



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 20, 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 27 residents and visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of February 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the ANC's February 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 the Mayor recently signed the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2016 into law. He said that the act clarifies a number of alcoholic beverage issues. He said the related issue that affects ANC 2D the most is the creation of a new "bed and breakfast" license class. He said that the ANC's concerns with Airbnb properties in the neighborhood could worsen because of this licensing change.

Chair Bender gave an overview of a recent warning from the DC Courts regarding a telephone scam that is circulating. He said that, as part of the scam, callers will ask residents for money that they supposedly owe regarding an outstanding court matter. He said that the DC Courts have said that they never solicit money over the phone.

Chair Bender said that his previous ANC email address has been disabled and that residents should use 2D01@anc.dc.gov in order to get in contact with him.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$10,471.69. She added that this balance includes a recent DC government allotment.

DC Government Reports

Councilmember's Office

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office (TLipinsky@dccouncil.us), said that many of the attendees at the recent Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Meeting had raised issues with rats. He said that the Department of Health (DOH) has been alerted to pay closer attention to rat control in the Dupont and Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhoods.

A local resident asked about the upcoming changes to neighborhood parking policies. Mr. Lipinsky gave an overview of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) proposal to reduce diplomatic parking spaces in the neighborhood. He said that DDOT has been in touch with the State Department and the U.S. Secret Service regarding the implementation of the proposal.

Chair Bender said that DDOT will be looking at each individual street in the neighborhood in order to implement resident-only parking on one side of each street.

A local resident raised concerns regarding the rat problems near Russia House at 1800 Connecticut Avenue NW. Mr. Lipinsky said that DOH has done extensive outreach to Russia House to try and solve the rat problems. Commissioner Goldstein said that the neighbors near Russia House recently went through a process of protesting the restaurant's liquor license renewal in order to try and force Russia House to solve the problems.

New Business

Presentation by the Office of Unified Communications

Karima Holmes, the Director of the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) (karima.holmes@dc.gov), said that the office was established in 2006 to consolidate the city's 311 and 911 call centers. She said that OUC receives more than three million calls a year and dispatches both DC and federal public safety agencies.

Ms. Holmes said that the majority of OUC's employees handle 911 calls. She said that the office is responsible for managing approximately 8,000 radios across the city. She added that she is working on reducing the wait time for 311 calls, using technologies such as an online portal and mobile app in order to do so. She added that the OUC is also

expanding the use of text-to-311 and has a live agent for texting back and forth during peak periods.

Ms. Holmes said that when a resident calls 911 the person who is taking the call is not the person dispatching emergency responders. She said that the questions being asked by the call taker thus do not slow down the response time. She added that callers can remain anonymous but that they have to specify to the call taker that they want to remain anonymous. She encouraged meeting attendees to sign up for Smart911 at www.smart911.com. She said that by signing up for Smart911, residents can enter their contact information and medical history into the Smart911 database so that the information is automatically transmitted to the 911 call center when a resident calls 911.

Ms. Holmes gave an overview of the DC and national 911 statistics. She said that OUC has a public relations team that can come out to community events to talk about 911 and 311. She added that the office will be launching a text-to-911 service this coming spring.

Old Business

2017 ANC 2D Grant Awards

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of the four ANC 2D grant awards that are being proposed for the ANC's consideration, including what each project will entail.

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve ANC 2D's proposed grant awards for Restore Mass. Ave, the Sheridan-Kalorama Call Box Project, and the Washington English Center, pending review of the grant applications by the Office of the DC Auditor. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve ANC 2D's proposed grant award for the Spanish Steps Preservation Project, pending review of the grant application by Office of the DC Auditor. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 1-0-1).

Follow-Up from the Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Meeting

Chris Chapin, the President of the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council, gave an overview of the discussions at the recent Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Meeting. He encouraged meeting attendees to submit their membership dues for the various neighborhood organizations.

Residential Parking Update

Chair Bender said that DDOT will soon be installing the signs for DDOT's proposed residential parking changes in the neighborhood. He said that he hopes that the neighborhood will see some of the signs installed by the end of March.

Mr. Chapin said that the traffic is becoming backed up on Belmont Road NW as a result of the Belmont Road closure in front of the Obama family's residence. He said that the large SUVs that are trying to come down Belmont Road are creating additional problems. He added that the U.S. Secret Service should ban parking on the east side of Belmont Road.

DC Government Reports (Continued)

Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) (jerry.chapin@dc.gov), encouraged meeting attendees to attend the Mayor's upcoming State of the District Address, which will be on Thursday, March 30th at 5:30pm at the UDC Theater of the Arts, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW.

New Business (Continued)

Presentation Regarding Local Environmental Justice

Jeremiah Lowery, Climate Action Organizer for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (jeremiah@chesapeakeclimate.org), said that he is on the board of the DC Sierra Club and works for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. He gave an overview of the different issue areas that the network works on, including clean air, clean water, and keeping fossil fuels in the ground, among other areas.

Mr. Lowery gave an overview of the network's current campaign, a carbon fee and rebate campaign, which calls on DC to place a fee on some of the city's biggest polluters. He said that the network is currently working on drafting a proposed bill regarding the matter. He said that he hopes to come back for the ANC's support of the bill once it is drafted.

Commissioner Goldstein asked if there was any data on childhood asthma rates in DC. Mr. Lowery said that DC has a large amount of data regarding childhood asthma rates. He added that DC has a higher than average asthma rate, especially in the Ward 5 area.

Commissioner Goldstein said that she is concerned about tour bus drivers who idle their buses near the National Mall. A local resident said that she is also concerned about car drivers who also idle their cars in the neighborhood. She said that this is a particular problem for the chauffeurs who idle outside of homes in the neighborhood.

Resolution Regarding Pepco's Rate Increase

Chair Bender gave an overview of Pepco's application to the DC Public Service Commission for a \$82.1 million rate increase. He read a proposed resolution that he had drafted regarding the matter aloud.

Chair Bender said that Public Service Commission will be holding an upcoming community hearing on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:00 pm at the Public Service Commission's offices at 1325 G Street NW, Suite 800. He said that local residents will be able to voice their thoughts regarding Pepco's rate increase application during the hearing.

Chair Bender moved to adopt his proposed resolution regarding Pepco's rate increase application. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, ANC 2D acknowledges that Pepco is within its rights to file an application to seek an increase in its distribution rates, stating that the increase will be an investment in its distribution system to maintain and improve reliability and serve load growth in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Pepco is entitled to recover costs necessary in providing reliable services which are environmentally beneficial and energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, consumers should not be asked to pay for merger-related costs that have not been previously approved nor should consumers pay for employee bonuses or retention incentives; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2D specifically expresses concern about the \$82.1 million revenue increase sought by Pepco;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ANC 2D urges the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia to thoroughly examine Pepco's request and ensure that only those increased costs that are prudently incurred and are needed in providing reliable service to customers are passed on to the ratepayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chair or his designee is authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

Announcements

Sonya Chance, the lead Ward 2 inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW) (sonya.chance@dc.gov), said that she would look into the concerns raised earlier in the meeting regarding rat problems at Russia House.

Open Comments

There were no open comments.

Date of Next Meeting

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

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.