Jacqueline R. Mitchell

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Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2004 9:21 AM
Subject: March 2004 ANC4C meeting minutes

Here you go....have fun. I usually make 25 copies of this for the meeting - 10 for the commissioners and 15 for the community. Someone should also print out a sign-in sheet for the meeting and about 25 copies of the agenda I emailed last week.

Good luck!
Kristen

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4C GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2004

A regular meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4C was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004. Commissioner Timothy A. Jones, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM in the MPD Northern Regional Operation Command Center (ROC), 801 Shepherd Street, NW.

Commissioners present included: Jackie Mitchell 4C02, Shawn Fenty 4C03, Kristen Barden 4C05 (Secretary), David Jannarone 4C06 (Parliamentarian), Karen Archer 4C07 (Treasurer), Timothy Jones 4C08 (Chair), George Brown 4C09, Janis Williams 4C10 (Co-Chair). These members constituted a quorum.

The following members were absent: Alfreda "Chi" Mauuso 4C01 and Steve Leraris 4C04.

February 2004 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the February 11, 2004 general meeting were read and approved with corrections. Ms. Archer motioned to accept minutes. Mr. Brown seconded, and vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Bylaws committee - no report -
Small grants committee - no report - There will a small grants committee meeting later this month - day/time TBD.
Budget committee - no report

Treasurer's Report

None - As of today, the Treasurer cannot write checks, as names have not been transferred on account at Industrial Bank. Ms. Barden requested that this be taken care of this week because there are three months of outstanding bills/payments.

Correspondence

BZA
Case No. 17163
Exhibit No. 43

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17163
EXHIBIT NO. 43

Mr. Jones read correspondence in reference to the following:

ANC4C received notice of a zoning hearing on 4/27/04 regarding converting the First Baptist Church at 710 Randolph Street from 2 stories to 4 stories. This is currently zoned R4. Mr. Jones will invite Rev. Tucker to attend the ANC 4/13/04 meeting.

Special Guests

1) Art Lawson from WMATA.
Art Lawson (202-962-1050) is the Government Relations Officer.
Mr. Lawson was unable to attend this meeting and asked to reschedule to the April 13 meeting.

2) Fred Moosally, 202-442-4355, legal counsel for DC's Alcohol Beverage Regulation Authority (ABRA), reviewed the process for community input in renewal/new liquor licenses.

Mr. Moosally said there are currently 5 ABRA Board members and Peter Feather will be the sixth board member if he is confirmed on 3/18/04. There are 12 ABRA investigators and hopefully another 4 will be hired soon. There are 45 days to file a protest or letter of support once placards are placed in the window of an alcohol vendor. There needs to be a clearly articulated reason to oppose in protest resolution (negative effect on "peace, order and quiet" are common reasons to protest). The roll call hearing is 60 days after deadline to file protest/support. The status hearing follows 30 days after the roll call. Then if the protestants and vendor can not agree on a voluntary agreement the status hearing then moves to a protest hearing 30 days later. The ABRA Board can create a moratorium on new licenses or any combination of licenses.

There will be a DC Council hearing on April 6th re: a city-wide moratorium on single sales of alcohol. Residents can file a referendum to oppose/support also, need 600 residents' signatures. Residents can file up until the point that Council changes resolution.

Voluntary agreements run with the terms of the license. If the license is sold/transferred, the voluntary agreement is still binding. The enforcement of voluntary agreements is critical and ABRA is working on improvement of that enforcement.

If the ANC or a group of 5 or more residents protest a liquor license renewal or new license, it is very important that the group designate someone to represent the group, because if no one is present at the hearing at ABRA the protest is forfeited.

Mr. Moosally distributed copies of sample voluntary agreements. Mr. Moosally's job is to provide legal advice to the ABRA board during their weekly hearings. He is to remain neutral and fully informed about board hearings. He helps with investigations and answers questions from the public.

Mr. Moosally clarified that proximity to schools refers to all schools not just public ones. He also mentioned that resolutions should be on the ANC meeting agenda. The ANC can hold special emergency meetings to deal with ABRA resolutions. He emphasized that it is HIGHLY DESIRABLE that the resolutions be on the agenda but isn't required. Mr. Brown asked a question about the likelihood of creating "state stores" versus all the little "mom&pop" liquor stores in DC. Mr. Moosally replied that because the Class A, B, and C stores compete for sales that the prices are more competitive for the consumer.

Community residents or the ANC can enter into a voluntary agreement with a liquor licensee at

any time and does not have to be through a protest process. A Memorandum of Understand (MOU) can be placed in the file at any time.

Should a protest hearing require mediation, Cynthia Simms 202-442-4496, is the conflict resolution/community outreach specialist on staff at ABRA and her cell phone is 202-329-6356.

3) Mr. Paul Schwartz, works for DC Water Watch and LEAD - Lead Emergency Action for DC, phone 202-895-0420 Ext. 105, email pschwartz@cleanwater.org

Mr. Schwartz is resident of ANC4B and lives on 4th Street. He also has a 1-year old son. He mostly works on national water issues but is reacting to the immediate health issues with the lead in the drinking water in DC.

The Problem
Mr. Schwartz said that lead is a problem throughout DC because the houses are old. In 1978 lead was banned from paint. However for children, 50% of the lead consumed is absorbed into their bones. Lead is absorbed by the food you cook in it also - rice, pasta, potatoes, etc...In 2000, 6,100 homes were tested for high lead levels in the drinking water, of those 2,300 had high lead levels. There isn't a safe level of lead in drinking water. The EPA will have to bless the new program being developed by WASA. They will have 15 years to complete the swap of old pipes. Another problem is that WASA doesn't know where the lead service lines are because the records are so old.

The Solutions
Pregnant women and kids under 6 should drink an alternative source of water. Get lead level tested starting in DC every 6 months. Federal government acts like the state in DC through the Army Corps of Engineers. The federal government needs to bring resources to the Army Corps of Engineers so they can better monitor water quality. The federal government also needs to issue an emergency action order. There will be a community meeting on March 27th to discuss this emergency action order. No location set yet. Mr. Schwartz is working with the DC Consumer Law Center to develop a lifeline rate for water users.

Community Forum

1) Amanda Heron, lives in Mt. Pleasant but works for the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development in DC. She advocated for full funding of the Housing Production Trust Fund by DC Council and a resolution in support of the same from ANC4C. The Department of Housing and Community Development distributes the funds in the Trust Fund twice a year.
2) Amanda Davis lives on Upshur Street, NW. She is concerned about a house on her street that appears to be involved with lots of drugs/fighting/trash/litter. She talked to Merrit Drucker during the meeting. Ms. Williams suggested she contact the US Attorney's office at the 4th District Police Dept. offices on Georgia Avenue.
3) Mr. Boye Aromolaran wants a zoning variance for 4016 Georgia Avenue to build an 8 unit luxury condo building. This property is in Karen Archer's SMD and she asked that the issue be deferred until the April ANC4C meeting.

Old Business

1) Ms. Williams will reschedule the Xerox copying machine demonstration for the next ANC4C executive session.

2) Ms. Williams also mentioned that we are still in desperate need of a paid secretary. She developed a job description but this has never been discussed. Ms. Archer mentioned she thought Mr. Jones should come up with a plan to furnish and staff our office at the ROC for discussion by the whole commission.
3) Ms. Mitchell mentioned that she sent a copy of our resolution on Amazing Life Games to DCRA. DCRA assigned it case #17163.

New Business

1) Mr. Jannarone presented a resolution in support of full-funding for the Housing Production Trust Fund in the 2005 fiscal year budget. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
2) Vote on a resolution regarding the installation of speed bumps in the 400 block of Quincy Street, NW was supposed to have been presented by Mr. Prather. Mr. Prather was not present at the meeting. Ms. Williams motioned to table a vote on the resolution until the April ANC4C meeting. Mr. Fenty seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
3) 14th Street Heights Main Street presented ANC4C with a revised small grant application. In the Fall of 2003, ANC4C approved a grant for $1,000 to purchase wrought iron hanging flower baskets and hang them on the 14th Street lamp posts. This was approved by ANC4C pending receipt of a public space permit. This was never awarded because a public space permit was never presented to ANC4C.

14th Street Heights decided to postpone this project. The merchants along the 14th Street Heights corridor and the neighborhood volunteers have agreed that spending the ANC grant money on refurbishing and planting the sidewalk tree boxes with flowers and plants is a more worthwhile and affordable project.

ANC4C discussed this revision to the initial application and decided that because the project is significantly different than was originally presented, it should be presented as a new small grant. Ms. Mitchell presented a motion to cancel the old small grant approval and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and the 14th Street Heights Main Street group was asked to resubmit a small grant application for the new project. When the application is submitted, and reviewed by the small grants committee, ANC4C will vote on it at their next public meeting.

Announcements

1) Ms. Archer mentioned that the Friends of Petworth Recreation Center will have their next meeting on March 31 at 6:30 PM at 801 Taylor Street, NW. Volunteers are needed to help with the festival.
2) Ms. Williams needs volunteers to tutor children in reading and the like.
3) Mr. Jannarone mentioned that there is a hearing at DC City Council on Thursday at 10 AM about the used car lot enforcement act. Questions or to testify call Danny Gibson at 727-8229.
4) Ms. Archer mentioned that Councilmember Mendelson is holding a meeting on the real property tax assessment appeal process at the MPD-ROC at 801 Shepherd Street on March 16th at 7 PM.
5) Mr. Jannarone mentioned there will be a steering committee meeting for the Georgia Avenue Corridor Revitalization Plan on Tuesday April 6th at 7 PM at the Parkview Recreation Center in Ward 1. There will be working session with break-out groups to discuss the "big plan". The project will break ground in the Spring of 2005 and will be finished 18 months from then.
6) Ms. Barden mentioned she is still missing the cassette tapes from the July 2003 meeting that she gave to Ms. Mauuso to copy.