



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – Generator Hotel Washington DC, 1900 Connecticut Avenue NW

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Feld called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Feld thanked meeting attendees for attending the meeting. She said that there are several District Department of Transportation (DDOT) items that are not on the ANC's meeting agenda that the ANC is still working on.

Commissioner Feld recognized and thanked Christine Warnke, the Chief of Protocol and International Officer for the Office of the Secretary, for attending the meeting and for her ongoing support of ANC 2D.

Commissioner Feld said that the ANC wants to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for DDOT's Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project. She said that the ANC is working with the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Pinto's Office regarding the ceremony.

In-Person ANC Meeting Locations

Commissioner Feld thanked the Generator Hotel for hosting the ANC meeting. She said that the ANC's next meeting will be at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$16,386.03.

Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Sergeant Rene Gallo, 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 he is

looking into the recent vehicular incident at the Chinese Ambassador's residence. He encouraged local residents to walk in well-lit areas at night and to not leave any valuables in their cars.

Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget

Kimberly Bassett, the Secretary of the District of Columbia, gave an overview of the Mayor's proposed FY 2024 budget. She said that this will be DC's 28th consecutive balanced budget. She said that the DC Government is struggling to fill open staff positions. She said that the Mayor's proposed budget looks to remove programs that are not a good use of taxpayer dollars, to close DC's racial wealth gap, and to reinvigorate downtown. She gave an overview of several goals of the budget, including providing treatment for substance abuse issues, helping residents afford childcare and find jobs, and expanding access to services for DC's most vulnerable residents. She also gave an overview of the budget's proposed investments in small and medium business supports and open space modernization.

Commissioner Feld and meeting attendees discussed housing funding, the Public Space Committee application process, the state of the Embassy of Pakistan's blighted and vacant building at 2201 R Street NW, and setting up a meeting with the Director of the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) with Secretary Bassett.

Mayor's Office

The Mayor's proposed FY 2024 budget presentation by Secretary Bassett was the Mayor's Office report for this meeting.

Councilmember's Office

Zoe Ades, the Communications Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, said that the DC Council just finished its annual budget hearing process. She said that Councilmember Pinto will release the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety's budget report for DC's public safety agencies next week. She said that Councilmember Pinto is excited about the Mayor's proposed investments in pickleball courts and repairing streets, alleys, and sidewalks across Ward 2. She added that Councilmember Pinto is advocating for greater budget investments in downtown recovery. She encouraged people to sign up for the Councilmember's newsletter at: <https://www.brookepintodc.com/>.

Commissioner Feld and meeting attendees discussed the Councilmember's budget priorities, the state of the Embassy of Pakistan's building at 2201 R Street NW, the staging area for DDOT's Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project, and the proposed speed camera at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW with Ms. Ades.

DC Smart Street Lighting Project

Ashley Wells and Chris Lockard, representatives for the DC Smart Street Lighting Project, gave a visual presentation regarding the project. Ms. Wells said that the project will include upgrading more than 72,000 streetlights across the city, converting them to LED bulbs in the process. She

said that the streetlights will have remote dimming capabilities and wifi access points will also be added in Wards 7 and 8. She said that the streetlight conversion work will take place from the second quarter of 2023 to May 2024. She said that the contract for the project covers streetlight maintenance through 2037. She gave an overview of the outreach work that the project team is doing to let members of the public know about the project.

Commissioner Feld and meeting attendees discussed the kelvin level of the converted streetlights, light shielding, and light dimmability with Ms. Wells and Mr. Lockard.

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

No one was present regarding this matter.

Updates

Update Regarding the Status of the District Department of Transportation's Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project, Including Traffic Lights at the Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and California Street NW and "Do Not Enter" Signage at the Alleyway at the Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW

Donovan Boyd, the Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist for DDOT, said that eight of the nine intersections that are part of the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project are fully completed and activated. He said that the final intersection should be completed this week. He said that additional speed limit signs have been added along the project corridor. He added that streetscape plantings have been completed and that there is one more streetlight glare shield to be installed.

Commissioner Feld and meeting attendees discussed moving up the DC Smart Street Lighting Project timeline for ANC 2D with Mr. Boyd.

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

Mr. Boyd said that DDOT has been coordinating with Councilmember Pinto's Office, the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID), and ANC 2B regarding the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project. He said that the project's next public meeting will take place on Monday, May 8th, 2023 at 7:00 pm. He said that the project team has been reviewing all the feedback from the project's last public meeting. He added that Restore Mass Ave is creating a new DDOT-compliant design for the Dupont Tree Plaza.

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

There was no update regarding this matter.

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

There was no update regarding this matter.

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

There was no update regarding this matter.

Establishment of Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of March 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Administrative and Financial Matters (Continued)

Approval of the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 2 Financial Report

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

New Business

Public Space Application by the Embassy of China for the Construction of New Fences and Walls at the Chinese Ambassador's residence at 2301 S Street NW

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

ANC 2D recognizes and appreciates the concern for "security, safety, and privacy." However the ANC believes that the proposed wall is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood and would set a negative precedent for other diplomatic properties and/or high profile residences to follow, making Sheridan-Kalorama a walled-in fortress. The ANC shared acceptable nearby alternatives with the architect that we believe would accomplish their goals. The ANC's chief concern is the height of the 7-foot brick wall and the overall height of the 10-foot proposed wall on 23rd Street NW and Bancroft Place NW. The ANC encourages the applicant to consider a more open, shorter, and less

visibly intrusive design. The ANC also expects that the applicant will follow DC's heritage tree regulations.

For these reasons, ANC 2D does not support the current public space application.

Announcements and Open Comment

There were not any announcements and open comments.

Date of Next Meeting

Commissioner Feld said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, May 22nd, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Feld adjourned the meeting at 9:34 pm.