

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZONING COMMISSION

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PUBLIC HEARING

CASE NO. 04-32:
HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

+ + + + +

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2005

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The Hearing of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Office of Zoning Hearing Room at 441 4th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., Carol J. Mitten, Chairperson, presiding.

ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

CAROL J. MITTEN	Chairperson
ANTHONY J. HOOD	Vice Chairman
KEVIN HILDEBRAND	Member
GREGORY JEFFRIES	Member

OFFICE OF ZONING COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

CLIFFORD MOY	Acting Secretary
SHARON SCHELLIN	Zoning Specialist

OFFICE OF PLANNING STAFF PRESENT:

DAVID McGETTEGEN	Office of Planning
JENNIFER STEINGASSER	Office of Planning

This transcript contains the complete minutes of the hearing held on Thursday, February 10, 2005.

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:36 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is a Public Hearing of Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for Thursday, February 10th, 2005.

My name is Carol Mitten and joining me this evening are Vice Chairman Anthony Hood and Commissioner Kevin Hildebrand. We may be joined by Commissioner Jeffries in a moment.

The subject of this evening's hearing is Zoning Commission Case No. 04-32. This is a request by Harvard University for special exception relief pursuant to Sections 210 and 3104.1 of the Zoning Regulations for approval of the Campus Plan 2004 through 2014 for the Center for Hellenic Studies.

Subject property is located at 3100 Whitehaven Street, NW, and is designated lot 802 in Square 2155.

Notice of today's hearing was published in the D.C. Register on December 10th, 2004. This hearing will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of 11 DCMR Section 3117 and the order of procedure will be as follows.

Preliminary matters followed by the

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petitioner's case, report by the Office of Planning, report of any other Government agencies, report by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, organizations and persons in support, organizations and persons in opposition.

All person appearing before the Commission are to fill out two witness cards. These cards are located on the table near the door. Upon coming forward to speak to the Commission, please give both cards to the Reporter who is sitting to our right.

Please be advised that this proceeding is being recorded by the Court Reporter and is also being Webcast live.

The decision of the Commission in this case must be based exclusively on the public record. To avoid any appearance to the contrary, the Commission requests that persons present not engage with members of the Commission in conversation during a recess or at any other time. And I would ask you to turn off all beepers and cell phones at this time so as not to disrupt the proceedings.

And we will now consider any preliminary matters.

Ms. Schellin, anything?

MS. SCHELLIN: Just to let you know that

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1 the Applicant has filed the Affidavit of Maintenance.

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Thank you.

3 And, Mr. Quin, any preliminary matters?

4 MR. QUIN: No preliminary matters --

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: All right.

6 MR. QUIN: -- unless we talk about how the
7 case should be disposed of. But I thought I would hit
8 that in a very quick opening statement.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: That's fine. And
10 before we begin, I just wanted to ask anyone who is
11 planning on testifying this evening to rise now and
12 take the oath that Ms. Schellin will administer.

13 MS. SCHELLIN: Please raise your right
14 hand.

15 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
16 testimony you'll give in this evening's proceeding
17 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
18 truth?

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. And just
21 let the record reflect that we've now been joined by
22 Commissioner Jeffries.

23 So, Mr. Quin, it's all yours.

24 MR. QUIN: Thank you, Madam Chairperson,
25 members of the Commission.

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1 This is an application in the nature of a
2 special exception for approval of a campus plan to
3 serve the Center for Hellenic Studies at 3100
4 Whitehaven Street, NW.

5 The property is close to Mass Avenue. It
6 contains about 6-1/2 acres. It's owned by the
7 trustees of Harvard University and it's devoted to an
8 academic institution of higher learning in the field
9 of Greek and Mediterranean civilizations.

10 Originally this Board approved the use, 46
11 years ago, 1961, and there have been a number of
12 approvals. And in the last approval in 1997, the
13 Board asked for a Campus Plan and that's why we're
14 here.

15 The proposed improvements are very minor
16 as described in detail in our submissions and we have
17 really two of them you recall, the statement and the
18 package campus plan. We are very pleased with the
19 support of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C and
20 also the single member district represented by the
21 adjacent person that has the district for 3C, as well
22 as the strong support from the Office of Planning.
23 And we understand the Department of Transportation
24 report has been filed and that's favorable as well.

25 So, in view of the limited nature of our

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1 plan and the proposals in our brilliantly clear
2 submissions the Applicant is prepared to submit the
3 application on the basis of the record and, if
4 necessary, to answer any questions if there are any.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: All right. Thank
6 you.

7 Are there any questions from the
8 Commissioners as to the submission?

9 Okay. Great. That's excellent.

10 Then we'll move now to the -- I guess I
11 should ask quickly.

12 Is there a representative from the ANC
13 here? Anybody from the ANC?

14 All right. Great. Then we'll move to the
15 Office of Planning report.

16 Mr. McGettegen.

17 MR. McGETTEGEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 For the record, my name is David
19 McGettegen from the Office of Planning. We would like
20 to stand on the record as our report is --

21 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: It's contagious.

22 MR. McGETTEGEN: -- quite clear and if you
23 have any questions, I'll be glad to address them?

24 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Any questions
25 for Mr. McGettegen? Any questions?

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1 Okay. And we did as Mr. Quin mentioned
2 received a report from the Department of
3 Transportation filed earlier today, which they support
4 the proposal so that's good. And we have in the
5 record at Exhibit Number 17, the report from ANC 2E,
6 which expresses their unanimous support for the
7 special exception approval.

8 And I would ask, are there any folks that
9 would like to testify in support other than the
10 Applicant?

11 Anyone who would like to testify in
12 opposition?

13 Okay.

14 MR. QUIN: Then, Madam Chairperson, I
15 would hope that the Board could take action tonight on
16 a bench decision and issue a summary order.

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. I would move
18 approval of Case No. 04-32.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN HOOD: Second.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Any discussion?

21 All those in favor, please say aye.

22 (Ayes)

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: None opposed, Ms.
24 Schellin.

25 MS. SCHELLIN: Yes. Staff would record

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1 the vote, four to zero to one to approve Zoning
2 Commission Case Number 04-32.

3 Commissioner Mitten moving, Commissioner
4 Hood seconding, Commissioners Hildebrand and Jeffries
5 in favor. Commissioner Parsons not present, not
6 voting.

7 And I just want to confirm that you guys
8 are waving the requirements for the full order. Is
9 that correct?

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Correct. And the
11 approval is for a ten-year --

12 MS. SCHELLIN: For ten years. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Great. Thank you all
14 for coming out tonight.

15 MR. QUIN: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: This hearing is
17 adjourned.

18 (Whereupon, the above matter was adjourned
19 at 6:42 p.m.)
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