

ANC 3E March 2008 Meeting Minutes

Announcements:

Commissioner Sullivan announced two public hearings on the proposed restructuring of the Penn. Avenue Line. The hearings are scheduled for March 17th at St. Columbia's Episcopal Church at 7:00pm and on March 19th at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 7:00 pm. Chairperson McVey announced that the spring HHW and e-cycling collection will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre parking lot at 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW.

Open Forum:

Kirsty Columbant, co-chair of the Wisconsin Avenue Beautification Project, requested support from the community for funds to continue to hire a professional company to maintain the plantings on Wisconsin Avenue and distributed literature about the project.

Update from PSA 202:

PC Williams gave an update on PSA 202. Lieutenant Nicole Lindsey (Nicole.Lindsey@dc.gov) was also in attendance and reviewed the procedure to lodge a complaint about the Police Department and/or a police officer. She also gave an overview of the Metropolitan Police Departments environmental prevention program.

Presentation by Janet Miller of the Urban Forestry Administration:

Janet Miller of the Urban Forestry Administration distributed flyers to describe the services offered by the Department. She reviewed the schedule of services that include street tree planting and removal, pruning and elm tree and ginkgo tree services as well as the Citizens' Watering Campaign. She urged citizens to notify the office (202-671-5133) if they notice anyone removing a tree without a permit and to call 311 if they have concerns about the condition of a tree. Comments from the community included concerns about the damage to trees made by the equipment of

those fixing the roads and pavements and Ms. Miller stated that the department had an ongoing commitment to facilitate conversations between the two groups.

Presentation by Alice Kelly of DDOT on a proposed visitors parking pass pilot:

Alice Kelly announced that DDOT was working on a visitor parking pass pilot for Ward 3. While she distributed flyers describing the program she noted that each pilot program throughout the city would differ to accommodate the requirements of each neighborhood. Commissioner Sherman supported this initiative to tailor programs to meet the needs of each community due the problems with student parking within ANC 3E. A general discussion took place about the privacy issues involved with having resident addresses printed on the passes as well as concerns that there was too much parking in high commercial areas, such as Tenleytown. Ms Kelly reiterated that the program was intended to be convenience to households, particularly for those who needed care for their children or for the elderly. If residents need more information on the program they can call the Public Space Policy Branch at 202-671-2333.

Discussion of and possible vote on an application to appeal a decision to deny a building permit for 5013 Belt Road:

Stephanie Wallace introduced herself as the owner of 5013 Belt Road. Ms. Wallace was represented by her attorney John Patrick Brown, Jr. The house had been purchased in April 2004 and the owner was granted a building permit to build an addition on the house. By keeping the existing structure, the owner gained the grandfathered, non-conforming side yards of a small part of the old house and was therefore able to extend the narrow side yard deep into the lot. Both Ms. Wallace and Mr. Brown represented that the house had been purchased without a structural survey and that during the period of construction extensive termite damage had been discovered in the wood that framed the original part of the house. It was determined that the original structure should be razed. It was at this stage, in September 2007, that DCRA denied the permit to build the addition since the razing of the original structure would mean that the construction site no longer conformed to existing zoning regulations. The owner asked the Commission to support her appeal of the decision to deny her the building permit so she could see the project through to conclusion. The discussion was opened to the community and the

neighbors of the property argued that the appeal should be denied. It was their contention that the property had been intentionally left open to the elements, thereby advancing the existing damage and that it had been the intention of the developer and the contractor, at the start of the project, to take down the total existing structure while simultaneously building the addition. A factual dispute arose between the owner and the neighbors as to whether a stop order issued by DCRA was genuine. While being sympathetic to the costs that the owner had incurred, they also contented that the construction had caused considerable damage to nearby properties and that Ms. Wallace had made no attempt to address the expenses that they had incurred. Commissioner Eldridge suggested that the neighbors and the owner of the property meet with her to try and find a satisfactory conclusion that both sides could live with prior to the hearing date of the appeal on April 29th, 2008. Based on the results of the meeting, the Commission would vote on their decision at the April ANC 3E meeting.

Janney School Proposals - discussion and possible resolution:

Commissioner Sullivan read a proposed resolution to ask that the city oppose all three proposals for the public-private partnership development at the Janney School site stating that the city has not thoroughly assessed whether it should enter into a public-private partnership and that the community's interest would be better served by leaving the modernization of Janney School in the hands of DCPS rather than by adopting any of the three proposals submitted. Commissioner Sullivan proposed a motion to post the draft resolution on the website and this was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. The motion was passed 4-0. Commissioner Sullivan proposed a second motion to recommend that the city not accept any of the three proposals it had received for the Janney School and this was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. The motion was passed 4-0.

ANC 3E Business:

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman and the vote passed by 4-0.

The Commission approved the following checks:

- 1238 to Doug Ward for \$450.00 for website maintenance
- 1239 to Sue Hemberger for \$120.56 for document copying costs at Kinkos
- 1240 to Sue Hemberger for \$28.49 for document copying costs at Kinkos
- 1241 to Anne Sullivan for \$41.00 for 100 first class stamps

1242 to Anne Sullivan for \$20.00 for parking at the Council Oversight Hearing on 3/07/08

The February 2008 minutes were tabled until the April 2008 meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy McVey, Chair