



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21st, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Warren called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's January 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 said that there has been an outbreak of canine influenza in DC. She said that it has been recommended that dogs avoid contact with other dogs while indoors and avoid communal water bowls. She said that there is a canine influenza vaccine but it is only recommended for older dogs, dogs with respiratory problems, or dogs being boarded.

Chair Warren said that the ANC is looking for a permanent home for ANC meetings so that the ANC can continue to hold hybrid meetings.

Combined Annual Meeting of Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Organizations, Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, 6:00 pm, Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S Street NW

Chair Warren said that the combined annual meeting of Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood organizations will take place on Tuesday, March 21st at 6:00 pm at the Woodrow Wilson House at 2340 S Street NW. She encouraged local residents to attend the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$15,323.79.

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. He said that MPD has seen a trend with Canada Goose jackets being stolen, however he said that some arrests have been made. He said that MPD believes that there has been a decrease in the robberies since the recent arrests. He also gave an overview of the recent clearing of the encampments at McPherson Square. He said that some of the individuals experiencing homelessness at the encampments have shifted to other areas of the city.

The commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the finding of a dead person in Rock Creek Park, a bus crash at Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW, and a robbery of a dry cleaners with Lieutenant Beirne.

Mayor's Office

Christopher Powell and Grace Reeder, the Ward 2 representatives for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), introduced themselves to meeting attendees. Ms. Reeder gave an overview of new grants that are available through the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP), the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), and the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture (MONC). She said that this week is mid-winter break for the DC Public Schools (DCPS) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is offering programming from Monday, February 20th to Friday, February 24th during the break.

Ms. Reeder gave an overview of Mayor Bowser's new efforts to encourage black homeownership. She gave an overview of additional upcoming events being held by the Mayor and Congresswoman Norton, including the Mayor's 5th Annual FITDC HerStory 5K on Wednesday, February 1st. She said that DC Water's annual chlorine switch begins today and runs through Monday, May 15th. She said that local residents might notice a slight change in the taste of their tap water during the switch. She also gave an overview of the community walks that she and Mr. Powell do on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the DC Water chlorine switch with Ms. Reeder and Mr. Powell.

Councilmember's Office

Aukima Benjamin, the Committee and Constituent Services Manager for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an overview of the three gun violence prevention roundtables that

the Councilmember will be holding on Friday, March 3rd, Saturday, March 4th, and Monday, March 6th. She gave an overview of the DC Council’s upcoming performance oversight hearings, including an oversight hearing regarding the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). She also gave an overview of the Councilmember’s FY 2024 budget priorities, which include addressing public safety and gun violence and funding additional traffic cameras.

Ms. Benjamin gave an overview of the Councilmember’s introduction of the “Expanding Access to Public Restrooms Act of 2023,” the Vehicular Noise Reduction Act of 2023,” the “Prior Authorization Reform Amendment Act of 2023,” and the “Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstarting the Environment (“E-BIKE”) Act of 2023.” She said that the Councilmember’s office recently received a response from MWAA that there had been no recent changes to the flight paths at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. She also encouraged people to sign up for the Councilmember’s newsletter at <https://brookepintodc.com/>. She said that the Councilmember will be joining the ANC’s regular March 2023 meeting.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the “Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstarting the Environment (“E-BIKE”) Act of 2023” and the staging area for the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project.

Chairman Phil Mendelson’s Office

Declan Falls, a Community Outreach Specialist for Chairman Phil Mendelson’s Office, said that the DC Council is now in its annual performance oversight season. He said that the Chairman will be hosting oversight hearings on a number of agencies in the coming weeks, including on the Department of Buildings (DOB). He said that the full oversight hearing schedule can be found on the DC Council’s website at: <https://dccouncil.gov/>. He said that the Chairman’s next “Meetup with Mendo” will take place on Tuesday, February 28th at 5:00 pm via Facebook.

District Department of Transportation

Donovan Boyd, the Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), was present.

Updates

Update Regarding Alleyway Signage in the Neighborhood

Mr. Boyd said that the alleyway signage matter is still in DDOT’s Traffic Safety Input (TSI) queue. He said that there are a lot of TSIs that DDOT is working through.

Update Regarding the Change to the Bus Stop at the Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW

Mr. Boyd said that he heard from DDOT’s bus team that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has determined that the recent bus crash near the intersection of

Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW was not related to the bus stop relocation since the bus involved was not in revenue service. He said that DDOT is investigating the crash to determine if any transportation improvements are needed in the area.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the bus crash with Mr. Boyd.

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

Mr. Boyd said that he does not have any update regarding a speed camera for the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW. He said that he continues to emphasize the request with the DDOT team.

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

Mr. Boyd said that Councilmember Pinto has asked DDOT about the staging area for the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project. He gave an overview of the project and said that DDOT is looking into the requests to change the staging area. He added that an additional community meeting regarding the project will be held in the spring.

Update Regarding Pedestrian Signage Near Sheridan Circle

Mr. Boyd said that the pedestrian signage near Sheridan Circle was installed per the original plans for the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project. He said that DDOT is open to receiving any additional feedback regarding the matter.

Update Regarding Mitigating Glaring Light from Streetlights Installed as Part of the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project

and

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 he is working with DDOT's streetlight team to procure additional glare shields for the individual streetlights that are causing issues to neighbors. He said that the sides of the streetlight globes could also be painted if the glare shields do not solve the issue. He added that DC's citywide Smart Street Lighting Project will be looking to add dimmable features to streetlights, which could also help with the issue.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discuss the dimmable features, the streetlight shields, painting the streetlights, and the use of Washington globes for the streetlights with Mr. Davis and Mr. Boyd.

Update Regarding the Status of the Embassy of Pakistan's Property at 2201 R Street NW

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

ANC 2D requested in an August 2022 resolution (Attachment A) that the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) requests that the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) initiates foreclosure actions for the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW.

ANC 2D further requests that the city continues to classify the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW as blight to move forward with foreclosing on the property.

New Business

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for Special Exceptions from the Penthouse Setback Requirements, the Court Requirements, and the Side Yard Requirements to Construct Upper Floor Additions with Penthouses and Roof Decks, and Convert to a Residential Use, an Existing, Detached, Nine-Story, with Below-Grade Parking, Penthouses, and Roof Decks, Mixed Use Building at 1825/1875 Connecticut Avenue NW

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

ANC 2D supports the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for special exceptions from the penthouse setback requirements, the court requirements, and the side yard requirements to construct upper floor additions with penthouses and roof decks, and convert to a residential use, an existing, detached, nine-story, with below-grade parking, penthouses, and roof decks, mixed use building at 1825/1875 Connecticut Avenue NW.

ANC 2D requests that the developer:

1. prioritizes affordable (i.e. not "luxury") retail that would serve neighbors' daily lives as well apartment rents that will attract long-term tenants and keeps in mind the lack of affordable housing in the District (i.e. not exorbitantly expensive),
2. advocates for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to increase the time to cross Connecticut Avenue NW and Florida Avenue NW and for the installation of a speed camera at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW for the safety of residents, and
3. waters the street trees that will be planted around the building in perpetuity.

Announcements and Open Comment

Holly Sukenik, the Treasurer of the Spanish Steps Preservation Project and Endowment Fund, said that the organization will be holding a fundraising event on Thursday, March 16th. She said

that local residents can email her at: hsukenik@hotmail.com for more information regarding the event.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, March 20th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm.