

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

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PUBLIC HEARING

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TUESDAY,

OCTOBER 18, 2005

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The public hearing convened in Room 220 South, 441 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, pursuant to notice at 11:13 a.m., Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chairperson, presiding.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS PRESENT:

GEOFFREY H. GRIFFIS	Chairperson
RUTHANNE G. MILLER	Vice Chairperson
CURTIS ETHERLY, JR.	Board Member
JOHN A. MANN, II	Board Member (NCPC)

ZONING COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENT:

JOHN PARSONS	Commissioner (NPS)
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OFFICE OF ZONING STAFF PRESENT:

CLIFFORD MOY	Secretary
BEVERLY BAILEY	Zoning Specialist

This transcript constitutes the minutes from the public hearing held on October 18, 2005.

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AGENDA ITEM

PAGE

CALL TO ORDER:

Geoffrey Griffis.3

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

APPLICATION NO. 17384 - ANC-2D.3

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

(11:13 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: My name is Geoff Griffis, Chairperson. Joining me today is Vice Chair Ms. Miller. And also on the Board Mr. Etherly.

Oh, I am totally sorry. Indeed, we do need to convene the FMBZA first in order to deal with a preliminary matter. So forgive me, but let me step back a moment and call to order the Foreign Mission Board of Zoning Adjustments to the District of Columbia.

I'm going to dispense with our formal opening of that, the FMBZA, which is a different constitution of the Board, which requires the Director of the National Capital Planning Commission to be with us and also the Director of the Park Service.

I believe Mr. Parsons is on his way. However, we do have a quorum, and we do have just a preliminary matter that I think we can bring up. Of course, the FMBZA constitutes itself and proceeds under rulemaking parameters.

Let me ask, is anyone here present this morning with the case before the FMBZA? They could come forward and have a seat at the table if they are or if there are any. That would be application 17384.

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1 Not noting anyone coming forward to
2 address the Board -- oh, I'm sorry. Excellent. Have
3 a seat. I'm just going to have you state your name
4 and address for the record. Why don't you put those
5 over there?

6 And we'll say a very good morning to Mr.
7 Parsons, who has joined us. Let's move right to it.

8 MS. GREEN: Good morning. My name is
9 Gabriela Curias Green. I am an attorney with the law
10 firm of Hogan and Hartson. And I'm here to request
11 the postponement on behalf of the Embassy of Moldova.

12 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: And that was
13 received into the record, exhibit number 28. And it
14 was dated the 11th of October, 2005. And I understand
15 your request to postpone for two different reasons.

16 Does the Board have any questions of the
17 applicant's attorney at this time?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Very well. Not
20 having any questions of clarification or concern, let
21 me ask -- yes, Mr. Etherly?

22 MEMBER ETHERLY: Just very quickly, Mr.
23 Chair, I just wanted to ask counsel if they have
24 gotten any firm indication on kind of what the
25 schedule may be with regard to meeting with the

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1 relevant association at issue, number one. And,
2 number two, have you been firmly agendized yet for the
3 ANC meeting in November?

4 MS. GREEN: We're intending to attend the
5 ANC meeting, which we think is expected to be held in
6 mid November. So any time after that meeting, either
7 late November or early December, would be good for us.

8 MEMBER ETHERLY: And in as far as the
9 Sheridan-Kalorama Historic Association, any status or
10 update on kind of where your conversations are there?

11 MS. GREEN: Well, we've been communicating
12 with them and we have been having some feedback from
13 them, although we have not been able to meet with the
14 right people yet, but we're working on that. And we
15 hope that within the next four weeks or so, we will be
16 able to complete that process.

17 MEMBER ETHERLY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
18 you, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Indeed, excellent
20 questions, clarifications.

21 Any other questions from the Board?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: If there are no
24 other questions, then we do have a request, which we
25 can take as a preliminary matter for the Board's

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1 action. I don't have any opposition to postponing
2 this and setting a new date, but let me hear from
3 others if there is any opposition to doing that.

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Not hearing any
6 opposition, Mr. Moy, why don't we put this to a new
7 date. Do you have another calendar date or Ms.
8 Bailey?

9 SECRETARY MOY: We have a date of November
10 1st opening in the afternoon a case that we're
11 expecting will be withdrawn or postponed. So that's
12 the earliest opening. Do you want one later?

13 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: That's what we just
14 heard.

15 MS. GREEN: November 27 or 28th in the
16 afternoon for a hearing.

17 SECRETARY MOY: Another possibility, Mr.
18 Chairman, is the afternoon of November 22nd.

19 MS. BAILEY: It really should be the
20 morning.

21 SECRETARY MOY: Morning? Oh, that's
22 right. Well, if we do this in the morning, then, we
23 have three cases in the morning on the 22nd. We could
24 slide this before those.

25 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: You're talking about

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1 November --

2 SECRETARY MOY: Or November 29th.

3 MEMBER ETHERLY: The 29th is not good.
4 What about the 6th?

5 SECRETARY MOY: The 6th of December?
6 Let's do it, but let's open. We have another case,
7 but we could pitch that in.

8 MS. GREEN: What about the 6th?

9 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: The 6th of December?

10 MS. GREEN: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: What if we set it at
12 noon? Different decision-makings in the morning. We
13 could do that and then break for lunch.

14 MS. GREEN: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Mr. Parsons, would
16 you be available maybe late in the morning if we set
17 this at noon?

18 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: December 6th?

19 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Okay. Do we need to
22 decide the time right now? Very well. For the
23 record, then, we'll postpone this to December 6th,
24 2005. What I'm going to try to do -- of course, the
25 6th is the first session of the month of December,

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1 which means we have our public meeting, which is our
2 decision-making --

3 MS. GREEN: Right.

4 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Anyway, what I would
5 like to do is set this for calling the FMBZA at 11:30,
6 hoping we get to our morning session period quickly.
7 And that way we wouldn't encumber a great delay in our
8 afternoon session.

9 However, officially we'll set this for the
10 6th of December. And I'm going to require that you
11 check in with the Office of Zoning in terms of how we
12 have updated that because it will be based on how many
13 decisions we actually set through November, but we'll
14 have two weeks before we need to get to really making
15 that official.

16 MS. GREEN: Perfect. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Of course. Very
18 well. Is there anything else, then, any other
19 preliminary matters to attend to in the FMBZA the
20 staff is aware of or the Board?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIS: Not noting any,
23 then, let us adjourn the FMBZA and get back on track
24 with our morning session of the Board of Zoning
25 Adjustment of the District of Columbia.

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(Whereupon, the foregoing matter was
concluded at 11:20 a.m.)