



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Special Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2017, 6:30 pm
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church
2200 California Street NW

Call to Order

Chairperson David Bender called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners David Bender (2D01) and Ellen Goldstein (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 70 residents and visitors in attendance.

Residential Parking Permit (One Side of the Street Zone 2 Resident Parking Only)

Sherri Kimbel, the Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Jack Evans (skimbel@dccouncil.us), and Evian Patterson, the Associate Director of the Parking and Ground Transportation Administration for the District Department of Transportation (evian.patterson@dc.gov), were present.

Mr. Patterson gave an overview of the parking management activities that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is tasked with. He said that this evening's discussion will focus on the proposal to install residential parking permit (RPP) parking in ANC 2D.

Mr. Patterson said that Commissioners Bender and Goldstein had previously approached DDOT to ask for help with parking management in the neighborhood due to the multiple well-known families that recently moved to the neighborhood. Mr. Patterson said that DDOT has created an RPP parking proposal specifically tailored for the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood. He said that the proposal involves installing RPP-only parking signs on the north and west sides of each street in the neighborhood, with certain exceptions.

Mr. Patterson said that Zone 2 parking sticker holders will be able to park in the RPP parking sections on each street. He said that the hours of enforcement for the RPP parking sections will be Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 8:30 pm. He added that DDOT will be closely monitoring the state of the RPP parking to ensure that the program is working well.

One neighborhood resident asked if non-chancery buildings located in the neighborhood that are owned by the foreign missions will have their reserved street parking spaces removed. Mr. Patterson said that DDOT has carried out a study regarding the matter and that the street parking spaces reserved in front of the residences of ambassadors would be restored for neighborhood

residents, but that such reserved street parking for other embassy buildings, such as chanceries, would not be changed.

One neighborhood resident asked if DDOT will be removing the remaining Zone 1 RPP parking signs in the neighborhood. Mr. Patterson said that DDOT has set up a one-block buffer zone along the border of Zones 1 and 2 where parking stickers for either zone are acceptable.

One neighborhood resident asked how DDOT would set up RPP parking sections on neighborhood streets that only have parking spaces on one side of the street. Mr. Patterson said that DDOT would put the RPP parking sections on the one side of the street that does have parking spaces.

Multiple neighborhood residents expressed concerns with the DC Government's lack of enforcement for existing and future parking restrictions. Mr. Patterson noted that most parking enforcement is carried out by the Department of Public Works (DPW) and not DDOT.

One neighborhood resident said that installing RPP parking sections on neighborhood streets would particularly help blocks with new neighbors who require high-level street security. Mr. Patterson said that DDOT could look into installing RPP parking sections on both sides of the streets for certain problematic blocks.

One neighborhood resident asked when the RPP parking signs would be installed. Mr. Patterson said that DDOT is planning to begin the sign installation as early as this coming weekend and that the process would be completed by June 9th.

Adjournment

Chair David Bender adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2017, 7:00 pm
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church
2200 California Street NW

Call to Order

Chairperson David Bender called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners David Bender (2D01) and Ellen Goldstein (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 37 residents and visitors in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the April 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the ANC's April 17, 2017 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Goldstein said that the DC Historic Preservation Awards will be on Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm at DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street NW. She said that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has begun the annual process of spraying DC's ginkgo trees. She added that DC Water is currently working on various water pipe replacement projects throughout Ward 2.

Chair Bender said that, effective May 19th, DDOT has made changes to the regulations governing dumpsters placed on neighborhood streets. He said that the dumpsters encourage residents and contractors to use smaller dumpsters and to leave them on the streets for shorter periods of time. He added that more information regarding the new regulations can be found at: <https://ddot.dc.gov/release/ddot-announces-new-requirements-roll-debris-containers>.

Chair Bender said that the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) will be holding a public hearing regarding DC's 2017 State Health Systems Plan on Thursday, May 25th from 10:00 am to 4:45 pm at the Department of Health's headquarters, 899 North Capitol Street NE, 6th floor.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said that the balance of the ANC's checking account is \$10,472.55.

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

Commissioner Goldstein moved to authorize a \$300 payment to Peter Sacco, the ANC's Administrative Coordinator, for the FY 2017 Quarter 2 portion of his ongoing contract. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0).

DC Government Reports

Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) (jerry.chapin@dc.gov), said that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

has been working hard to recover illegal firearms across the city. He said that, so far in 2017, MPD have recovered 49 illegal firearms. He added that Mayor Bowser has released the thrivebyfive.dc.gov website, which will connect families with young children with the resources that they need.

Chair Bender asked if DC's "Death with Dignity" program was included in the Mayor's proposed FY 2018 budget. Mr. Chapin said that he would check to see if it was.

Councilmember's Office

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office (tLipinsky@dccouncil.us), said that the DC Council has finished its markup hearings for the Mayor's proposed FY 2018 budget. He said that Councilmember Evans has introduced legislation to increase the budget for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities by levying taxes at sports games and the Smithsonian Institution gift shops. He added that the first DC Council vote on the Mayor's proposed budget will take place later this month.

Office of the Attorney General

John Green, the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) (john.green2@dc.gov), gave an overview of the office. He said that Karl Racine, DC's Attorney General, is the District's first independently-elected Attorney General. He said that the office prosecutes criminal offenses for juveniles in DC, and is also bringing suits that help protect consumers.

Chair Bender asked for OAG's help with forcing the property at 2020 Connecticut Avenue NW to remove a recently-installed stockade fence, which the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) determined to be illegally installed.

Multiple neighborhood residents thanked OAG for its help in taking legal action against a problematic Airbnb property at 2220 Q Street NW.

Metropolitan Police Department

Lieutenant Jerome Merrill, a representative for MPD's Second District (jerome.merrill@dc.gov), gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Multiple neighborhood residents asked about the recent case of sexual assault that occurred in a neighborhood home. Lieutenant Merrill said that he was unable to provide any details regarding the case because of the fact that the case was a sexual assault.

Multiple neighborhood residents asked for MPD's help in securing additional parking enforcement in the neighborhood. Lieutenant Merrill said that he could have his traffic control officer look into the request.

One neighborhood resident asked about the car break-ins that occurred on lower Tracy Place NW. Lieutenant Merrill said that the U.S. Secret Service had turned over a suspect for the break-ins to MPD.

Old Business

Residential Parking

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

After careful evaluation of parking impact and with the support of Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, namely Sherri Kimbel, and with the support of the District Department of Transportation Director's Office, namely Evian Patterson, ANC 2D fully supports the District Department of Transportation's installation of resident permit parking signage on the north and west sides of each residential street throughout the area, subject to adjustment based on adjacent land use and other considerations.

2320-2330 S Street NW

Chair Bender said the National Trust for Historic Preservation has written to the ANC expressing its support of the plans for the project.

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

ANC 2D approves the latest proposals for the Pope and Wood Houses at 2320 and 2330 S Street NW, presented at this evening's meeting and outlined further in a May 8, 2017 letter to the ANC. We commend the design team on all their efforts to provide not only an aesthetically and historically beautiful property but also a property designed to accommodate the concerns of neighbors as the construction goes forward.

New Business

Briefing on the Office of the People's Counsel

Cheryl Morse, a Consumer Outreach Specialist for the Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) (cmorse@opc-dc.gov), gave an overview of the office. She said that OPC advocates on behalf of utility consumers in the District, and can help resolve issues that consumers have with Washington Gas, Pepco, and other utility providers.

Ms. Morse said that OPC has been hearing that consumers are receiving many robocalls from third party utility providers who are trying to convince consumers to switch their utility service.

She said that OPC has published a handout regarding what consumers should think of before responding to the third-party providers.

Ms. Morse said that, earlier this year, Washington Gas announced that it would merge with Canada-based AltaGas.

Ms. Morse thanked ANC 2D for its resolution regarding Pepco's recent rate increase application in front of the DC Public Service Commission. She said that OPC is opposed to the rate increase and is working to keep the rate increase as small as possible.

Commissioner Goldstein asked how Pepco's rate increase compares with its previous rate increases. Ms. Morse said that this is the largest rate increase that Pepco has ever asked for. She added that the Public Service Commission should be making a decision regarding the rate increase application later this summer.

Commissioner Goldstein asked if a community campaign is forming against the Washington Gas merger. Ms. Morse said that the Public Service Commission will hold public hearings regarding the merger and that there could be a similar community fight as to the one that occurred during the Pepco merger process.

Talib Abdus-Shahid, Assistant People's Counsel for OPC, said that the office is currently reviewing Washington Gas' merger application. He said that, once they have reviewed the application, OPC will be fanning out across the city to give an overview of the application and to encourage community members to testify in front of the Public Service Commission regarding the application.

Belmont Road Park

Kindy French (KindyF@verizon.net) and Marie Drissel (marie.drissel@verizon.net), two representatives for the Friends of Belmont Road Park, gave an overview of the organization's application to become an official "Friends Of" partner with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

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

The longtime abandoned portion of Belmont Road NW between Connecticut Avenue and Kalorama Circle was transferred in 2013 from the District Department of Transportation to the Department of Parks and Recreation by legislative action passed by the DC Council and the Mayor.

Friends of Belmont Road Park, hereafter referred to as "Friends," was incorporated as a DC nonprofit and received its IRS tax exemption as a 501(c)(3) in 2015. The purpose of the organization is to support and promote, in cooperation with the Department of Parks

and Recreation, an area for children, adults, and pets. The Friends encourage cultural and scenic preservation and conservation of the property.

THEREFORE, ANC 2D hereby commends the Friends of Belmont Road Park for their efforts in establishing a park and supports the mission of this partnership.

Window Replacement at 2206 Decatur Place NW

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

In light of the presentation the applicant has made and all of the work and effort by the project architect on behalf the owners, ANC 2D approves the window replacement scheme at 2206 Decatur Place NW as described.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Open Comments

A neighborhood resident said that he was concerned about the derelict state of an Embassy of Argentina-owned building at 2136 R Street NW. He gave an overview of the current state of the building, including the looting and vandalism that has taken place inside and outside of the building. He said that he is requesting that the DC Government put pressure on the embassy to either sell or improve the building.

Commissioner Goldstein said that she tried for months to work with the U.S. Department of State and the DC Government to force certain embassies to improve their derelict properties in the neighborhood, mostly to no avail. She also pointed out that the DC government is extremely limited in the actions that it can take against such derelict properties and can only cite violations that are visible from the exterior and that only the U.S. Department of State can take action against such properties. Commissioner Goldstein said that ANC commissioners do not have “great weight” on matters outside of the purview of the DC Government. She said that she would be open to passing a resolution regarding the matter but that she is skeptical that the resolution would be able to accomplish anything.

Chris Chapin, the President of the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council, said that Government of Argentina’s previous financial issues have largely been resolved, and that the government should now be free to either sell or improve the property.

Commissioner Goldstein said that she would try to locate the letter she previously sent to the U.S. Department of State regarding the derelict state of the Embassy of Pakistan-owned property at 2201 R Street NW.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will be on Monday, June 19th 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 9:10 pm.