

Minutes 10/25/76

The regular monthly meeting of ANC 3C was held on October 25, 1976 at the Second District Police Station. The meeting was called to order and the roll was taken. All Commissioners were present. The posting of notices of the meeting was verified. The minutes of the September meeting were distributed and the minutes of the August meeting were read and approved.

Under Residents' concerns a number of issues were discussed. The first of these was the problem of ANC publicity. Marjorie Goldman, Ms. Prendergast, and Roger Sullivan all spoke of the difficulties that citizens who are not particularly involved in the community have in knowing of ANC activities. They also discussed the need for more information dissemination concerning ANC elections. Ms. McGrath assured them that the Commission was attempting to notify all citizens of our activities and suggested that they follow ANC news in the Uptown Citizen and the Potomac Current. She also said that individual SMD or ANC-wide newsletters were now possible, since the Commission has been funded.

The next issue for consideration was the application for a zoning variance for conversion of a Tourist Home on Woodley Rd. to a beauty parlor. The Woodley Park Citizens Association has asked the Commission to reconsider its September position of nonopposition to the application. Bill Carroll of Woodley Park explained the citizens reasons. Sam Smith spoke on the need to support the efforts of small businesspersons to establish themselves in the neighborhood and, thus, retain the mixed-use character of the community. Mr. Knickel who is seeking to get the variance and sell the property and Mr. Marovich who is seeking to build the beauty parlor were both in attendance. It was decided that in view of the new information that has come to hand the ANC would submit the question to its planning and zoning committee for further action. It was decided that if necessary the Commission would meet in a special session before the Nov. 22 BZA hearing to adopt a final position.

Mr. Smith introduced the major topic of the evening--the possible problems of the school system's plans to consolidate Hearst and Janney schools and to close Oyster School. Such a consolidation would mean breaking up the present Hearst/Eaton unit. Smith had sent a letter to the Supt. of Schools, Vincent Reed, protesting this action and reminding him of his obligation to inform the ANC of any proposed school changes that might affect the community. Reed had replied that the School Board, not the Superintendent, was responsible to the ANCs. Carol Schwartz, Ward 3 School Board member, spoke to Smith by phone and assured him that Oyster was not going to be closed and that the community should "hang loose" on the Eaton/Hearst/Janney question.

Betty Ann Kane, an at-large school board member, was present at the meeting. She explained the cost-cutting rationale behind the proposed Hearst/Janney merger-- that such a switch would enable one Assistant Principal position to be eliminated. She also spoke of the general problem of having built too many schools and needing to find student populations to fill them. In addition she spoke of the problems of displacing principals as the number of schools decreases and the impact that these problems were likely to have on the principal selection procedure. A number of citizens spoke of the excellence of the educational program now being provided by Oyster

and Eaton/Hearst and the problems that the proposed switch might cause. Among the speakers were: Esther Namian, Betty Geogh, Hugh Allen, Bill Carroll, Bob McDanagh, and Gwen REiss.

Kane recommended that we support a middle ground on Principal selection, allowing the selection committees to continue to function, but requiring them to select from within the system. On the issue of consolidation she recommended that the community speak out to the Board of Education. She did warn that it was possible that such protests might hasten the closing of Janney, the least utilized school in the group. On the question of Oyster School Kane suggested that the community register a strong protest with the School Board, the Superintendent and the School Board President.

On the basis of these comments the Commission decided to take the following actions: Asking the School Board for information on grade-by-grade enrollments at Janney; informing the school board that the ANCs have a right to be notified about boundary changes; writing a letter to the appropriate parties concerning OYster (Lindsley Williams will draft the letter); writing a letter to City Council stating our unhappiness with the general budget cuts for the schools, especially as it affects our local schools (Sam Smith will write this letter.)

The ANC will hold a Town Meeting at St. Thomas Apostle Church to discuss the Woodley Park Citizens Association's plan for the area on Dec. 13, 1976.

The lease for the Commission's office was discussed. The rent will be \$100 per month. A motion was made that the Commission thanks Mr. Krucoff and Col. Van Way for their efforts in this regard and asks them to move the negotiations to completion.

It was decided to hold a special Commission meeting on Monday, Nov. 15 to discuss the budget for the next year. Col. Van Way has drafted a possible budget. A motion was passed stating that the Commission gives the Commission treasurer authority to transfer funds from checking to savings accounts as necessary.

It was announced that the Service Area Committees would now be holding one night and one daytime meeting per month.

It was announced that ANC 6B has asked us to support them in their effort to gain recognition as the official advisory body to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the administration of the Block Grants. No action was taken until the Commission could get more information.

The traffic and transportation committee has prepared a draft report concerning traffic control. This report will be reviewed and submitted to the appropriate District Agencies.

Mr. Smith spoke on the proposed METRO fare and route changes. While these changes would be beneficial to our parochial interest, it may be seen that they are part of a citywide trend to force people to use the subway, even if it means paying increased fares.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine Coram, Rec'dg. Sec'y