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Sent from:

Mary Baird-Currie, ANC 5A-06
1120 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20017
Fax Number: 202-526 5331
Telephone Number: 202- 635 1970

Message: Please file

Re: Case # 02-15 (Text Amendment - Providing Matter-of-Right use in the R-1 Zone District for Public Park and Recreational Use).

ANC 5A-06

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-15
Exhibit 32

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-15
EXHIBIT NO.32

ANC 5A ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5A

SLOWE SCHOOL DEMOUNTABLE
1322 IRVING STREET, N.E. ▼ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
TELEPHONE 202-635-6563 ▼ FAX 202-635-6565 ▼ Email anc5a@aol.com

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5A08 Darryl R. Flynn
5A09 John Rest
5A10 Ruth Y. Goodwin
5A11 Martina K. Pappano
5A12 Robert (Bob) King

July 3, 2002

VIA FACIMILE TO (202) 727-6072
Original mailed

Mr. Alberto P. Bastida, AICP
Secretary, Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 – 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case No. 02-15 (Test Amendment – Providing Matter-of-Right Use in the R-1 Zone District for Public Park and Recreational Uses –11 DCMR)

Dear Mr. Bastida:

At a Called Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5A held Tuesday, July 2, 2002, nine members were present, seven constitute a quorum. A motion to support the above-referenced application was passed unanimously.

This information is being submitted for inclusion in the record.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. For information please call (202) 635-6563.

Sincerely,

Norma M. Broadnax
Chairperson

Cc: Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

ANC 5A ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5A

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TELEPHONE 202-635-6563 ▼ FAX 202-635-6565 ▼ Email anc5adc@aol.com

June 12, 2002

EDITORIAL RESPONSE TO: "Taking Note," Observations about public affairs in the nation's capital. June 3-16 edition of *The Common Denominator.*

On behalf of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5-A, we would like to respectfully disagree with the thrust of your June 3 - June 16 "Taking Note" editorial. The editorial attacks the process by which the Department of Parks and Recreation performed its community outreach. It faults Parks and Recreation for doing much of their communication through the elected ANC and the Michigan Park Citizens Association. Firstly, Mary Baird-Currie is more than the ANC whose district includes the Turkey Thicket Park; she also chairs ANC 5A's Education and Parks Committee. It's wholly appropriate and supported by ANC- 5A, for any government agency to communicate with the chairperson of the ANC, the relevant committee and affected single member district commissioner.

Secondly, there is no legal requirement for ANC commissioners to hold single member district meetings and most do not. Nevertheless, ANC Currie has done so regularly. Most of her meetings have been well attended by active neighborhood residents and other ANC commissioners. Efforts toward achieving a state-of-the-art field house with pool facility were first discussed and voted on by the community in the early to mid nineties, and were reported to the community at those meetings, ANC community meetings and community association meetings. An article in the May 31,1999 issue of the Common Denominator reported on one such meeting; "Turkey Thicket to become a regional park"

. . ..

Thirdly, ANC-5A is the voice of the community. Its twelve commissioners hold the electoral mandate to represent the ANC-5A community's interest. ANC-5A has voted to support the Turkey Thicket project on several occasions on behalf of the community. The Michigan Park Citizens Association and the North Michigan Civic Association are organizations within the ANC-5A community that has been advocating civic improvements since 1917. It was through their efforts that the City constructed the existing Turkey Thicket building long before homerule a past commemorated in a plaque set in the building's wall. The Brookland Civic Association founded in 1921 the Turkey Thicket Parent's Club, was also in support of the Turkey Thicket project. The normal method for the City to communicate with the community, aside from the ANC, is through such community organizations.

Page 2 Editorial Response

ANC- 5A shares the Common Denominator's concern about the Department of Recreation's handling of the May 9 meeting. We conveyed our concerns to the Department of Parks and Recreation, which agreed to a number of constructive changes. ANC-5A has requested that the Department of Parks and Recreation coordinate all public meetings relating to this project through its office, and assign an appropriate technical back-up role to the Office of Property Management's engineering staff.

The Turkey Thicket project has been voted on by the community, ANC-5A, the DC City Council and signed off on by the Mayor. We do not wish to bog it down with bureaucratic red tape or traffic studies and environmental impact statements. The neighborhood's youth need a place to go where they can engage in constructive wholesome activity now. Neighborhood residents of all ages, however, will benefit from the proposed facility. ANC-5A will continue to sponsor opportunities for neighborhood residents to offer constructive input to this process/project.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Baird Currie
Commissioner, ANC 5A-06

Norma Broadnax
Chairperson, ANC 5A

A Response Regarding the new Turkey Thicket Site
June 19, 2002

As a life-long Brookland resident, as a member of the then-newly formed Turkey Thicket committee four years ago, and as one who has been relatively active in the community, I am writing in response to the unfounded allegations of impropriety in the process of developing the new Turkey Thicket site.

Accusations, ranging from lack of notification by the city and the ANC to possible criminal activity within the committee, are cause for uncertainty. I am not privy to the legal obligations of the city, of how it must inform a neighborhood of impending construction, but clearly information was available to anyone who wanted to know that there would be a major change at the Turkey Thicket site. As was noted in the May 2, 2002 meeting, a citizen stated that he had passed out flyers for the ANC, as has I have from time to time.

It was approximately four years ago that Michael Williams of the D.C. Department of Recreation, in a well-attended public meeting, confirmed that the Turkey Thicket fieldhouse would be torn down for an improved facility with an indoor swimming pool. Had you not received a notice four years ago, there is word-of-mouth, the community grapevine, e-mail, telephone, community gatherings and the *Common Denominator*. In the course of the past four years the magnitude of this project was no less important than it is now. With that understanding, where were you 4 years ago, 3 years ago, 2 years ago, last year, 6 months ago? Why complain now? Since many of you are active in the community, why didn't you take the responsibility to approach your respective ANC commissioner, or contact the Department of Recreation, or your councilman prior to May 9? Is it the desire to ambush this project on a technicality for legal entanglement? Rather than speak legal ramifications, speak to the needs of the children, seniors and other residents who deserve this facility.

The concerns brought to the forefront during the May 9 meeting and subsequently in the *Common Denominator* are all valid issues. The insightful questions and observations are welcome today as they would have been four years ago. However, what is not acceptable or warranted are the unfounded accusations. I take issue with the implication that the Turkey Thicket committee has operated on "a personal agenda," ostensibly for personal gain. Such an inaccurate and unknowledgeable approach is clearly baseless and hostile. If that were the case, this project would never have been raised to the level of groundbreaking. In the 1999 meeting, the *Common Denominator* was present. The reporter heard what we heard, saw what we saw. There was no report on possible impropriety or questions raised in that article or resulting from that article.

Understandably, the size of this project and all the problems associated with construction are valid. All communities and neighborhoods are encroached upon.

Oftentimes it is the vital decision of the Board of Zoning Adjustment or the ABC Board, or other local agencies whose decisions adversely affect the needs of the community. I know how their decisions control the make up of a community. But it should be noted that it is not so much the city's governance that has brought us to this point, but *who* ultimately governs the city that has always determined when, why, who and, and where appropriations are encouraged or discouraged for the District's residents. This Turkey Thicket upheaval is indicative of bigger issues. Our dilemma perfectly reflects the tension that sometimes erupts in the course of controlling activities in one's neighborhood. Further, I take exception to Kathy Sinzinger's opinion that what she observed during the May 9 meeting was the "democratic process in action." This "democratic process," however, does not deserve the hostility with which it was accompanied. No matter what questions were answered with accountability, reason and assurances, there appeared to be a lingering and inherent distrust with everyone associated with the project. Granted, work is needed and I do not believe anyone disagrees.

There are good insights, creative suggestions and educative thoughts that are needed within the committee, not against the committee or the ANC or the Department of Recreation. I hope there can be an extraction of what is helpful, coupled with honest cohesion while this project moves forward.

Linda Mines