

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
April 20, 1998

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Malcon at 7:45. Commissioners present were Strauss, Perry, Sorge and Collins. Commissioner Strauss held Commissioner Saccocio's proxy.

Adoption of Agenda-- (1) Commissioner Perry requested time be made available to discuss the perpetual state of outages of Metro station escalators. Not only are these escalators outages an inconvenience to the elderly community, but why do they keep breaking? Added as item D. Chairman Malcom requested time to discuss ANC 3E's resolution concerning sexually oriented businesses. It was added as A-1. A motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Announcements--Chairman Malcom announced Commissioner Saccocio's recent blessed event, Gabriella, on April 5th. Marjorie Rachlin announced the annual clean-up day of the Connecticut Ave. business district on May 2nd. It starts at 9:00 and meets in front of CVS in the 4300 block of Connecticut Avenue. Businesses and residents are encouraged to participate.

Open Forum-- A woman requested that an effort be made to start the meeting on time. It was explained that given the large turnout, some 60 people, it takes a few minutes for people to get settled.

Regular Business--

Ms. Sandra Conner, Amoco 5001 Conn. Ave. & Ms. Barker
of the Amoco Oil Company.

Ms. Conner is the franchisee of the Amoco station at 5001 Connecticut Avenue. She first appeared before the Commission in February 1998 to request support from the ANC 3F to oppose Amoco Oil Co.'s intention of converting her station from full service with a repair facility to self service with a convenience store. A letter was sent by the ANC 3F to the Amoco Oil Co.'s Vice President, Ms. Lane Barker, supporting Ms. Conner's opposition. Subsequently an accord has been reached between Amoco Oil and Ms. Conner that will result in a new Amoco station housing a convenience store and two repair bays. Full service pumps will remain available. The project requires demolition of the existing building, built in the mid-forties, replacing it with a new building designed to ease traffic congestion. The station will be closed during construction which will begin in late 1998 and will take about 60 days to complete. Ms. Conner expressed her happiness with the new plans to her Amoco franchise.

ANC3E Resolution on Sexually-Oriented Businesses.

Chairman Malcom offered for discussion a resolution designed by ANC 3E to consider the long- and short term-effects of a sexually-oriented business's place in a predominantly residential neighborhood. After some discussion, the main focus being no one from this Commission had actually been in the business that sparked this resolution as well as the absence of a representative of that business present to outline their position. The resolution was amended and adopted by a vote of 6-0-0. A copy of the resolution is enclosed.

Charles E. Smith Company's New Apartment Building

Mr. Richard Smith of the Charles E. Smith Company presented to the Commission and residents of the community a plan for a new luxury apartment building at 4411 Connecticut Avenue. The plan calls for a 160,000 sq. ft. building with a front facade of six stories and a rear of eleven stories. There will be 140 units priced at roughly \$2.00 per sq. ft., including one bedroom, one bedroom and den, two bedroom and three bedroom apartments. There also will be a roof top pool and deck, an entrance foyer with a fountain, a library and business center, a four-story parking garage, a loading dock, disability access and the preservation of several mature trees located at the Connecticut Avenue circular drive entrance. The construction will take an estimated 16 to 18 months and will require blocking off the east lane of Connecticut Avenue during off-peak hours. The building is being constructed as "Matter of Right" pending DCRA permits, zoning, Park Services and EPA matters. The ground breaking is scheduled for Summer 1998. A liaison committee between the Smith Company and the community will be established to address concerns such as, ingress and egress of the building, traffic patterns with respect to the garage, loading dock and entrance, pedestrian flow, landscaping with respect to the building's front and rear, noise generated by HVAC units located on the roof and matters that generally accompany a major construction project. A copy of citizen comments from the meeting is enclosed.

Mr. Phil Kogan's complaint against Metro buses on Veazey Street, N.W.

Mr. Kogan, a resident of Veazey Street, N.W., appeared before the Commission to seek help in advancing his concerns with respect to the danger and potential danger that large or "high floor" Metro buses are causing to the houses and citizens of Veazey Street. Mr. Kogan, armed with ridership statistics from Metro, maintains that large buses are not necessary to accommodate the ridership of the H2 route between Connecticut Avenue and Porter Streets to Tenley Circle, and that if smaller or "low floor" buses were purchased and put to use, ridership on the H2 line would be adequately served. Citing excessive noise levels and vibrations that in some cases cause houses to shake, and constant traffic problems, Mr. Kogan asked for support of his

complaint and suggested solution to the problem. The Commission voted 6-0-0 to support Mr. Kogan's concerns in the form of a resolution. A copy of the resolution is enclosed.

New Library at Howard U. Law School.

Faculty, administrators and architects from Howard Law School appeared before the Commission to discuss the school's plan to build a new free-standing law library rather than a four-story addition to the existing Holy Cross Hall. Cynthia Giordano, attorney for HU Law School, said the new plans will require BZA approval. The new library will be located on Van Ness Street north of Holy Cross Hall. The construction process is estimated to take 18 months. Commissioner Perry noted that she, as well as her constituents who live in the Van Ness Towers complex, are most concerned about existing and potential traffic problems. She stressed that ingress and egress of construction vehicles, as well as daily and special events traffic, should be ironed out in advance. Commissioner Strauss noted that the issue tonight is to look at the new building plans which he deemed a beautiful design.

MetroRail Escalator Outages.

Commissioner Perry has received complaints from her constituency, many of whom are elderly, about the almost constant outages of the Van Ness MetroRail station escalators due to service repairs. Stopped escalators are a physical burden whether you are going up or down to many elderly and disabled people; doctors appointments, grocery shopping and social events are often missed because of the outages. A discussion revealed that it is not uncommon to find this problem throughout the system. The Commission decided to send a letter to Metro requesting answers and an explanation of this issue.

Treasurer's Report-- Commissioner Sorge read the disbursement report for March. After finding everything in order, she moved that a vote be taken to approve. The vote carried 6-0-0. After reviewing and discussing the Auditor's quarterly report, a motion was made to adopt and sign the report. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Secretary's Report-- A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 16, 1998. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Future Meeting-- May 18th.

Adjournment.

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
A Resolution.**

RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F opposes the presence of sexually-oriented businesses in our community in neighborhoods not specifically zoned for such businesses. We believe that the presence of sexually-oriented businesses in our neighborhood;

- 1 diminishes the overall character and attractiveness of our community:
- 2 is inappropriate for a predominantly residential neighborhood in which numerous schools and churches are located:
- 3 will contribute to a depreciation in commercial and residential property values in the area:
- 4 is likely to result in economic disinvestment in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ANC 3F supports the efforts of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E in investigating and advocating the community's intent with respect to MVC Video.

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
A Resolution.**

WHEREAS, the purchase of smaller buses will mitigate high noise levels, reduce vibrations which damage homes and pose dangers to children, senior citizens and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, statistics demonstrate that smaller buses can accommodate ridership on the H2 route between Connecticut Avenue, Porter Street and Tenley Circle;

BE IT RESOLVED that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F supports the purchase of smaller Metro buses for use on residential streets, and strongly encourages Metro to investigate the feasibility of using the newly purchased smaller buses on the H2 route, specifically the portion of the route that includes Veazey Street NW.