

Minutes of ANC 3E Special Meeting, July 30, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Chairperson Jon Bender. Commissioners Matt Frumin, Sam Serebin and Lucy Eldridge were also present.

Discussion of, and possible vote on, application for special exception to build addition to rear of house at 4355 Fessenden Street, NW (BZA Case No. 17956)

The Owner of 4355 Fessenden Street, Northwest, together with his architect, presented plans for the renovation and expansion of this single family house located at the corner of Fessenden and 44th Street. Many neighbors from the block were present at the meeting and voiced their concerns about the impact the proposed addition would have on their ability to enjoy their property.

There was a detailed and lengthy discussion between the commissioners, the applicant and his architect, and the neighbors regarding many topics, including: whether the applicant will actually occupy the premises (some believed that he would not live there despite his representation to the contrary); the precise length of the shadows the proposed structure would cast; whether there were two bedrooms on the first floor (as the plans indicate) or just one (as the applicant stated was the case, conceding that the plans contained an error); the need to conduct a hydrology study to make sure that the construction will not aggravate the existing water problems on the block; and the unsightly fence that sits on the property, which, to the pleasure of all the neighbors, the applicant agreed to take down.

In order to resolve the differences between the neighbors and the applicant, Commissioner Bender suggested that the parties agree to postpone the BZA hearing so that an agreeable solution could be reached, thus obviating the need to oppose the request for the special exception. Although the applicant expressed a willingness to talk to neighbors, he was not inclined to agree to delay the hearing as he could not be guaranteed a specific date for a continuance. The applicant said that he had waited eight months to get to this point.

Commissioner Bender offered a resolution opposing the application as presented, but asking for a postponement of the hearing to allow the neighbors an opportunity to work out an agreeable alternative design. Commissioner Serebin seconded it and the resolution passed unanimously.

Discussion of, and possible vote on, IONA proposal to install series of public benches at Tenleytown locations

IONA Senior Service's submitted an application to the DC Department of Transportation for Enhancement Funding to install 28 benches in Tenleytown. Consistent with its mission to help older people live with dignity and independence, IONA is asking the District for money to support the installation of benches in the neighborhood for the benefit of seniors who shop, walk, and live in the area. IONA is flexible with the precise placement of the benches and will consult with adjacent property owners and also with the DC office of Cultural Tourism regarding their placement so as not to interfere, if possible, with the Tenleytown Heritage Trail.

Commissioner Frumin introduced a resolution supporting the application. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion and the resolution passed unanimously.

ANC Business

Approval of quarterly report for the April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 quarter

Commissioner Eldridge moved that the quarterly report be approved; Chairperson Bender seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's report

Commissioner Eldridge moved to adopt the June Treasurer's report; Chairperson Bender seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of June 2009 Meeting Minutes

Discussion deferred until next meeting.

Approval of contract for staff

Discussion deferred until next meeting.