

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION – 3B
GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



Tamela Gordon 3B01, Chair
Melissa J. Lane 3B03, Vice-Chair
Amy Bowman 3B05, Treasurer
Charles L. Howe, 3B02, Secretary
Horace Kreitzman, 3B04

ANC-3B Minutes
November 10th, 2005

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioner Gordon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. A clarification to the agenda was made, i.e., the agenda item on Good Guys is an application for a substantial change to their current liquor license. With that change, a motion to accept the agenda passed.

Commissioners present

3B01 – Tamela Gordon
3B02 – Charles L. Howe
3B03 – Melissa J. Lane
3B05 – Amy Bowman

Commissioners absent

3B04 – Horace Kreitzman

2nd DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Officer Cameila gave the police report because Officers Baker and Rock were unable to attend the meeting. Officer Cameila has just recently returned to the Second District so he was unaware of current issues. Asked about the clubs on Wisconsin Avenue in Glover Park, he did say that MPD did not have issues any law enforcement problems with Good Guys but there have been periodic problems with JP's. Commissioner Gordon asked MPD to give a report at the next meeting on incidents with JP's and the alleged massage parlors being operating on Wisconsin Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Good Guys Application for Substantial Change to Existing License. Ben Zagen, owner of Good Guys, is requesting a substantial change to his liquor license to expand his restaurant space. His proposal is to buy the restaurant next door. Doing that will increase his occupancy from 75 to 120. He does not propose to increase the entertainment space for his restaurant. The rational behind the change is that the clientele to his club has changed and they now demand more food service than before. Food sales, which did account for roughly 3 percent of sales for most of the club's history, now account for about 9 percent.

Questions were raised about whether or not this expansion violated the Glover Park liquor license moratorium in that it was first developed to guard against an increase in the number of clubs in the neighborhood. The language of the moratorium is sufficiently vague, however, so the question is not really answerable. A couple of people suggested that when the issue of the moratorium renewal came up that the language should be carefully examined and tightened significantly.

A member of the audience asked if Good Guys provided parking. Mr. Zagen said that his club subsidizes parking costs and that there is a big paid lot behind the building.

Commissioner Gordon introduced a motion to oppose Good Guy's expansion. The motion was seconded. The vote was 2-2 (Lane and Howe opposed) so the motion failed.

Bourbon Deck Addition. Bill Thomas, owner of Bourbon, submitted a request for a substantial change to his liquor license by adding an outside deck to the back of his restaurant. The deck would be two-tiered and would hold tables for no more than 22 people. The outdoor space would be closed after 11 pm on weekdays and midnight on weekends. The space is walled-in and somewhat soundproofed. Mr. Thomas has entered into a voluntary agreement with the residents in the building behind his business so they can work together to make sure the effort is success for all parties. Mr. Thomas has also agreed to work with the neighbors to minimize any sound problems. Finally, Mr. Thomas agreed to also enter into a voluntary agreement with the ANC on the issue.

Commissioner Gordon introduced a resolution to support Bourbon's expansion. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0.

Liquor License Request for My Bakery. David Escobar, owner, spoke on behalf of My Bakery. Milt Grossman spoke on behalf of the formal protest group of 5 residents of Hall Place. So far negotiations between the two groups have not been successful. Mr. Escobar has hired a new lawyer, Demetrios Melios, so negotiations will be begin anew. There continue to be worries among the protest group that My Bakery will turn into a club rather than just a bakery/restaurant that serves beer and wine.

As he has been asked on previous occasions, Mr. Escobar asked what he envisioned as the primary purpose of his business. He said that it was a restaurant and bakery but that he also wanted to have live music and maybe dance classes or something similar. When pressed further, he could not really answer what he thought were the long term goals for live entertainment.

Commissioner Gordon introduced a resolution with two provisions: one for the DR license per se and one about the live music provision. Mr. Grossman asked if the resolution could be deferred for a month while negotiations with the protest group continued. Commissioner Gordon asked if his group would be interested in joining forces with the ANC in order to produce one rather than two voluntary agreements. After negotiation with others, Mr. Grossman agreed.

Commissioner Bowman urged Mr. Escobar to develop a business plan before all the parties met to continue negotiations.

Commissioner Gordon introduced a motion to table the issue until the December meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

Town Hall Request for Permanent Change in Hours in Liquor License. Paul Holder, co-owner of Town Hall, explained that they were currently operating under a temporary stipulated license that allowed them to remain open until 1 am on weekdays and 2 am on weekends. They are seeking a permanent change of hours to 2 am on weekdays and 3 am on weekends. They have broad support within the community. Dozens of their supports from Glover Park have sent e-mails to ANC 3B supporting the permanent change in hours.

In general, those in the audience said that Town Hall has done a good job supporting the community and keeping control of their patrons. The primary concern was the behavior of patrons after they leave Town Hall. When queried, those concerns could not say that the patrons leaving Town Hall were those that were unruly, only that there had been a number of unruly people that were misbehaving and noisy in their neighborhoods at the time that the bars in Glover Park close. (NB: The closing hours of almost all bars in Glover Park is 2 am on weekdays and 3 am on weekends.)

Paul Holder said that Town Hall was making arrangements to hire an off duty police officer to patrol Hall Place and W Street. The audience members who were concerned about the Town Hall issue of permanent later hours were asked if this arrangement would sufficiently address their concerns. They said it would. Mr. Holder offered to sign a formal arrangement for off duty patrols. J. Lively pointed out that off duty police officers could not be employed directly by a restaurant or bar but that arrangements could be made through a citizens group such as the Glover Park Citizens Association.

Commissioner Gordon introduced a resolution to support a permanent change in hours for Town Hall with the provision that Town Hall would enter into an agreement for off duty patrols between 11 pm to 3 am on weekdays and 11 pm to 4 am on weekends. The resolution was seconded and passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS. None.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Treasurer's Report and Quarterly Report. Commissioner Bowman gave the treasurer's report. As of the end of October 2005, the ANC 3B bank balance is \$24,392. Commissioner Bowman also gave the fourth quarter report for FY 2005. The quarter started with a balance of \$22,440.96 and ended with a balance of \$24,427.03. A motion to accept the quarterly report was introduced and seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of the October 2005 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Gordon presented the October 2005 minutes for approval. Commissioner Gordon presented a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

OPEN FORUM. No issues forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so presented, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned 10:25 pm.