

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

MINUTES

September 19, 2016, 7:00PM
Our Lady Queen of the Americas
2200 California Street

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, constituting a quorum. There were 23 residents and visitors present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of June 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein said that a correction was needed to the June 15, 2015 minutes to specify that the DC check deposit mentioned in the minutes was for the second quarter of FY 2016 and not the third quarter.

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the June 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0).

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Goldstein said that she recently attended the DC Department of Energy and the Environment's (DOEE) ANC ambassador meeting. She announced the upcoming launch of paint recycling locations across the city. She added that a representative from DOEE would be coming to the ANC's October 2016 meeting to talk about the department's programs and objectives.

Commissioner Goldstein encouraged meeting attendees to get together in order to start a neighborhood listserv.

Chairperson Bender said that a working draft of the ANC omnibus bill was still in front of the DC Council. He added that drafts of bills regarding vacant buildings were also in front of the DC Council.

Chairperson Bender announced that Gottlieb Simon, the Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, was in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of the ANC's current financial status.

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the ANC's FY 2016 Quarter 3 financial report. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0).

Chairperson Bender moved to approve a reimbursement to Commissioner Goldstein for \$53.98 for administrative expenses. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0).

Introduction of FY 2017 Draft Budget

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of the ANC's draft FY 2017 budget.

Contractual Agreements with Peter Sacco for Administrative Services and Website Services

Chairperson Bender introduced Peter Sacco and gave an overview of his qualifications.

Chairperson Bender moved to contract with Peter Sacco for administrative services and website services. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The ANC 2C Administrative Coordinator works at the pleasure of the Commission. The incumbent will work 5-8 hours per month, including attending all public ANC 2D meetings.

DC Government Reports

Mayor's Office

Eva Lewis, a Ward 2 Representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) (eva.lewis@dc.gov), introduced Jerry Chapin, a new Ward 2 Representative for MOCRS (jeremiah.chapin@dc.gov).

Ms. Lewis gave an overview of the public safety legislation that the Mayor had recently introduced into the DC Council. She talked about the DC Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) upcoming child car seat giveaway, which would include free child seat checks. She also gave an overview of the Mayor's security camera rebate program, and distributed copies of the Mayor's recently published 18 Month Progress Report.

Ms. Lewis gave an update on the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood walk that the Mayor's Office carried out in May 2016. She said that, out of the five sidewalks that were noted as needing repairs during the walk, one sidewalk had been repaired thus far, and there are plans for additional sidewalks to be repaired. She added that a representative from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) would come to the ANC's October 2016 meeting to speak about sidewalk repairs.

Councilmember Jack Evans' Office

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office (tlipinsky@dccouncil.us), said that the DC Council recently returned from its summer recess. He added that the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) recently hired Craig Stewart as the new manager of DCRA's vacant property office. He said that Mr. Stewart is very responsive to neighborhood concerns. Lastly, he said that the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) transition from police service areas (PSAs) to sectors has been put on hold.

DC Water Lead Outreach

Melanie Mason, a Water Communications Coordinator for DC Water (melanie.mason@dcwater.com), was present to talk about the levels of lead in the city's drinking water. She started by saying that DC Water does not treat DC's drinking water, but rather it purchases treated water from the Washington Aqueduct.

Ms. Mason said that the only lead pipes in DC's water system are in the property service lines, which are mostly found on only residential properties. She said that DC Water's lead levels are currently the lowest levels they have ever been. She added that lead solder can sometimes be found in pipes throughout homes, although the health risk from this lead solder is usually very low.

Ms. Mason said that DC Water offers free lead testing for DC residents. She added that DC Water also offers online and telephone resources to help residents find out if they have a lead service line on their home.

Ms. Mason said that, if residents are interested, DC Water can replace the public and private portion of the lead service line leading to their home at the same time for a lower cost than if residents hired a contractor themselves to do the replacement. She added that, for additional precaution, residents can also regularly flush pipes, clean faucet aerators, use cold water for cooking and drinking, and use filters, which have to be certified NSF 53.

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Erin Larkin, a representative for the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (elarkin@dccadv.org), said that she wanted to invite the community to the Coalition's October events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She said that the Coalition uses the awareness month to spread information on the domestic violence resources available to DC residents, as well as information on healthy relationships. She left copies of the Coalition's calendar of events for the month.

Ms. Larkin said that October 11th will be the DC Council's Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation ceremony, and that the Coalition will kick off the awareness month next Tuesday, September 27th by posting outreach teams at different Metro stations.

PEPCO

Mark Battle, the Vice President of Pepco (mkbattle@pepco.com), said that the company recently filed for a rate increase with the DC Public Service Commission. He gave an overview of the Public Service Commission's process for considering the application. He said that the DC Office of People's Counsel, the advocate for consumers in DC, is a mandatory party in the rate case, and that other parties will include the DC government and DC Water.

Mr. Battle said that, if approved, the proposed rate increase will result in an average \$4.26 monthly increase per month for the average residential customer's power bill. He said that the Public Service Commission will heavily scrutinize the company's financial statements in order to determine what the appropriate rate increase should be. He added that the Commission will hold public hearings regarding the rate case, during which the public will be allowed to express its opinions.

Mr. Battle said that, as part of Pepco's recent merger with Exelon, a commitment was made to establish a fund that would offset some future rate increases. He said that, as part of this current rate increase application, Pepco has requested that this offset commitment be applied only to residential customers, however it would be up to the Public Service Commission to approve this request.

In justifying the rate increase application, Mr. Battle said that, because of the city's booming development, Pepco needs to spend additional money to upgrade the city's power delivery infrastructure. He added that infrastructure investments will increase power reliability for customers.

Commissioner Goldstein said that she was wondering why the new customers coming to DC because of the city's booming development would not offset Pepco's infrastructure improvement costs. Mr. Battle said that improvements need to be made before these new developments are completed and ready for customers to move in. He added that this is the first rate increase that Pepco has requested in more than three years.

Commissioner Goldstein said that the District Department of Energy and the Environment will talk about the incentives that the DC Government offers for installing solar in the District when they present at the October 2016 ANC meeting.

Proposed Changes to Existing Residential Parking (RPP) Regulations

Chairperson Bender said that he and Commissioner Goldstein had recently attended a District Department of Transportation (DDOT) briefing regarding DDOT's proposed changes to the residential parking permit (RPP) program. He then gave an overview of the resolution that the ANC had drafted regarding the proposal. He encouraged meeting attendees to submit any comments they have regarding the proposal to DDOT (comments can be submitted to publicspace.policy@dc.gov).

Chairperson Bender gave an overview of DDOT's proposal. He said that if the ANC decides to opt in to the proposal, one side of the street in the ANC will be designated for visitors and the other side will be RPP for Ward 2 only. He added that the proposal would not break up the current ward-based RPP zones into smaller zones, as that change would require DC Council action.

Chairperson Bender said that the ANC is also recommending that DDOT look more closely at foreign missions properties as part of this proposal. He added that, in addition to this proposal, DDOT is still moving forward with its curbside parking study for ANC 2D.

Commissioner Goldstein said that the deadline for submitting comments to DDOT is October 10th.

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the ANC's comments to DDOT regarding the residential parking permit proposal. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0). The resolution read as follows:

ANC 2D commends the Staff of the Office of Policy and Government Affairs for their efforts to clarify the Existing RPP Regulations by offering the Proposed Rulemaking modifications. The two Commissioners of ANC 2D offer the following items for consideration.

1. City-Wide Zone Parking: Further study and examination is required as how to manage residential parking in Ward-wide zoning. The current approach allows vehicles to park throughout the entire Ward thus causing parking congestion. Smaller parking zones need to be examined and implemented. (Subsection 2433)
2. Neighborhood needs require further examination because one set of requirements will not fit all—such as Major Traffic Generator. In ANC 2D for instance the Islamic Center on Mass. Ave. is a major daily traffic generator but certainly does not attract five hundred (500) or more people. (Sub 2437.2)
3. Foreign Mission parking needs additional consideration. If a Mission has ample off-street parking in a private parking lot, it should not entitle them to restricted curbside spaces adjacent to their property. As stated in the Draft Dupont/Kalorama Neighborhood Parking Toolkit; “Embassy parking should be right sized”.
4. Temporary Visitor Parking Permits and Annual Visitor Parking Passes require further study. These two “permit categories” add to the congestion caused by the limited number of existing curbside parking spaces.
5. Enhanced residential permit parking should not be restricted to Zone 1 Residents Only. This privilege should be granted to other Zones which might request residential reserved parking. (Sub 2438)
6. Residential Permit Parking—Enforcement is not consistently applied throughout our ANC. It appears that our two SMDs are not treated the same for enforcement is more stringent in SMD02 than in SMD01. (Sub 2439 & 2405.2) It appears that city-wide Section 2405.1 is not uniformly enforced.

2316 Tracy Place Renovations

Michael Beidler, the architect for the project (michael@troutdesign.com), said that the project at 2316 Tracy Place NW is scheduled to be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) this month. He added that it is a staff-level approval project so it probably will not go in front of the board.

Mr. Beidler said that the applicant is proposing a rooftop penthouse addition to the existing building. He said that the addition will not be visible from public space except from 24th Street in the winter

when there are no leaves on the trees. He added that the applicant is planning on building a greenhouse and place to grow vegetables on the roof.

Mr. Beidler said that there are zoning issues associated with the project, however the applicant would be filing any necessary zoning applications at a later date. He said that the lot is currently non-conforming and that no variances would be needed, however there would probably be an application for special exceptions.

Mr. Beidler said that the applicant had previously applied to have a greenhouse run across the entire side of the building, however after meeting with the Historic Preservation Office, the length of the greenhouse was reduced. He added that a back staircase which is in the current proposal might be eliminated if the Board of Zoning Adjustment determines that there is not a need for a second point of egress from the roof.

Melissa Burnett, the applicant, said that she is looking forward to getting the project underway.

A local resident who lives directly behind the property said that he is concerned with the proposed height of the building. He added that he is also concerned with the lack of notice he and his neighbors received regarding the proposal. He said that many of the properties in the immediate area are overbuilt for the lots they sit on. He finished by saying that many of the properties in the immediate area also do not have roof decks, and that this project would thus set a bad precedent for the neighborhood.

Chairperson Bender said that the ANC will not have anything to vote on until the Commission receives a request for action.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

2411 Tracy Place

Chris Snowber, the architect for the project (chris@hamiltonsnowber.com), said that his client is proposing an addition to the house at 2411 Tracy Place NW. He said that the addition will be constructed using the same materials as the current house, and that the addition will add a bathroom and some closet space to the house. He added that the applicant has reached out to their neighbors and has received multiple letters of support for the project.

Commissioner Bender moved to fully support the proposed addition. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

8.6 2411 Tracy Place; Rear Upper Floor Addition; Chris Snowber; Following an overview of the project by the architect, the floor was opened for questions and answers. Once the questions had been addressed, Commissioner Bender moved, and it was seconded, Resolved: that "ANC 2D fully supports the addition to the upper rear floor of 2411 Tracy Place NW as presented at our September 19, 2016 Meeting. **APPROVED (Vote: 2-0)**

Mitchell Park Day (October 30, 2016) Permit Request

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the permit request for Mitchell Park Day on October 30th, 2016. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

8.7 Mitchell Park Day, Permit Request, October 30, 2016: Commissioner Bender moved, and it was seconded, Resolved: that ANC 2D approves the request made by the Friends of Mitchell Park for a permit to be issued by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation to hold Mitchell Park Day at Mitchell Park on October 30, 2016.” **APPROVED (Vote 2-0)**

Spanish Steps Permit Request for a Wedding

Commissioner Goldstein said that she received a permit request for a wedding with 20 attendees at the Spanish Steps on October 10th, 2016.

Chairperson Bender moved to approve the permit request. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

8.8 Spanish Steps, Wedding Request, October 10, 2016; Chittick; Commissioner Bender moved, and it was seconded, Resolved: that “ANC 2D approve the request made by Greg Chittick for a permit (#37894) to be issued by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation to hold a wedding at the Spanish Steps on October 10, 2016, between 10:00 AM and 12:00PM. It is understood that at the conclusion of the ceremony, the STEPS and park are to be free of clutter/debris and that no flower petals or debris will be floating in the fountain”. **APPROVED (Vote 2-0)**

Announcements

A representative for the Friends of Mitchell Park said that the organization will be holding a final summer movie in Mitchell Park on Friday, October 7th. She added that the organization will also be sponsoring a concert in the park on this coming Sunday.

A representative for the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council, said that the Council has gone through a long term effort to influence the outcome of the city’s new zoning regulations. He said that the new regulations are favorable to our neighborhood, however the Zoning Commission is currently considering technical corrections to the regulations. He added that that some of the proposed technical corrections may be unfavorable to the neighborhood. He said that the Council has retained a former member of the Board of Zoning Adjustment to go through the proposed technical corrections in order to advise the Council regarding them.

The representative for the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council said that the Council is also recruiting volunteers to help survey foreign missions buildings in the neighborhood in order to identify non-maintained buildings and track improvements.

Date of Next Meeting

Chairperson Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will be on Monday, October 17th at 7:00 pm.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.