

“Open Agenda” Notes for the June 26, 2018 meeting of ANC1D

Agenda approval

Public discussion

“Each Commission shall set aside a portion of each public meeting *to hear the views of residents* within the Commission area and other affected persons on problems or issues of concern within the Commission area and on proposed District government actions that affect the Commission area.”

Chair's report

- Brown Street Market

Vice-chair's report

Committee reports:

Transportation (Jon)

Public Space (Stuart)

Housing (Paul)

Secretary's report

Minutes of the May 22 meeting (draft sent out May 28).

Treasurer's report

Consent items: Checks to James True, \$75, postering for the June meeting; HearSay Interpreting, \$100, interpreting at the June meeting; Julio Lopez, \$30, for assistance at the June meeting.

Unfinished business

New business

1. Advising HPRB Approval for 1627 Monroe St NW, HPA 18-314

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board to approve the installed window for case 18-314, at 1627 Monroe St NW, with appropriate suggestions to improve its compatibility, such as how to better match the mortar, and to permit Commissioner Jon Stewart to testify at the hearing on its behalf.

Why: The HPO Staff Report discusses a number of factors of this particular case that mitigate the serious concerns that come with altering a front elevation for large windows. First, in the staff

report's words, "the chosen windows are compatible replacements." Second, the front porch, lack of a second window on the first floor for comparison, similar height, plain design, and proliferation of similar Meadowbrook houses across DC argues in favor of compatibility. Certainly, this alteration is more compatible than pre-HD alterations to several of the Meadowbrook houses on nearby Brown Street. Third, the size and period of this house reflects the leaner times of the 1930s and, consequently, these houses have fewer windows and less opportunity for skylights and other interior alterations that severely limit the amount of natural light inside the home, in comparison with Mount Pleasant's older rowhouses. It is therefore understandable that the homeowner would wish to expand the south-facing window to gain more natural light.

The final issue the staff report discusses, and implicates as the determining factor in recommending denial, is that the alteration was made without review and approval. Obviously there is legitimate concern about moral hazards, but ANC 1D trusts that both HPO and the Board will remain sure-footed on any encountered slippery slopes. This case should be evaluated as all others, and it is not the Board's job to mete out punishment for unpermitted construction. In this case, the new homeowner was unaware of how the preservation review process worked and was assured by his contractor that all necessary permits had been obtained, and yet managed to choose a compatible design. DC does not go out of its way to educate new homeowners in HDs about preservation review—surely the considerable recordation tax for a newly-purchased home in an HD can pay for a form letter to a new homeowner advising them of their obligations to historic preservation.

2. Approve stipulated license for Addis Paris Cafe

Resolved, that ANC1D has no objection to a stipulated license for the Addis Paris Cafe, ABRA-110083, 3103 Mount Pleasant Street NW.

3. Permit July 4 work at Bancroft (Jack)

Resolved, that ANC1D advises approval of the application by the Bancroft Elementary project contractor for construction work on July 4, 2018, 7 AM to 7 PM.