

MINUTES
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
NORTH CLEVELAND PARK/FOREST HILLS
PUBLIC MEETING

Intelsat
3400 International Drive, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
April 29, 2002

1. CALL TO ORDER [7:37 pm]

Chair Wiss called the meeting to order. Commissioners Kogan, Perry, Maudlin, Bardin and Wiss were present. With five of the seven commissioners present, Chair Wiss declared a quorum.

2. AGENDA

The meeting agenda was approved, after Commissioner Strauss arrived, on motion of Commissioner Bardin, seconded by Commissioner Perry. 6-0-0 (see attached agenda)

3. MINUTES

Minutes of April 15, 2002, meeting were approved 6-0-0 on motion by Commissioner Bardin, seconded by Commissioner Maudlin.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS [7:40 pm]

Commissioner Perry introduced Robert Lambert and other Intelsat personnel present, thanking Intelsat for hosting this ANC meeting. The Chair acknowledged Intelsat's years of providing office space for the ANC.

5. OPEN FORUM [7:42 pm]

A. Sargeant Hayes of the Second District, Metropolitan Police Department, discussed the shooting incident on Brandywine Street (2800 block) on the night of Friday, April 19, in which the victim, a Woodrow Wilson High School student was hit twice, is now conscious but remains in critical condition. The MPD will release only limited information during the on-going investigation and seeks cooperation by anyone with information. If we want to inquire about the status of this or any case in the Second District, phone 202-282-0070 and ask for a detective.

B. Charles Feldman of 2855 Davenport Street (363-8230) asked for an explanation of a pre-fabricated shed at the Amoco station on Fessenden Street.

C. Intelsat presented a brief explanation and tour of the communications satellite activities conducted from their premises in our neighborhood. Tours for as few as five and up to 30 or 40 persons may be scheduled by calling 944-7500.

6. TRAFFIC CALMING AROUND SHERIDAN SCHOOL [8:07 - 9:10 pm]

Commissioner Wiss reported that she and the neighborhood had discussed issues and options with Clarissa Byrd, until recently the DDOT coordinator for Ward 3. She introduced Sunny Gyani and Bill Rice of DDOT and Alan Yu of 3631 Alton Place. Mr. Yu described cars hitting pedestrians and presented a petition and a survey of neighborhood residents.

The petition called for rumble strips at several locations, installation and relocation of 15 mph school zone signs (on 36th Street, Yuma Street and Alton Place) and striping of four crosswalks at the intersection of Alton and 36th.

The survey of 85 households covered two blocks each of Alton Place, 36th Street and Yuma Street. It showed 58 households as favoring the petition (including 40 out of 49 households on Alton Place and 5 out of 5 on the 4400 block of 36th Street but only 13 out of 31 on Yuma Street and the 4600 block of 36th Street).

Everyone agreed about the need to improve pedestrian safety. Discussion focused on means to that end, especially the pros and cons of rumble strips versus other measures (such as speed humps), as well as whether more police enforcement of moving violation laws was realistic. Stan Drake (4330 36th Street) and Daniel Smith (4326 36th Street), questioned or criticized rumble strips, as did Commissioners Perry and Kogan. (Mr. Drake also opposed speed humps, whereas others were not opposed.) Commissioner Perry stressed the recent availability of a draft Howard University traffic calming manual, now posted at

[www.ddot.dc.gov/information/documents/frames/traffic_calming.pdf],

which was not available at the time Ms. Byrd of DDOT recommended rumble strips. Mr. Yu stressed hazards to children and said that most residents want to try rumble strips. Carl Kessler called for more MPD enforcement. Sheridan Headmaster Randy Plummer assured that the School wanted to be helpful. Charles Feldman (2855 Davenport) and others discussed speed bumps and other alternatives. Mr. Gyani said everyone is, in effect, right and Mr. Rice assured the neighborhood that DDOT would try to follow the ANC's advice. Robert Salerno (3623 Alton Place) supported rumble strips, as did Scott Schachter (3627 Alton) who stressed on-going danger to life or safety and opposed delay for further study.

On motion of Commissioner Wiss, seconded by Commissioner Strauss (incorporating an amendment proposed by Commissioner Maudlin which limits proposed rumble strips to Alton Place and the 4400 block of 36th Street, dropping from the recommendation both Yuma Street and the 4300 block of 36th Street), the ANC adopted Resolution 02-20 (4-2-0, Commissioners Kogan and Perry dissenting).

7. SODEXHO AT INTELSAT, APPL. No. 50179 to ABRA FOR NEW LIQUOR LICENSE [9:10 - 9:20 pm]

On motion of Commissioner Perry, seconded by Commissioner Kogan, the ANC approved the attached Voluntary Agreement and Resolution 02-21 of non-objection to the license conditioned upon that Agreement (6-0-0). Mr. Richard Lambert had stated that this Voluntary Agreement was acceptable to Intelsat.

8. HILLWOOD MUSEUM, 4155 LINNEAN AVENUE, APPL. No. 50129 to ABRA FOR RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE [9:20 - 9:25 pm]

On motion of Commissioner Kogan, seconded by Commissioner Strauss, the ANC approved attached Resolution 02-22 and Voluntary Agreement (6-0-0). Commissioner Kogan had acknowledged the presence of Fred Fisher, Executive Director of the Hillwood Museum.

9. 2900 and 2902 ALBEMARLE STREET, BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS, NEW CONSTRUCTION [9:25 -9-58 pm]

Commissioner Kogan had explained that he would present resolutions relating to pending construction permit applications for these properties and ask Alex Walworth (4420 29th Street) to add to his remarks. He said he had informed developer Stuart Zuckerman of this special meeting and the resolution he planned to present and invited him to come, but that he had not done so. Commissioner Kogan explained impediments recently created by DCRA staff to ANC inspection of plans accompanying construction permit applications (a ban lifted, unevenly, only at the end of the previous week) and the continuing outright refusal of DCRA to allow ANC commissioners to photocopy the actual application forms as filled out by the developer. He pointed out how DCRA's practices had hindered this ANC's ability to review the developer's proposal in a meaningful and timely way, so as to make recommendations to DCRA. Ms. Walworth stated the concern she and others in the neighborhood have about the construction proposals, based on last-minute access DCRA gave her and her attorney to the developer's plans on file with DCRA. Commissioner Kogan also called attention to an April 26, 2002, memo to DCRA staff restricting public access and rights to photocopy applications, which Commissioner Bardin had secured only that same afternoon from DCRA.

Accordingly, Commissioner Kogan moved and Commissioner Strauss seconded the attached Resolution 02-23 which the ANC approved (6-0-0).

Commissioner Kogan then asked Brendan Herron (2901 Albemarle) to summarize issues concerning the raze permit application filed 03/01/02 with DCRA. The ANC has not yet seen the raze permit application or the raze permit file and does not know who made the application (Ms. Walworth said that the property had not been settled to the developer until March 29.) Mr. Herron complained that partial demolition work was in fact in progress and expressed several concerns about its effects.

On motion of Commissioner Kogan, seconded by Commissioner Perry, the ANC approved attached Resolution 02-24 (6-0-0) asking DCRA to issue a stop work order until public health and environmental concerns are resolved and to make the raze permit file available for inspection and photocopying.

10. REPORT ON PROPOSED FOREST HILLS TREE & SLOPE PROTECTION OVERLAY [9:58 - 10:05 pm]

Commissioner Bardin reported that on April 19 the ZC voted unanimously (5-0) to set down for public hearing the FHCA petition for a tree and slope protection overlay (filed with the ZC on April 5) with two modifications: At the request of the FHCA, the side yard and front yard provisions of the proposed overlay will apply only to "new" residential buildings; and at the suggestion of the Office of Planning (based on requests from Appleton Street residents during the FHCA's April 16 Community Meeting) the ZC expanded the area covered to include their homes. He added that the FHCA is sponsoring a second town hall meeting on May 13 at the Capital Memorial Church to continue public discussion of the proposed overlay and that it would mail the text of the proposal to all FHCA members and wanted to mail out also to other residents of the proposed overlay area. On motion of Commissioner Bardin, seconded by Commissioner Perry, the ANC approved (6-0-0) co-sponsoring the FHCA May 13, 2002, town hall meeting and on motion of Commissioner Bardin, seconded by Commissioner Wiss, the ANC approved (6-0-0) use of ANC funds previously budgeted for the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Tree and Slope Protection Overlays to defray meeting room rental and mailing costs for that meeting.

11. REPORT ON DOT-VMS, Inc. NEW SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT NOTICE TO ANC [10:05 - 10:38 pm]

Commissioners Perry and Bardin described the unexpected filling in of tree box space in front of Calvert-Woodley Liquors Store (4339 Connecticut Avenue) on Friday morning, April 26, 2002, by DDOT contractor, VMS, Inc., through a subcontractor. They objected to the lack of notice to the ANC. They thanked DDOT for sending its Spokesman, Bill Rice (202-671-2004), and the Administrator of its Urban Forestry Administration (UFA), Mark Buscaino, to inspect the site that same afternoon, while the concrete was still soft and wet.

Mr. Rice acknowledged error and promised that would not happen again. He had no immediate answer, however, to Commissioner Perry's question whether DDOT would have the concrete removed.

Mr. Rice introduced representatives of VMS, Preston Kelly Program Manager, who lives at 4411 Connecticut Avenue, Apt T411, (202-396-8000) and Wayne S. Williams, and of DDOT, Simon Rennie (202-438-8607). They explained that VMS under a January 10, 2001, contract with DDOT is responsible for maintaining 75 miles of streets and right-of-way, including at least part of the sidewalk, on a "soup to nuts" (the "whole meal") basis. They promised to provide a map showing the exact extent of VMS responsibility along Connecticut from Tilden to Albemarle.

Discussion focused both on VMS acts, approved by DDOT without consulting the neighborhood that should not have been performed, and on failure to correct other dangerous sidewalk situations that VMS has not addressed. Mr. Rice, Mr. Rennie and Mr. Kelly promised to maintain an open dialogue.

Commissioner Bardin suggested that the ANC approve a letter of inquiry from the Chair to UFA Administrator Buscaino which referred to Friday's incident and asked for a survey of City-owned trees along Connecticut Avenue. Commissioner Perry said she would want to add to that letter in the next day or two. Commissioner Kogan observed that such a letter from the Chair does not require an ANC vote and Commissioner Bardin said he would not press for it then.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF LEVINE SCHOOL OF MUSIC BZA APPLICATION [10:38 - 10:40 pm]

On motion of Commissioner Perry, seconded by Commissioner Bardin, the ANC approved (7-0-0) a letter to the BZA concurring in the Levine School of Music's request for a postponement in order to allow for further discussions with the neighborhood.

13. ADJOURNMENT [10:40 pm]

On motion of Commissioner Bardin, seconded by Commissioner Kogan, the Commission voted 6-0-0 to adjourn. The next regular, monthly business meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 20, 2002, at Capital Memorial Church, 3150 Chesapeake Street.

Respectfully,

David J. Bardin
Secretary, ANC3F

