



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2017, 7:00 pm
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church
2200 California Street NW

Call to Order

Chairperson David Bender called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners David Bender (2D01) and Ellen Goldstein (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 45 residents and visitors in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the meeting agenda. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of the March 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the March 2017 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Chair Bender said that a local resident had expressed concerns regarding the diplomatic parking spaces that were marked on the street in front of the vacant Sri Lankan Embassy building at 2148 Wyoming Avenue NW. Chair Bender said that he raised the issue with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and that DDOT then removed the diplomatic parking signs.

Chair Bender said that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be hosting its Ninth Annual DC Housing Expo and Home Show on Saturday, June 24th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said that the current balance in the ANC's checking account is \$10,472.

DC Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department's Police Service Area 208

Sergeant Miguel Rodriguez, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District (miguela.rodriguezgil@dc.gov), gave the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He said that MPD has increased police patrols in the neighborhood, especially with regards to foot patrols and police officers on bikes. He said that crime has been relatively low in the neighborhood during the last several weeks.

Commissioner Goldstein asked if MPD tends to see an uptick in crime in the neighborhood during the summer months. Sgt. Rodriguez that, citywide, there is an uptick in crime during the summer months, but that he is not expecting an uptick in the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood based on the increased MPD patrols in the neighborhood.

Sgt. Rodriguez encouraged local residents not to leave valuables in their cars in order to prevent thefts from cars.

A local resident asked if MPD's increase in neighborhood patrols was in response to the multiple famous residents that recently moved into the neighborhood. Sgt. Rodriguez said that the increase in neighborhood patrols is the result of a multitude of factors.

A local resident thanked MPD for its work in increasing the neighborhood patrols. She said that she recently encountered a patrol when she was walking through an alley in the neighborhood at night.

Chair Bender said that Lieutenant Jerome Merrill, the Lieutenant for MPD's police service area (PSA) 208, has said that the U.S. Secret Service agents stationed in the neighborhood can intervene in crimes that are taking place in the neighborhood if intervening will not jeopardize the agents' current mission.

Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) (jerry.chapin@dc.gov), said that the Mayor had recently released her proposed FY 2018 budget. He encouraged meeting attendees to read through the details of the proposed budget.

Chair Bender asked about the status of the neon sign at the Islamic Center of Washington. He said that he has heard that the sign has been unplugged but not removed. Mr. Chapin said that he will have an update from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) regarding the matter later this week.

Commissioner Goldstein said that the neighborhood is still experiencing traffic problems at the intersection of Florida Avenue and Connecticut Avenue NW. Mr. Chapin said that he would reach out to DDOT regarding the matter.

Commissioner Goldstein said the Mayor had pledged during her annual State of the District Address on March 30th to fix the city's main roads that are in the worst condition within five years. Mr. Chapin said that DDOT continues to invest in street maintenance.

A local resident said that he was hoping that DDOT would address the traffic issues on Waterside Drive NW. Mr. Chapin said that the matter would be included in an upcoming community discussion with DDOT.

Councilmember's Office

Sherri Kimbel, the Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Jack Evans (skimbel@dccouncil.us), said that the Department of Public Works' (DPW) trash collection schedule has slid by one day this week because of the Emancipation Day holiday. She also said that ANC 2F is putting together a local crime meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:15 pm at the National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW. She encouraged local residents to attend the meeting.

Ms. Kimbel said that DDOT will begin enforcing the city's red top meter restrictions on Monday, May 8th in the central business district (CBD).

Old Business

Residential Parking Update

Chair Bender said that DC government seems to be in a state of confusion regarding how to address the residential parking issues in the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood. He said that DDOT previously committed to installing some one-side, resident-only parking signs on certain streets in the neighborhood by the end of March, however there have been snags that have slowed down DDOT's implementation of the change.

Ms. Kimbel said that DDOT is working on the matter. She said that the neighborhood is very complex because of the large amount of embassies, so DDOT thus needs to figure out what streets and what sides of the streets will get the parking signs. She added that the planned change is still moving forward and that DDOT is in the process of obtaining the parking signs.

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of the recent community walk-through that occurred with DDOT. She said that during the walk-through DDOT had promised that they would be removing diplomatic street parking spots for embassy-owned residences.

Mr. Chapin said that the Mayor has suggested that the ANC needs to gather more community input regarding the proposed parking changes. He suggested that the neighborhood schedule a heavily-advertised community discussion in order to gather input.

Chair Bender asked for meeting attendees' opinions regarding the proposal to implement one-side, resident-only parking in the neighborhood. Some meeting attendees expressed support for the proposal while others expressed concerns or had questions regarding the proposal.

Chair Bender said that a community meeting will thus be held to specifically discuss the parking proposal.

New Business

2425 Tracy Place NW Renovations

Mark Kramer, the architect for the project at 2425 Tracy Place NW (kramerarch@att.net), gave an overview of the proposed project. He said that the applicant is proposing to change the windows, doors, railings, and other exterior façade elements of the building.

Chair Bender moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D approves the plans for the renovation work to be done to the exterior of the property at 2425 Tracy Place NW as presented at the ANC's April 17, 2017 meeting.

2406 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Chair Bender said that the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates has applied to install a sign in the front yard of their property at 2406 Massachusetts Avenue NW. He added that Steve Callcott, the Deputy Preservation Officer for the Office of Planning, has already signed-off on the Historic Preservation Review Board elements of the project.

Chair Bender moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D believes that the sign included in the public space application for 2406 Massachusetts Avenue NW, which has the dimensions of 6 foot 4 inches long by 2 foot 10 high tall, seems sizable and out of character for the neighborhood.

Announcements

Chair Bender said that Councilmember Elissa Silverman will give a presentation regarding her legislative priorities at the ANC's regular May meeting.

Holly Sukenik, a Board Member for Restore Mass Ave, encouraged meeting attendees to purchase tickets for the organization's upcoming benefit event, which will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30 pm at the Embassy of Haiti, 2311 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

A local resident asked if short-term rentals such as Airbnb are legal in the neighborhood. Commissioner Goldstein said there is pending DC Council legislation regarding the matter. Chair Bender suggested that the resident put in a 311 request to make sure that the property has the proper licenses to operate.

Hector Huevo, the Commissioner for ANC 1C02, said the Adams Morgan BID is putting together a Pinewood Grand Prix event, which will be on Saturday, April 29th at 10:00 am at Kalorama Park, 1840 Columbia Road NW.

Open Comments

Dogs at Mitchell Park

Chair Bender said the ANC will not entertain any resolution regarding the use of Mitchell Park by dog owners during this evening's meeting and that the matter is only on the agenda for discussion.

Greg Garcia, a local resident, said that he has been going to Mitchell Park for several years and is becoming concerned with the number of unleashed dogs in the park. He said that the number of unleashed dogs has become a problem for the health and safety of families using the park. He said that he has tried to constructively work with dog owners to create a level of expectations for dogs using the park. He added that the city's current regulations state that unleashed dogs should not be allowed in the public areas of the park, including the playground and the playing field.

A local resident said that she is a small dog owner and that she wants to try and find a way to meet the needs of all community members who use the park in the most harmonious way possible. She said that local residents need a place to bring their dogs just like parents need a place to bring their children.

Another local resident who is a dog owner gave an overview of the beauty of Mitchell Park. She said that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), which manages the park, should allow the community to solve the issues with unleashed dogs ourselves and that DPR's one-size-fits-all regulations do not work for individual communities like ours.

A local resident who is not a dog owner says that she loves talking to the dog owners in the park but that the large dogs who use the park on weekends have prevented her from using the park with her family.

Another local resident who is a dog owner said that he agrees that there should be a middle ground on the matter. He said that most dog owners are considerate of other people in the park and that the harmonious use of the park is one of the park's strengths.

Another local resident who is a dog owner said that she usually goes to the park with her dog early in the morning or at night. She said that she does not see kids in the park when she is there at those times. She added that a park in Chevy Chase, near where she used to live, had restrictions where dogs could only use the park in the morning or at night.

Another local resident who is not a dog owner said that the unleashed dogs make it hard for athletes to use the playing field because the dogs chase after the balls.

Commissioner Goldstein said that Mitchell Park has become the place where the neighborhood meets each other. She thanked community members for their work in contributing to the betterment of the park.

Chair Bender thanked everyone who had expressed their opinions regarding the matter.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will be on Monday, May 15th at 7:00 pm.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.