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Minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

These minutes accepted at the June 20, 2017 meeting.

Meeting call to order

[7:05 pm] At 7:05 pm, Chairperson Yasmin Romero-Latin called the meeting to order. Present were all five Commissioners, constituting a quorum. Hearsay Interpreting provided simultaneous interpretation into Spanish.

Agenda agreement

[7:06 pm] The commission agreed on the agenda for the evening. Specifically, the Unfinished Business topic, District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan, was tabled until the June meeting.

Public discussion

[7:07 pm] The meeting continued with the mandatory Public Discussion period.

Secretary's report

[7:16 pm] No corrections were noted for the draft minutes of the April 25 meeting, which were declared accepted.

Treasurer's report

[7:17 pm] Treasurer Stuart Karaffa reported. The usual consent items were approved. Stuart requested approval of an expenditure of up to \$700 for the replacement of burnt-out bulbs in the fiesta lamps over Mount Pleasant Street. *Expenditure approved, 5 to 0 vote.*

John C. Green

[7:18 pm] John Green, Community Engagement Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, addressed the meeting.

DDOT on the Mount Pleasant Street Streetlight Project

[7:34 pm] The meeting undertook a discussion of the ongoing streetlight upgrading project on Mount Pleasant Street. Ray Rasson led the group from DDOT.

Mount Pleasant Streetlight Upgrade

[7:48 pm] Jack introduced his resolution concerning the streetlight upgrade:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Department of Transportation to proceed with the Mount Pleasant Street streetlight upgrade, employing LED lamps of the lowest feasible Correlated Color Temperature (CCT).

Why: The Washington Upright and Teardrop streetlight fixtures will be a welcome improvement over the "cobra" lights currently installed on Mount Pleasant Street. The LED lamps promise a very substantial reduction in energy consumption, with environmental and cost benefits. However, ANC1D is concerned about the spectral quality of the LED lamps, which are inherently much bluer than the high-pressure sodium vapor lamps to which Mount Pleasant residents are accustomed. The blue tint can be perceived as cold and harsh, and will no doubt lead to complaints, such as have already been heard with the installation of LED streetlights in Mount Pleasant alleys.

ANC1D wishes assurance that the LED lamps to be used in these Mount Pleasant Street fixtures are as close to a spectral match with traditional streetlights as feasible, within the limitations of current LED technology.

Passed, 5 to 0 vote.

Time limit for parked cars

[7:58 pm] Jack introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Council of the District of Columbia to impose a limit on the time a car can be left stationary on public space, perhaps 45 days. After that period of time it should be possible to declare the vehicle abandoned, and initiate the procedure for an owner to retrieve and remove his car.

Why: Current law provides no limit on the time a car can be left parked on public space, the onetime 72-hour limit having been rescinded in 2003. A car can be left in place indefinitely, representing an extremely inefficient use of a limited public resource. Such a car cannot easily be declared abandoned, because the provisions of the DC Code defining an "abandoned vehicle" are very hard to satisfy. In practice, it is impossible to have an abandoned car declared abandoned until the registration expires, which may be many months.

ANC1D suggests 45 days as a suitable maximum duration for a car to be parked, unmoved, on public space. Shorter terms can encounter difficulties with residents on vacations or business trips.

Passed, 5 to 0 vote.

Statement on DC Fiscal Policy Institute's Untie DC's Hands letter

[8:01 pm] Jon introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the DC Council to consider the recommendations raised by the DC Fiscal Policy Institute's "Untie DC's Hands" letter, to reinvest current and future surpluses wisely in education, mass transit, and housing, so as to ensure more DC residents become financially resilient, and to implement only a portion of the automatic tax cuts anticipated for 2018.

Why: DC's economy remains strong, as does the DC government's balance sheet, but the temporary hiring freeze put in place by the federal government, proposed cuts to the federal workforce and budget, and threatened withholding of federal funds to sanctuary cities all raise great uncertainty about the local economy's immediate future. While taxes in DC are high, so, too, is its level of economic disparity, and tax cuts, once implemented, are difficult to roll back.

Without greater investment in education, transportation, and affordable housing, many DC residents will be hard hit the next time the regional economy cools. DC's elected officials would be foolish to squander the

current opportunity to continue such investments and make significant gains in combatting homelessness and poverty.

At the same time, the automatic tax cuts represent sound policy generated by a sound process, and they should be phased in over the next few years, in the recommended order. The first several tax cuts scheduled would benefit our more vulnerable residents in Mount Pleasant now, as well as our many small and local businesses. The tax cuts coming later on the schedule also make sense in order to narrow the gap between DC's tax regime and those of surrounding states, but a prudent, temporary delay in their implementation will not have as harmful an impact on our community.

Passed, 5 to 0 vote.

1745 Harvard Street Historic Preservation permit

[8:15 pm] Stuart introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board to support the proposed back addition project at 1745 Harvard Street NW.

Why: The D.C. Historic Preservation Office staff report dated April 27, 2017 found that the proposed back addition at 1745 Harvard Street NW is compatible with the character of the Mount Pleasant Historic District. Historic Mount Pleasant has approved the design concept. ANC 1D was presented with plans for the project in advance and concurs with the Historic Preservation Office staff report.

Passed, 5 to 0 vote.

Mobile technology training lab parking

[8:18 pm] Stuart introduced this resolution:

Resolved, that ANC 1D supports the request of non-profit organizations Trabajadores Unidos de DC and Byte Back DC, sponsored by the Office of Latino Affairs, to park a mobile technology training lab at 3124 Mt. Pleasant Street NW from the hours of 6-8 PM on all Mondays-Wednesdays in June 2017 (specifically, on the dates of June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28).

Why: The mobile technology training program offered by Byte Back DC – in partnership with Trabajadores Unidos de DC – equips local residents with technology skills by holding training sessions aboard a mobile technology lab. The program has requested to park the mobile technology lab (which is about the size of a small truck) along Mount Pleasant Street NW on twelve days next month.

This program is important to our community because many Mount Pleasant residents may have not have training on how to use computers and other technologies. This free program will teach residents a wide array of computer skills, which are important in helping residents search for and apply to jobs, along with accessing city services. Because these training classes will take place in Byte Back's mobile technology training lab – parked in the community of need – the classes will be closer to and more accessible to community members.

The program is working with the Fourth District of the DC Metropolitan Police Department to secure the necessary permits. Specifically, the program is coordinating with Derek Staten, Community Relations Coordinator for the MPD Fourth District. Mr. Staten has confirmed that he will assist this program to obtain parking for the mobile training lab.

Passed, 5 to 0 vote.

Adjourn

[8:36 pm] The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.