

Shaw-Dupont Citizens Alliance

Minutes

Membership Meeting

March 21, 2013

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:05p.m, by President, Joan Sterling.

Board Members in Attendance:

Joan Sterling, Pres.; Elwyn Ferris, Sec.; Guy Podgornik, Treasurer;
Robert Lawrentz, Tech. Officer; Caroline De Mariz, Director

Member introductions.

A quorum was determined to be present.

President's Report:

Due to a scheduling conflict, President Joan Sterling dispensed with any report, as her attendance at the adjacent ANC1B- ABC Committee Meeting was required in Conf. Room #1.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Guy Podgornik gave the Treasurer's report, available to members upon request, which included the receipt of membership dues from new members.

Announcements:

President Joan Sterling announced the formation of an SDCA Zoning Committee, to be chaired by German Jimenez. The formation of the Zoning Committee arose from two (2) local zoning issues: "Street" Tavern ABC license application at 1346 T Street NW; and "Fainting Goat" Tavern ABC license application at 1330 U Street NW.

Elwyn Ferris distributed announcements of the Citizens Federation's March 26th Assembly being held at The All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church, 2300 Cathedral Avenue NW, where Jennifer Budoff, Budget Director, Council of the District of Columbia will outline the city's FY 2014 budget. This Assembly is Open to the Public.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by President Joan Sterling, to approve the minutes of the February 21st membership meeting as submitted. Seconded by Robert Lawrence. Vote: 5-0-0
Motion to approve passes.

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Committee Reports:

Zoning Committee: German Jimenez, Chair

Regarding the issuance of an ABC Tavern license application for 1346 T Street NW, Zoning Committee Chair German Jimenez made a power point presentation demonstrating that (1) DCRA erred in its interpretation that the definition of a drinking establishment pursuant to Section 1901.6 of the Zoning Regulations excluding an establishment with an ABC License that sells alcoholic beverages and (2) DCRA erred in its interpretation that once the linear foot frontage measurement limitation calculation for a square has been reached as set forth in Section 1901.6 of the Zoning Regulations, the use limitation excludes portions of squares in the 14th and U Street, NW area, as provided in Sections 1901.6 and 1900.1 the Zoning Regulations.

Motion:

A Motion was introduced by German Jimenez, Zoning Committee Chair, to support the filing of an Appeal of the Administrative Decision of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs ("DCRA") in its Interpretation of 11 DCMR Sections 1901.6 and 1900.1 for 1346 T Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, Lot 0088, Square 238.
Seconded by Robert Lawrentz. Vote: 11-0-0
Motion passes.

ABRA Committee: Elwyn Ferris, Chair

ABC License Applications:

ABRA Lic. #091140; Class "T" Tavern; "Street"; 1346 T Street NW; Update:

As a result of the March 8th Mediation Session, applicant has agreed to have last seating of patrons in outdoor café at 11:00pm, and cease all services and clear all patrons from the outdoor café area no later than 12:00 midnight. No agreement from applicant to include any 'food service' percentage in their Tavern Settlement Agreement. Negotiations continue with 'parties granted legal standing'.

ABRA Lic. #091244; Class "T" Tavern; "Fainting Goat"; 1330 U Street NW:

Based on an official measurement requested by SDCA, the Zoning Administrator's office measured the south side of the 1300 block of U Street NW. Their official measurement showed that insufficient frontage currently remained to allow the use of an 'eating and drinking' establishment at the proposed address for the 'Fainting Goat' at 1330 U Street, as it would exceed the 50% maximum allowable in the Uptown Arts Overlay.

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Motion

A motion to adopt a prepared Resolution was introduced by ABC Committee Chair, Elwyn Ferris, to be sent to Matthew Le Grant, Zoning Administrator. The Resolution: 1. opposes the issuance of any building permits and/or Certificates of Occupancy for the use of 1330 U Street NW as an 'eating and drinking' establishment; 2. opposes the granting of any relief ('exception' 'variance', etc.) for the use of 1330 U Street NW as an 'eating and drinking' establishment; 3. supports strict enforcement of the Uptown Arts Overlay provision that limits the frontage of each block face to 50% maximum usage as an 'eating and drinking' establishment.

Seconded by Aileen Johnson. Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Joel Lawson, Associate Director for Development Review for the DC Office of Planning, gave an informative and in-depth power point presentation on the new Zoning Re-Write (ZRR), as it relates to the Commercial corridors of 14th and U Streets, and how it would impact our historic neighborhood, and the District in general.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 18, 2013.