



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

### Regular Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church  
2200 California Street NW

### Call to Order

Chair 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 32 residents and visitors in attendance.

### Approval of 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 June 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the ANC's June 19, 2017 minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### Administrative and Financial Matters

#### Commissioners Comments

Chair Bender said that the DC Council's Secretary sent the ANC brochures regarding how city legislation is passed. He said that the brochures are on table in the back of the meeting room.

Chair Bender said that the first part of the National Park Service's Beach Drive Rehabilitation Project is complete and that the section of Beach Drive NW that was previously being worked on is now open. He said that the National Park Service has now started the second part of the project.

#### Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$9,376.62.

#### Introduction of FY 2018 Draft Budget

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of the ANC's draft FY 2018 budget. She said that it is currently a proposed budget and that it will be voted on during the ANC's regular October meeting.

### Quarterly Report

Chair Bender made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 3 financial report. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

## **DC Government Reports**

### Metropolitan Police Department

Lieutenant Jerome Merrill ([jerome.merrill@dc.gov](mailto:jerome.merrill@dc.gov)), the Lieutenant for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Police Service Area (PSA) 208, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Lieutenant Merrill recommended that local residents keep valuables out of their vehicles in order to deter thefts from vehicles.

### Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin ([jerry.chapin@dc.gov](mailto:jerry.chapin@dc.gov)), a representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that Mayor Bowser recently launched a new initiative called Every Day Counts. He said that the goal of the initiative is to increase school attendance across the city. He encouraged meeting attendees to sign the initiative's online pledge at <https://attendance.dc.gov>.

Mr. Chapin encouraged local residents to use the city's 311 system to report any issues in the neighborhood. He also encouraged residents to sign up for the Mayor's Private Security Camera Rebate Program.

### Councilmember's Office

Joe Florio ([jflorio@dccouncil.us](mailto:jflorio@dccouncil.us)), a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, introduced himself to meeting attendees. He also gave an overview of the Chief Financial Officer's new DC ABLE program, which offers financial saving opportunities to DC residents with disabilities.

Mr. Florio encouraged local residents to reach out to him if they have any questions or any issues that need to be addressed.

Commissioner Goldstein asked how the DC Government could address rat issues on the properties of foreign missions. Mr. Florio said that the DC Government is not allowed to enter the properties of foreign missions, thus hindering rat abatement efforts. He said that

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has sent a letter to the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions asking for permission for the DC Government to enter the abandoned properties of foreign missions to address rat issues.

### Department of Forensic Sciences

Dr. Jenifer Smith, the Director of the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS), said that the department is responsible for collecting crime scene evidence from across the city. She said that the department works in collaboration with MPD on this effort.

Dr. Smith said that DFS has a laboratory sciences division that employees weapons and blood examiners and also has a division that handles digital evidence. She said that DFS also has a public health laboratory that works on rabies testing, Zika testing, and other public health areas.

Dr. Smith said that she is a retired Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent and that she used to work in the city's crime lab when it was run by the FBI. She said that DFS is an independent agency and has an advisory committee that includes the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department and DC's Chief Medical Examiner.

Dr. Smith said that she is currently looking for additional scientists to serve as members of the department's Science Advisory Board. She added that DFS is focused on building the next generation of forensic scientists and thus the department has a robust internship program.

### **Old Business**

#### Update on Belmont Road Park DC

Kindy French ([KindyF@verizon.net](mailto:KindyF@verizon.net)), a representative for the Friends of Belmont Road Park, said that the city has designated Belmont Road Park to the neighborhood to be developed as the neighborhood sees fit. She said that the ongoing construction of the Embassy of China's residential building at 2300 Connecticut Avenue NW has resulted in the blocking of one entrance to the park but the construction will be finishing soon and the entrance will thus reopen.

Chris Chapin, the President of the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council, asked when the construction of the Embassy of China's residential building will be finished. Chair Bender said that the current plan is to finish with construction in the winter of 2018.

### **New Business**

#### 2318 California Street NW

Chair Bender made a motion 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:

ANC 2D supports the rear renovations to 2318 California Street NW as presented at this evening's ANC 2D meeting dated September 18, 2017. The ANC commends the architect for his work with the community and the Commission in the development of this project.

### Street Musicians Unreasonable Sound Levels

Joe Donovan, a representative for the effort to enact DC legislation regarding the unreasonable sound levels of street musicians, said that many areas of the city have been suffering from extended, high volume street musicians. He said that his group of supporters has logged over 250 incidents of annoying sounds coming from street musicians.

Mr. Donovan said the group's goal is not to restrict street musicians, but to ensure they are operating in harmony with local residents.

David Julyan, a lawyer for the group's effort, said that the city's promotion of the creation of mixed-use communities has given rise to the issues coming from street musicians. He said that street musicians have encroached upon the rights of local residents to enjoy a peaceful atmosphere in their homes. He added that street musicians have also created problems for business owners due to the noise intrusions into their businesses.

Mr. Julyan said that other jurisdictions across the nation have created a reasonable and enforceable standard for street musicians to follow. He added that while ANC 2D will probably not be affected by street musicians in the near future, the matter is a citywide issue and the group is thus reaching out to ANCs across the city to talk about the matter.

Commissioner Goldstein asked how the group's proposed legislation would affect other noise issues that the neighborhood does deal with, such as siren noise at 3:00 am. Mr. Julyan said that the proposed legislation would not address those other noise issues.

A resident from the Gallery Place neighborhood gave an overview of the issues she has experienced with street musicians. She encouraged the ANC to adopt a resolution regarding the matter.

Mr. Donovan provided copies of a draft resolution for the ANC to consider.

Chair Bender suggested tabling the matter until the ANC's regular October meeting in order to allow the commission to think about the proposed resolution.

### Spanish Steps Hand Railing

*Chair Bender recused himself from discussing this matter.*

Arthur Mason, a local resident, gave a presentation regarding his proposal to add hand railings to the Spanish Steps. He said that he would like to move the steps closer to being ADA-compliant.

He added that the steps are unsafe to walk up or down when they are wet, and thus a railing could bring an added level of safety to those using the steps.

Mr. Mason asked the ANC to adopt a resolution in support of his proposal to add railings so that he could approach the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the owner of the steps, to discuss the proposal with the ANC's support in hand.

Commissioner Goldstein said that the ANC would not be able to adopt a resolution regarding the matter at this evening's meeting because no official application or plans have been filed for the proposal and no DC Government agency is currently asking for the ANC's position regarding the matter.

Commissioner Goldstein encouraged Mr. Mason to meet with the Spanish Steps Preservation Project and Endowment Fund, the DPR-designated friends group for the steps, in order to have an in-depth discussion about the proposal. She added that the proposal has historic preservation implications associated with it and thus the ANC would need to see an official application or plans before taking up the matter.

#### 2541 Waterside Drive NW

Commissioner Goldstein said that both the ANC and the Sheridan-Kalorama Historical Association have decided to take no action regarding the matter. She said that the matter will soon be considered by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB).

#### 1806 24th Street NW

Chair Bender made a motion 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:

The work that has been undertaken at 1806 24th Street NW is not compatible with the character of the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District or consistent with the standards that have been applied by the Historic Preservation Review Board, therefore ANC 2D does not support the application for "expand/pave front sidewalk and install new parcel cabinet in front yard."

### **Administrative and Financial Matters (Continued)**

#### Treasurer's Report (Continued)

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve a \$300 payment to Peter Sacco, the ANC's Administrative Coordinator, for his ANC work performed during the months of April, May, and June of 2017. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

#### Commissioner Comments (Continued)

Commissioner Goldstein said that she has been told that the two vacant Embassy of Pakistan-owned properties in the neighborhood were sold in a tax sale in July. She said that she is trying to find evidence of the sale.

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of how Gottlieb Simon, the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, said that the ANC's previous vote to award an ANC grant to the Washington English Center was not allowable.

### **Open Comments**

David Krucoff, the Executive Director and Founder of Douglass County, Maryland, a 501(c)(4) organization, gave an overview of his proposed method to provide Congressional representation to DC residents: through the annexation of DC by Maryland. He encouraged meeting attendees to visit the organization's website at <http://www.douglasscountymd.org> to find out more about the proposal. He also encouraged meeting attendees to join him in advocating for the proposal.

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of the ANC's ongoing recruitment of an intern to survey property owned by foreign missions in the neighborhood.

### **Announcements**

A board member of the Washington Studio School was present. He said that the school is celebrating its 10 year anniversary of being located in its current building this fall. He said that the school is proud to be part of the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood. He added that the school holds a regular series of events as part of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets' "First Fridays" event series and that it will also be participating in DC's upcoming "Art All Night" event.

Holly Sukenik, the Vice President of the Friends of Mitchell Park, said that the organization will be sponsoring a concert in the park this coming Sunday, September 24th at 4:00 pm. She said that the concert will feature student performers from the Catholic University of America (CUA).

Commissioner Goldstein announced that the neighborhood will be holding a party for UPS deliveryman Kevin Downey, who is retiring after 28 years of serving the neighborhood. She said that the party will be on Tuesday, November 7th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Mitchell Park, with the rain location being at the home of Marie Drissel at 2135 Bancroft Place NW.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will be on Monday, October 16th at 7:00 pm at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, 2200 California Street NW.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.