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## Minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-D

*These minutes accepted at the March 21, 2017 meeting.*

### Meeting call to order

[7:02 pm] At 7:02 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Romero-Latin. Present were all five Commissioners, constituting a quorum. Hearsay Interpreting provided simultaneous interpretation into Spanish.

### Agenda approval

[7:03 pm] The proposed agenda was accepted.

### Public discussion

[7:04 pm] The meeting continued with the mandatory Public Discussion period.

### Secretary's report

[7:13 pm] No corrections were noted for the draft minutes of the January 24 meeting, which were declared accepted.

### Treasurer's report

[7:14 pm] Treasurer Stuart Karaffa provided a report. The usual routine items were mentioned: Checks to James True, \$75, postering for the February meeting; HearSay Interpreting, \$100, interpreting at the February meeting; Julio Lopez, \$30, for assistance at the February meeting. Stuart noted that the ANC Security Fund submission had been approved by the DC Auditor.

Jack noted that, because of the difficulty in getting all the officers to the bank at one time, only three of the officers may sign checks, namely Treasurer Stuart, Vice chair Jon, and himself. Every check this year will have to have Treasurer Stuart Karaffa's signature.

### Voting rights for noncitizen permanent residents

[7:16 pm] Jack introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Council Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, and the

District Council, to approve the Local Residents Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2017, Council bill B22-074.

**Why:** Many District residents, and an estimated 21% of Mount Pleasant residents, are legal, permanent residents of the United States, working and paying taxes in the District, and yet not allowed to vote, lacking citizenship. That they have not achieved citizenship does not change their being taxed without representation, which we all agree is wrong. As was commonly the case in the United States before the anti-immigrant fervor of the early 20th century, legal residents should be allowed to vote, regardless of citizenship status.

This ANC has supported voting rights for noncitizen residents since 2003. In 2005, for a special election to fill an ANC vacancy, this commission invited noncitizen residents of Mount Pleasant to vote, though such votes could be only symbolic, and did not count towards the actual election. That was, nonetheless, a demonstration to the large immigrant population of Mount Pleasant that they have a right to be heard in local elections, and a number of our neighbors did cast ballots in that election, even though they would not count. That surely confirmed the desire noncitizen residents have in taking part in local government.

The District complains about taxation without representation being inflicted on District residents, as a result of the District's having no voting representation in Congress. If taxation without representation is wrong for District residents, paying Federal taxes, then surely it is wrong also for noncitizen residents of the District, paying District taxes. Extension of voting rights to noncitizen residents would affirm the validity of the District's complaints about Federal taxation without representation.

In 2015 this ANC supported the bill in Council that would extend the right to vote in local elections to noncitizen residents. We reiterate that support today, for the Local Residents Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2017.

*Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote.*

## **Stipulated liquor license for Mola Restaurant**

[7:19 pm] Jack requested permission to send the following letter to ABRA, to provide a stipulated liquor license for the Mola Restaurant, soon to open:

Re: K&E LLC, t/a Mola Restaurant, 3155 Mount Pleasant St NW, application for a CT license

At its regularly scheduled and legally noticed public meeting of February 21, 2017, with a quorum present, on a 5 to 0 vote, ANC1D passed a resolution stating that it supports, and “has no objection to a stipulated license” for this applicant. This is to satisfy the requirement of DCMR 23, 200.1(b) that the applicant “must submit to the ABC Board written correspondence from an ANC officer where the applicant's premises is located stating that the ANC has voted with a quorum present not to object to the issuance of a stipulated license to the applicant pending completion of the 45-day protest period”.

*Letter approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

## **Sixteenth Street bus stop consolidation**

[7:29 pm] Stuart introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1D advises the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) to take the following steps regarding bus stops on 16th Street NW:

- (1) Provide ANC 1D commissioners with internal traffic studies, external research reports, or other documentation that DDOT used to support the planned elimination of the bus stops on 16th Street NW at Newton Street and on 16th Street NW at Lamont Street,
- (2) Provide ANC 1D commissioners with internal traffic studies, external research reports, or other documentation that DDOT used to support the planned relocation of the bus stop at 16th Street and

Irving Street NW, and

- (3) Work with the 1D ANC commissioners and neighborhood residents on a comprehensive solution to objections to eliminating and relocating bus stops on 16th Street.

**Why:** In reading the transit study on which DDOT based its bus stop elimination plan, this commission noted that DDOT failed to include any documentation to support eliminating or relocating bus stops on 16th Street. Therefore, this commission requests that DDOT provide any documentation that would support eliminating or relocated the bus stops.

Additionally, on April 25, 2016, previous commissioners of ANC 1D passed a resolution that advised DDOT to retain the (existing bus stops on 16th Street NW at Newton Street, and on 16th Street NW at Lamont Street. The rationale for this resolution still holds true today:

“This commission recognizes that the reasoning behind the proposed removal of these bus stops is to expedite bus travel, and hence encourage more bus use. However, because the people boarding buses at these stops would presumably simply walk to the Park Road bus stop and board there, it seems that there would be little net benefit to the pace of bus transit. It should be noted that this stretch of Park Road, from Spring Road to Irving Street, consists principally of large apartment houses, and has the highest density of residents everywhere along the 16th Street bus routes, so numerous bus stops along this area are warranted. Requiring these residents to walk an additional block or two to reach the closest bus stops is likely to discourage bus transit, an outcome contrary to the purpose of these bus transit improvements, which is essentially to encourage the use of buses in the city. Furthermore, some residents would be unable to walk that additional distance, and would be deterred from taking the bus altogether.”

*Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote.*

## **ANC1D Committee policy**

[7:34 pm] Jon moved the following as ANC1D committee policy:

Resolved, that each commissioner may appoint up to two community members of ANC 1D to each of the Transportation, Public Space, and Housing standing committees, with these committees to be considered operational by the commission's third regular meeting. Should a commissioner's appointed member resign, a new appointment by the commissioner may be made. All committee members may choose to provide their individual written comments to the commission concerning recommendations. Commissioners shall be considered non-voting ex officio members of these committees, with full right to participate in committee discussions.

The following ANC1D by-laws are hereby rescinded:

Article X, Section 2. Members of standing committees shall be ANC 1D Commissioners.

Article X, Section 4. Standing committees shall report at regular meetings as requested by the chair.

*Resolution passed, 4 to 0 vote, with one abstention (Yasmin).*

## **District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan**

[7:58 pm] Stuart introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D adds its name to the diverse group of D.C.-area organizations and companies that support the below statement of priorities for housing and community development in the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan. The priorities are below:

1. Meet the housing demand.
2. Equitably distribute housing.

3. Best utilize areas near transit.
4. Include families.
5. Prioritize affordable housing as a community benefit.
6. Preserve existing affordable housing
7. Protect tenants
8. Support neighborhood commercial corridors
9. Clarify zoning authority
10. Improve data collection and transparency.

**Why:** The District of Columbia has recently experienced rising housing prices that make the city an increasingly unaffordable place to live. A lack of affordable housing has been particularly acute in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. In 2016, the median home sale price in Mount Pleasant was \$760,000, which was 40 percent higher than the regional median sale price of \$446,000. Nationwide, the median home sale price was \$322,000.

In looking to the future of D.C.'s housing market, it's possible to build new housing (including affordable housing), protect the needs of tenants in redevelopment, and grow the District's tax base in a way that makes business sense and advances the public good.

The D.C. government is working on revising the city's Comprehensive Plan, a document that city leaders use to guide how the city will grow and change in the coming decades. The D.C. Office of Planning is going to submit amendments to the Comprehensive Plan this year (the current version was adopted in 2006).

A diverse group of D.C.-area organizations – to include for-profit companies and non-profit community organizations – have developed a statement of priorities to ensure that affordable housing and community development are significant components of the Comprehensive Plan. By including these priorities in the comprehensive plan, the D.C. Office of Planning will ensure that the city government takes steps to alleviate the housing crisis in our cities. These priorities appear in full below:

1. Meet the housing demand. Through the Comprehensive Plan, the District should forecast, plan for, and encourage the creation and preservation of a supply of housing (market-rate and subsidized affordable) to meet the demand at all income levels. The supply of housing should be sufficient to slow rising costs of rental and for-sale housing.
2. Equitably distribute housing. Through the Comprehensive Plan, the District should fight against segregation, foster equitable access to opportunity, and comply with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) priorities. The District should require that every part of the city participate in adding housing to meet the need for all income levels, with an emphasis on transit and commercial corridors.
3. Best utilize areas near transit. When redevelopment occurs on blocks surrounding Metrorail stations and priority transit corridors, the District should, through the Comprehensive Plan, permit and encourage mixed-use developments of medium to high density. To the extent feasible, redevelopments involving increased zoning should include affordable housing in excess of what is required by inclusionary zoning.
4. Include families. The District should be a city that houses people of all income levels and of all household sizes, including families. Through the Comprehensive Plan, the District should promote the creation and preservation of 3+ bedroom units along with other housing types.
5. Prioritize affordable housing as a community benefit. When rezoning or granting significant zoning relief, the District should affirm through the Comprehensive Plan that affordable housing (in addition to any underlying requirement) is the highest priority benefit and that other community benefits should be long-lasting.

6. Preserve existing affordable housing. When redevelopment occurs on properties with housing made affordable through subsidy, covenant, or rent control, the District, Zoning Commission, and neighborhoods should work with landowners to create redevelopment plans that preserve such units or replace any lost ones with similar units either on-site or nearby. These entities should provide the necessary density and/or potential funding to ensure it is financially feasible to reinvest in the property with no net loss of affordable units.
7. Protect tenants. Through the Comprehensive Plan, the District should ensure that when affordable housing is undergoing redevelopment, tenants have a relocation plan, are allowed to continue their tenancy with minimal disruption, and will have the right to return to their units or an equivalent replacement. Whenever feasible, redevelopment should observe build-first principles.
8. Support neighborhood commercial corridors. Through the Comprehensive Plan, the District should encourage the success of neighborhood commercial corridors and locally owned businesses, especially in disadvantaged communities. This includes increased housing density that supports businesses and providing equitable opportunities for locally owned businesses in mixed-use and commercial developments.
9. Clarify zoning authority. Through the Comprehensive Plan, the District should affirm that the Zoning Commission has the purview to allow increased density for Planned Unit Developments that supersedes the levels in the Comprehensive Plan's maps in exchange for community benefits.
10. Improve data collection and transparency. The District should provide the highest quality public data. It should standardize housing-related data collection across agencies, and release all data and forecast analyses to the public, to facilitate transparency and regular reporting on the status and progress of housing-related programs. Data should include a comprehensive housing database and demand-based forecasts alongside existing supply-based (pipeline) forecasts.

After considerable discussion of this resolution, Stuart moved that this be tabled until the March meeting.  
*Motion to table approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

## **Express bus service for 14th Street**

[8:18 pm] Stuart introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1D advises the government of the District of Columbia to fund the initial operating cost of an express bus service for the 14th Street NW bus lines at an equal contribution (in current year's dollars) as it funded the Georgia Avenue NW and 16th Street NW MetroExtra express bus lines, and that this bus line become operational as soon as that funding is made available.

**Why:** The 14th Street corridor is between two and three blocks away from a large portion of ANC 1D in Mount Pleasant. Therefore, issues along this corridor are particularly relevant to the interest of ANC 1D residents. I myself take the 14th Street buses often and find myself stuck in traffic on those buses along with the 16th Street buses. ANC 1D is following the lead of ANC 1A in endorsing express bus service for 14<sup>th</sup> Street, passing through 1A.

The 14th Street NW corridor has seen a significant amount of construction of the past ten years, which has produced new residential complexes, government facilities, and businesses. This development boom has resulted in an influx of new residents and visitors to the area.

With more people living, working, shopping, and dining on the 14th Street Corridor, more people are also now using the bus lines on 14th Street. About 14,900 residents use the line on an average weekday, which makes 14th Street one of the most-used bus lines in D.C.

Indeed, in a 2012 study and in subsequent reports, DDOT has identified the 14th Street bus lines as having

reliability issues and related overcrowding problems. When buses are crowded on the 14th Street line —with 16th Street only two blocks away—residents of 14th Street are likely to walk to the 16th Street buses, which can make 16th Street bus overcrowding even worse, and vice versa. I've walked down to the 14th Street buses to take those buses as opposed to the 16th Street buses.

An extra express bus line on 14th Street NW would increase capacity for that corridor and, therefore, would prevent 14th Street residents from needing to use our 16th Street buses and contribute to overcrowding on either bus lines.

*Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote.*

## **Adjourn**

[8:41 pm] The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.