREAS, ANC 1C believes that such having a computer in our office would improve our communication: NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that ANC 1C authorizes Chairperson Linda Softli to be designated as the individual responsible for the computer; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that Commissioners be given training on proper usage of the computer, that the computer be used for Commission work only and that the computer not leave the office at 2335 18th Street (or any subsequent Commission office); and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission are authorized to take such actions as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolutions.

Commissioner Letsinger arrived at this time. **8. Police and Public Safety Committee Report.**

Chairperson Duperier noted how changes made by Commander Beach had already improved area law enforcement. She reported that Lt. William O'Conner from PSA 301 would generally come to each monthly ANC meeting and that Lt. Henry from PSA 304 would provide a report in March. She added that she and the Committee were continuing their work on a community survey regarding law enforcement and public safety issues. She then introduced Lt. O'Conner who gave a report and responded to questions. He noted that he could be reached at 202-673-6821. He noted Officer Christopher James was in attendance (PSA 304). Lt. Henry arrived at this time and introduced himself to the community. Ms. Katie Davis stated that the flagrant selling of illegal citizenship documents on Columbia Road was creating an atmosphere of lawlessness. Commissioner Miscuk suggested that a squad car traverse the 18th Street commercial strip at least hourly, especially in the evening. **9.**

Adams Morgan Festival 2000. Commissioner Johnson reintroduced a resolution from the January meeting to support Western Public Interest as Festival organizer. Tom Oliver and a number of residents spoke about the 1999 Festival and the operation of its steering committee. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioner Llorente opposed (explaining that the Commission should be taking positions on various matters required by the Festival organizer, e.g. street closings, etc., rather than the Festival organizer itself), the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the 1999 Adams Morgan Community Festival had the support of ANC 1C as well as various community groups; and WHEREAS, the said Festival proved to be a successful event; and WHEREAS, the Festival financially contributed \$6,688 to neighborhood organizations, schools, etc.; and WHEREAS, the Festival provided full accounting of the funds it had raised and spent; and WHEREAS, Western Public Interest, the same organization which implemented last year's Festival is planning to organize this year's festival; and WHEREAS, more lead time and planning is likely to lead to a more successful festival: NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Commission supports the Festival and WPI as Festival organizers in 2000 as long as the Festival organizers adhere to the same conditions as they did in 1999 in operating the Festival, to wit:

- A. The event will include a broad range of cultural, artistic and athletic activities organized in conjunction with their respective community groups;
- B. The event will be managed in a manner which anticipates and minimizes any negative impacts on Adams Morgan Neighborhoods;
- C. Alcohol can be purchased only from existing, licensed establishments;
- D. Alcohol can only be consumed inside said establishments, not on the street;
- E. The event will have no beer trucks;
- F. The event will have an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the business

community, the Adams Morgan Business and Professional Association, the Kalorama, Lanier Heights and Reed Cooke citizens associations, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and other key constituencies within Adams Morgan.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Festival organizers seek to include and encourage DC art organizations, groups and individuals (including art administrators) in all mediums (including crafts) to participate in the Festival; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Festival organizers seek to expand the Children's Festival aspect of the Festival; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission are authorized to take such actions as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolutions.

Ms. Duperier noted that the Adams School should be included in the allocation of any community proceeds from this year's Festival. **10. Community Announcements.** Joshua Gibson announced that there was an Adams Morgan "OneList" that will collect and send community news, events and concerns by the Internet. Mike Gould announced that the Kalorama Citizens Association was organizing a benefit for the Adams and Marie Reed Schools at Tryst on Thursday, February 10 beginning at 6:00. Commissioner Miscuk announced that Cocktail Charities would raise funds for the Neighborhood Cleanup Drive on Sunday, February 6 at Tryst and that because he would be wearing a skirt, Tryst agreed to match the tips he earns for the charity. Commissioner Miscuk also announced that Councilman Graham would be a guest bartender for Cocktail Charities on February 13 at Chief Ike's Mambo Room. **11. Zoning and Permits Committee Report.** Cafe Aristide. Chairperson Mark Petruzzi reported that the Committee had reached a voluntary agreement with the owners and managers of Cafe Aristide. He explained that the agreement was designed to address the concerns raised by the community and the Commission that resulted in the Commission's protest of Cafe Aristide's ABC license application. In particular, he explained that the agreement prohibited the involvement in any manner by Araya Woldu, the former licensee at this location. In exchange for entering into the agreement, the Commission would withdraw its protest. George Simonides stated that he believes the licensee and members of its management are related to Mr. Woldu and urged the Commission to reject the agreement. Commissioner Mason explained that if such a relationship existed, the Commission's agreement would cause the licensee to lose its license. Commissioner Johnson introduced a resolution to have the Commission withdraw its protest conditioned on the adoption by the Commission of the voluntary agreement with Cafe Aristide and Cafe Aristide's acceptance of the agreement. Her motion was duly seconded. Commissioner Mason noted that the agreement by its terms serves to withdraw the protest. Chairman Petruzzi recommended the Commission adopt the agreement. Upon further discussion, Commissioner Schott motioned the Commission to refer this matter to Committee for further review. His motion was seconded and, upon further discussion, Commissioners Miscuk, Schott, Softli and Wright voting in favor and Commissioners Faith, Johnson, Mason, Letsinger and Llorente voting against, the motion failed. The Commission then voted on the original resolution: Commissioners Faith, Johnson, Mason, Letsinger, Llorente and Softli in favor, Commissioners Miscuk and Wright opposed and Commissioner Schott abstaining, and it was:

RESOLVED, that the Commission approves the Voluntary Agreement with Visions Theater Bistro Cafe regarding its pending ABC license; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes for the foregoing resolution.

Romain's Table. Mr. Petruzzi explained that the Committee discussed the application of Romain's Table, but that the Committee had not reached an agreement yet so that discussion was premature. Ms. Zelda Zeldon cautioned that a 24-hour restaurant might increase panhandling, reduce parking and increase noise. Mr. Henry's. Mr. Petruzzi then noted that new community complaints had come to the attention of the Committee regarding noise at Mr. Henry's. This time, the noise was in front and generally attributable to after-hours operations. Upon further discussion, Commissioner Miscuk introduced the following motion that was duly seconded, Commissioner Johnson opposed, and adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry's is licensed liquor establishment (CR) operating at 1836/1838 Columbia Road; and WHEREAS, A resident at 1844 Columbia Road has issued several well-documented complaints of excessive noise and after hours operation; and WHEREAS, Other residents of the same building have also issued well-documented complaints to this Commission; and WHEREAS, the current management of Mr. Henry's has been slow or unwilling to accept ANC and community recommendations to resolve past problems; and WHEREAS, This Commission believes that the operations at Mr. Henry's adversely affect the peace order and quiet of our neighborhood: NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Commission requests that for the next 60 days, the 3rd District of MPD drive by Mr. Henry's every night to check for noise violations and after hours operations; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Commission requests that the ABC initiate an investigation into the operations of Mr. Henry's regarding noise violations and after hour operations. RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes for the foregoing resolution.

Mr. Petruzzi noted that the Commission in 1999 requested the ABC Board to require Mr. Henry's show cause why it's license should not be suspended for failing to adhere to its terms. He explained that despite numerous calls from him and Commissioner Miscuk, the Commission never received any acknowledgment that its request was being considered. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Miscuk and duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry's is licensed liquor establishment (CR) operating at 1836/1838 Columbia Road. WHEREAS, This commission has previously requested a show-cause hearing to revoke Mr. Henry's Liquor License. WHEREAS, The circumstances prompting that action have for the most part resolved. WHEREAS, The ABC never acknowledged our request or denied it. WHEREAS, This commission believes that this type of breakdown between the ANC and many district services contributes to the poor enforcement of some laws in our city. NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Commission requests that Councilman Graham's Office investigate the circumstances and actions surrounding this event; and RESOLVED FURTHER that the Commission requests that the ABC Board launch an internal investigation the circumstances and actions surrounding this event. RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes for the foregoing resolutions.

Santa Rosa Seafood. Mr. Petruzzi yielded to Commissioner Miscuk who introduced the following resolution that was duly seconded and, after further discussion, Commissioner Softli abstaining, was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa Seafood is licensed liquor establishment (CR) operating at 2222/2214 18th Street, NW; and WHEREAS, The following incident was witnessed by a member of this Commission, Commissioner Miscuk; and WHEREAS, On Monday January 20th, 2000 at approximately 2:30 am, a fire broke out at establishment neighboring Santa Rosa Seafood; and WHEREAS, Prompted by this fire, the patrons, approximately 30 people, of Santa Rosa evacuated the establishment; and WHEREAS, The patrons left the establishment clearly after legal hours of operation; and WHEREAS, It is likely had the fire never occurred that after hours operations would have continued that morning; and WHEREAS, Many of the patrons exiting the establishment, left with drinks in hand, violated ABC law regarding removing beverages from establishment; and WHEREAS, In the opinion of Commissioner Miscuk, many of the individuals exiting the establishment appeared to under the legal age to consume alcohol: NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Commission requests that for the next 60 days, the 3rd District of MPD, drive by Santa Rosa Seafood every night to check for noise violations and after hours operations and RESOLVED FURTHER that the Commission requests that the ABC initiate an investigation into the operations of Santa Rosa Seafood regarding noise violations, after hour operations and most importantly, under age drinking; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes for the foregoing resolutions.

12. Presentation by Ready, Willing & Able. Commissioner Llorente introduced Dr. Rashid from the DC Chapter of Ready, Willing & Able. He described the work of his organization including, its coordination with the Department of Public Works. He explained the 9 - 18 month program in which homeless persons and others with barriers to employment are provided with a decent place to live and a salary. He explained that the program in New York has a 77% success rate and a 79% success rate in the District over the last four years. He explained that when the community or community organizations need help to clean, remove graffiti, program computers and any number of other projects, Ready, Willing & Able should be considered. The Commissioners thanked Dr. Rashid. **13. Grant Request to Urban Rangers.** The Commissioners reviewed the Grant Request submitted to the Commission by Urban Rangers in accordance with the Commission's previously adopted grant procedures. The request was for \$1,000. Commissioner Mason expressed reluctance to grant in excess of five percent of the Commission's cash on hand to a single organization all at once. A number of Commissioners suggested the grant be initially funded with \$500, since nothing prevented the applicant from requesting the additional \$500 at a later date. Upon further discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioners Johnson and Softli abstaining, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby approves a grant of \$500 to Urban Rangers for the reasons stated in its written grant request; and RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Commission shall be and hereby are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purposes for the foregoing resolution.

Joshua Gibson recommended that the Commission address administrative matters at the end of future meetings in the interest of time. **14. 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 March 1, 2000 between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, W. Richard Mason Secretary

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