



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 22nd, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Ashley Warren (2D01) and Carole Feld (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of April 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's April 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Feld thanked St. Margaret's Episcopal Church for hosting the ANC meeting and meeting attendees for attending the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$16,352.86.

Approval of Paychecks for the ANC's Administrative Coordinator

Commissioner Feld moved to approve the paychecks for the ANC's Administrative Coordinator for October, November, and December 2022 and for January, February, and March 2023. Chair Warren seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Lieutenant Timothy Beirne, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the cameras installed on light posts at the intersection of California Street and 23rd Street NW and the recent vehicular incident at the Embassy of China's residence at 2301 S Street NW with Lieutenant Beirne.

Mayor's Office

Christopher Powell, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. He said that local residents are able to contact DC's Access HelpLine at 1-888-793-4357 if they ever need help. He gave an overview of several new public safety proposals that the Mayor recently introduced. He said that Ashan Benedict has been named as MPD's Interim Chief of Police. He also provided the details for the Annual Truck Touch and other upcoming DC Government events.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the state of the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW, a ribbon cutting for the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project, and the Mayor's new public safety proposals with Mr. Powell.

Councilmember's Office

Aukima Benjamin, the Committee and Constituent Services Manager for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, said that the DC Council is close to the end of the FY 2024 budget season. She said that the DC Council's final vote on the FY 2024 budget will be on June 6th, 2023. She said that Councilmember Pinto is working to make sure that Ward 2's priorities stay in the budget. She gave an overview of several funding requests, including funding for traffic cameras, that Councilmember Pinto had requested to be included in the budget.

Ms. Benjamin gave an overview of the DC Council Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety's FY 2024 budget priorities, including restoring funding for victims services and legal aid. She said that Councilmember Pinto looks forward to working with MPD's Interim Chief of Police and to confirming a new Chief of Police. She said that Councilmember Pinto has asked the Construction Codes Coordinating Board to reevaluate when DC buildings have to switch from heat to air conditioning. She also encouraged local residents to march with Councilmember Pinto in the Capital Pride Parade on June 10th, 2023.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed a ribbon cutting for the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project, free Metrobus fares, and helicopters flying over the neighborhood with Ms. Benjamin.

New Business

Public Space Application for the Installation of Two Planter Boxes Adjacent to the Walkway at 2475 Kalorama Road NW

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's regular June 2023 meeting.

Updates

Update Regarding the Status of the Embassy of Pakistan's Property at 2201 R Street NW by Patricia Gracyalny, Assistant General Counsel for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Frank Bessenyei, Division Chief of the Assessment Services Division for the Office of Tax and Revenue

Patricia Gracyalny, Assistant General Counsel for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and Frank Bessenyei, Division Chief of the Assessment Services Division for the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), were present. Mr. Bessenyei introduced himself to meeting attendees. He gave an overview of the work of his OTR division, which bills and collects real property taxes. He said that OTR's annual tax sale will take place on July 18th and July 19th 2023. He said that the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW is scheduled to be part of the annual tax sale. He said that the outstanding taxes for the property, not including the 2023 taxes, are \$1.3 million. He added that the outstanding taxes including the 2023 taxes are \$1.7 million. He said that the property is currently classified as blighted, which increases the property tax rate. He said that the property's owners have until May 31st, 2023 to pay off the taxes or to bring the taxes below the tax sale threshold in order to remove the property from the tax sale. He added that there have been no tax payments for the property since 2019.

Mr. Bessenyei said that anyone interested in the tax sale can register for the tax sale at: <https://mytax.dc.gov/>. He said that the website includes more information, including frequently asked questions, regarding the tax sale. He gave an overview of OTR's methods of outreach for announcing the tax sale. He gave an overview of the notices that OTR sends to property owners to let them know about their delinquent taxes. He said that if no one purchases the tax lien for the Embassy of Pakistan's property during the tax sale, there is a period for anyone to purchase the tax lien over the counter, followed by a first come, first serve purchase period, followed by a process where the tax lien is offered at a discounted price. He said that anyone who purchases the tax lien would then have to file a foreclosure lawsuit in order to obtain the title to the property.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the foreclosure lawsuit process, the success rate for someone making it through the full process to foreclosure, the DC Government's inability to foreclose on the outstanding tax lien, the problematic current state of Pakistan's government, the process for the DC Government to use eminent domain to acquire the property, other foreign government-owned properties in the neighborhood that were transferred to private hands, and ways to better publicize the tax sale with Mr. Bessenyei and Ms. Gracyalny.

Government Reports (Continued)

Metropolitan Police Department (Continued)

Lieutenant Beirne said that representatives from the United States Secret Service told him that the vehicular incident at the Embassy of China's residence at 2301 S Street NW was a minor traffic crash and was not a security incident. He gave further updates regarding other recent crimes in the neighborhood.

Updates (Continued)

Update Regarding Taxi Signage on Leroy Place NW

The Commission did not have an update regarding this matter.

Update Regarding Increasing the Walk Time at the Intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW from 31 Seconds to 60 Seconds

The Commission did not have an update regarding this matter.

Update Regarding a Speed Camera for the Intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW

The Commission did not have an update regarding this matter.

Update Regarding Changing the Staging Area for Restore Mass Ave's Dupont Tree Plaza

The Commission did not have an update regarding this matter.

Update Regarding a Traffic Study for R Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Florida Avenue NW

The Commission did not have an update regarding this matter.

Update Regarding Signage in the Alleyway and on the Sidewalk at the Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW

The Commission did not have an update regarding this matter.

Update Regarding the Status of the District Department of Transportation's Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project

Shaun Davis, a Construction Manager for HNTB, said that construction work for the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project has been completed. He said that construction materials are being removed from the area. He said that the missing call box at the intersection of 24th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW has been reported to the Office of Planning (OP).

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the missing callbox and trimming trees near the new traffic signals with Mr. Davis.

Update Regarding the Leaking Wall at 2200 S Street NW and Pool and Fountain Overflow at the Spanish Steps

Commissioner Feld said that the Embassy of China was issued a Notice of Infraction in December 2021 regarding the wall at 2200 S Street NW, which has been breaking apart and leaking water. She said that the ANC is trying to work with the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) regarding the matter. She also said that there is also an ongoing situation with the fountain at the Spanish Steps overflowing.

Update Regarding the Embassy of China Residence's Wall at 2301 S Street NW

Chair Warren said that the Public Space Committee will hold a hearing regarding the Embassy of China's public space application for a wall at the residence at 2301 S Street NW on May 25th, 2023. She said that she is trying to figure out if she will be able to testify during the hearing.

Announcements and Open Comment

A local resident expressed concerns with sidewalk repairs that are taking place on sidewalks that do not appear to need repairs.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, June 12th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 9:04 pm.