

2/20/07

Re: DC Zoning Commission Case # 05-42

Sibley Hospital Expansion--Zoning Hearing

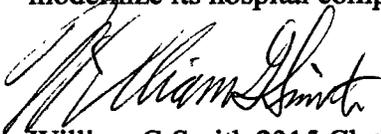
About 50 years ago, the Palisades Citizens Association [PCA] worked with Sibley Hospital to relocate on unused land bordering the reservoir and Maryland. I realized that not only would Sibley provide desired and needed medical facilities nearby, but also it would prevent other less desirable use of that land. In the intervening decades PCA has continued its support to ensure that our hospital improved and continued its role as a leading medical facility in Washington.

Issues facing Zoning Officials are whether you will prevent that medical care advance or accept the criticisms of minor officials claiming expertise in providing modern medical care.

Time is money. In this case it also affects quality of medical care. In medical practice doctors can expand patient load by eliminating the time commuting between hospital and office if their offices are at the hospital. The number of doctors so inconvenienced relates to the size and specialties at the hospital. These and many similar factors dictate the efficiencies and economics of Sibley's calculations of size of expansion. As a non-profit hospital Sibley must modernize or perish. We want this expansion!

Our ANCD-3 officials proudly appear before zoning officials claiming expertise in hospital and medical care economics, management, and architecture. Could they have gained their expertise from these zoning hearings? Certainly not from our PCA for which they cannot speak. Actually, when this zoning issue was officially discussed before about 100 at a PCA meeting last year, their position was defeated- 2 votes for Sibley to every 1 vote against- 35 to 18. Their proposed 40% reduction in building size lacks economic, medical, and architectural justification and has never been discussed in PCA. Have they presented necessary documentary backup justifying their proposal?

Isn't it time for our Sibley Hospital to be allowed to make necessary improvements to modernize its hospital complex?



William G Smith 2315 Chain Bridge Rd. NW, Past President, PCA 362-6949

CC Jennifer Steingrasser-- DC Office of Planning

2007 FEB 22 11:39:01

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 0542

EXHIBIT NO. 20

ZONING COMMISSION
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CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 201