ANC-3B Minutes
September 11, 2003

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:25 pm. Commissioner Lane, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting for Commissioner Orr, Chair, who was out of town on military duty.

Commissioners present
3B01 – Toni Ritzenberg
3B03 – Melissa Lane
3B05 – Christopher Lively

Commissioners absent
3B02 – Jonathan Orr
3B04 – Michael Halpin

MOMENT OF REMEMBERANCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of those lost and injured in the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and for those community members who are serving in the armed forces.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Quarterly Financial Reports. Commissioner Ritzenberg presented quarterly financial reports for the fourth quarter of FY 2002 and the first quarter of FY 2003. The reports need to be passed and filed with the D.C. Auditor’s office on or before September 30, 2003. Commissioner Ritzenberg presented a resolution to approve these quarterly reports. Commissioner Lively seconded the resolution.

The resolution passed 3-0 to approve the quarterly financial reports for ANC 3B for fourth quarter 2002 and first quarter 2003.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on 2136 Wisconsin Avenue. Commissioner Lane reported Commissioner Orr was contacted by phone by a representative of 2136 Wisconsin Avenue who told him that one of the alternatives under discussion for the property was to turn it into a youth services center/halfway house rather than a mixed use commercial/residential property. No definite plans are under discussion, however, and no representative was present for 2136 Wisconsin Avenue.

Several community members expressed concern about this proposal. The commissioners agreed send a letter to the developer expressing the community’s concern and asking them to report more fully on their plans.

Update on BZA action regarding St. Luke’s Condominium. Commissioner Lane reported that the Bureau of Zoning and Adjustment had approved the St. Luke’s Condominium Project but that the final order had not been released yet.
NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution Endorsing the Recent Formation of the Upper Georgetown/Glover Park Business Association. Commissioner Lane read a resolution developed by Commissioner Orr endorsing a business association in the community. The resolution was considered and then put forward for a vote.

The resolution passed 3-0 to endorse the recent formation of the Upper Georgetown/Glover Park Business Association.

Consideration of Resolution to Send a Letter of Protest to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Regarding Recent Changes to the Liquor License of the Establishment, “Bourbon,” on Wisconsin Avenue. Mr. Milton Grossman, who handles legal matters for ANC 3B including development of voluntary agreements, presented his concerns about the transfer of the liquor license for “Mon Cheri,” the previous tenant of 2348 Wisconsin, to “Bourbon,” the current tenant. Mr. Grossman contends that the new establishment is substantially different from the previous establishment and that the new owners failed to disclose to the ABC these substantial changes beyond that of extending the hours of operation. Mr. Grossman further contends that the previous establishment was primarily a “sandwich” shop that sold beer and wine and that the current operation is primarily a “bar” that sells “light fare.”

Mr. Dimitri Mallios representing a co-owner of establishment, Mr. Bill Thomas, countered that there is no substantial change in the two restaurants beyond the change in hours. Mr. Mallios did write to the ABC in October 2002 and received permission for the change in hours from the ABC. He further contends that “Mon Cheri” had a full restaurant license even though they did not use it and that “Bourbon” is operating as a full service restaurant. Mr. Thomas then presented the menu for the new establishment saying that it represented an “improvement” over the last establishment.

Commissioner Ritzenberg expressed serious concerns about whether the new restaurant displayed their liquor license transfer application in the front window of the restaurant. Commissioners Lively and Ritzenberg questioned Mr. Thomas on why he did not contact ANC 3B at all about his plans. Commissioner Lively noted that ANC 3B has positive working relationships with other restaurants in Glover Park and that they have all entered into voluntary agreements with ANC 3B. Mr. Thomas expressed doubts about entering into a voluntary agreement but Mr. Mallios agreed to consider it.

The Commissioners are concerned that the community was not adequately informed of the transfer of the liquor license or the extent of the change in establishments. Commissioner Lane introduced a resolution to have Mr. Grossman write a letter to the ABC questioning the approval of the transfer and asking them to reconsider the issue. Commissioner Lively seconded the resolution.

The resolution passed 3-0 to have Mr. Grossman write a letter to the ABC about ANC 3B’s concerns regarding the transfer of the liquor license. The Commissioners agreed to hold this resolution in abeyance, however, pending negotiations between Commissioner Orr, whose district includes 2348 Wisconsin Avenue, Mr. Grossman, and Mr. Thomas.
Possible Consideration of Concerns About Park Usage in the Glover Park Area. Commissioner Lane asked if representatives were present from the 2200 blocks of 40th Street or 40th Place. Commissioner Lively and Commissioner Lane had been contacted by residents of these blocks concerned about the use of the W Street park by dog owners as a de facto dog park. No representatives were present to discuss the issues so it was tabled at this time.

MPD REPORT

PSA 205 Report. Lt. Josiah Eaves from the Second District gave the police report for Patrol Service Area 205. He asked that community members contact him directly if there are issues they would like him to address. Commissioner Ritzenberg asked him if crime statistics could be run for all of ANC 3B rather than just PSA 205 as ANC 3B also includes parts of PSA 203 and PSA 204. Lt. Eaves agreed to have “ANC 3B” statistics run for the October meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Notice of and Discussion of Need to Amend and Update the ANC 3B Bylaws. Commissioner Lane announced that the ANC 3B Bylaws will be undergoing revision.

Budget/Audit Update. Commissioner Lane reported that the D.C. Auditor is conducting an audit of ANC 3B records and that the ANC 3B bank accounts remain frozen.

Approval of July Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Halpin, Secretary/Treasurer for ANC 3B, was unable to attend the meeting or send the July meeting minutes for consideration. As such, discussion and approval of the July meeting minutes was postponed.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Lane asked if there were any issues the community would like to bring up. None were forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:29 pm