

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

MINUTES

October 17, 2016, 7:00PM
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church
2200 California Street NW

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, establishing a quorum. There were 28 residents and guests in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of September 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the September 19, 2016 meeting minutes. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Commissioner Comments

Chairperson Bender encouraged meeting attendees to vote in the upcoming general election on November 8th. He provided meeting attendees with the neighborhood's voting precinct information.

Chairperson Bender said that he recently attended a quarterly ANC meeting held by DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson. He said that, during the meeting, he spoke with Melinda Bolling, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), who told him that ANC 2D currently has one DCRA-recognized vacant property.

Chairperson Bender said that on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 pm, the MLK Library will give a public presentation regarding the plans for the modernization of the library.

Chairperson Bender said that the Office of Planning recently held an ANC commissioner workshop to receive feedback on potential updates to DC's Comprehensive Plan. He added that the Office of Planning is holding a series of upcoming meetings for the public to provide feedback regarding the updates.

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of an upcoming Union Station planning meeting that the Federal Railroad Administration is holding on Wednesday, October 19th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm in Union Station's Presidential Room.

DDOT Update on Sidewalk Repairs

Rodney Foxworth, the Community Engagement Supervisor for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) (Rodney.Foxworth@dc.gov), and Aaron Horton, Chief of the Asset Management Unit at DDOT (aaron.horton@dc.gov), were present.

Mr. Foxworth gave an overview of his previous experience with community organizing in DC. He said that he was hired by DDOT to strengthen communications between DDOT and the ANCs. He encouraged community members to continue to log 311 requests for any problems with sidewalks and streets that they find.

Mr. Foxworth talked about DC's rapid growth and the pressure that the growth has placed on DDOT to keep up with demand.

Mr. Horton gave an overview of the regular inspections that DDOT carries out each year across the city. He said that there has been a large increase in DDOT's sidewalk and alley repair budgets over the last few years. He added that DDOT estimates that the department will need an additional \$60 million to bring all of the District's sidewalks up to an acceptable standard.

Mr. Horton gave an overview of the sidewalk repair requests that DDOT has received for ANC 2D. He said that some of the sidewalks that were reported will be repaired with Flexi-Pave to prevent sidewalk disruptions from tree roots.

Commissioner Goldstein thanked DDOT for their work on sidewalk and alley repairs in the neighborhood. She encouraged DDOT to consider holding a "Sidewalk-Palooza" event alongside the department's annual "Alley-Palooza" and "Pothole-Palooza" events.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein stated that the ANC's checking account balance as of September 30, 2016 was \$9,354.05.

Approval of the FY 2017 Budget

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

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) (PSA 208)

Lieutenant Jerome Merrill, the Lieutenant for MPD's police service area (PSA) 208 (jerome.merrill@dc.gov), was present. He gave an overview of an assault with a dangerous weapon that recently occurred in the neighborhood. He provided a description of the suspect in the case.

Chairperson Bender said that he recently saw a man matching the description of the suspect who was approaching people passing by at the Spanish Steps over the past weekend.

Lt. Merrill said that MPD has launched a new online form for residents to report thefts from vehicles. He added that there have not been any burglaries in the neighborhood ever since a burglar was recently caught.

Report from the Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) (jerry.chapin@dc.gov), was present. He said that the Mayor has taken a firm stance against the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority's (WMATA) proposal to end late night Metrorail service. He also gave an overview of the Mayor's recent signing of the Motor Vehicle Collision Recovery Act of 2015.

Mr. Chapin said that the Mayor recently released the 2016 Age-Friendly DC Progress Report. He also gave an overview of the Mayor's security camera rebate program. He also talked about the Mayor's Safer, Stronger, Brighter initiative, which allows residents to report broken streetlights via text message.

Report from Councilmember Evans' Office

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office (tlipinsky@dccouncil.us), was present. He gave an overview of WMATA's upcoming hearing regarding the proposed Metrorail service cuts. He also said that DC's Chief Financial Officer recently released a projected revenue report for 2016. He said that the report stated that the DC will surpass its original projected revenues for 2016.

2316 Tracy Place NW Roof Garden Project

Michael Beidler, the architect for the project (michael@troutdesign.com), and Kate Olson, the zoning attorney for the project (kmo@gdllaw.com), were present. Mr. Beidler gave an overview of the proposed plans for the project.

Chairperson Bender asked what zoning relief the applicant was requesting for the project. Ms. Olson said that the applicant applied for a special exception to allow for a penthouse on top of the roof, and was also requesting relief from the penthouse setback requirements. She added that the adjacent property owner was not raising any objections regarding the penthouse setback relief.

Chairperson Bender asked if it would be possible to reduce the height of the planters along the edge of the roof. Mr. Beidler said the applicant was not looking to reduce the height of the planters because the planters are essentially serving as the railing for the roof.

Chairperson Bender noted that the Commissioners received a two-page email from a California Street NW resident regarding the project. He said that the resident did raise some legitimate issues regarding the project.

Chairperson Bender moved 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:

WHEREAS, the owners of said property have designed three new elements to be added to the existing three-story single family house: 1) penthouse, 2) roof deck, 3) non-movable planters on the roof, and 4) an external spiral staircase, and

WHEREAS, the property is located within the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, and

WHEREAS, the owners' architect, Trout Design Studio, has prepared the necessary documentation and designs, and

WHEREAS, the owners' attorneys, Greenstein DeLorme & Luchs, P.C., have submitted an application to the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and

WHEREAS, following an open discussion of the proposal, the Commissioners find no issues which warrant further examination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D supports the proposal as presented at its October 17, 2016 meeting.

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

Presentation Regarding DC Statehood

Rudy Seikaly, a representative for the 51 Statehood Speakers Bureau, was present. He gave an overview of the fact that DC residents pay federal taxes but do not have Congressional representation. He encouraged meeting attendees to vote yes in the November general election for DC to become a state.

One local resident asked how the "New Columbia" name was chosen for the new state. Mr. Seikaly said that the name has long been used as a possible name for the new state.

29 Kalorama Circle NW

Anthony Barnes, the architect for the project (abarnes@barnesvanze.com), was present. He said that the new owner of the property would like to add a sunroom over the existing garage. He presented the proposed plans for the project.

Chairperson Bender commended the architect for incorporating an elevator into the building as part of a previous project.

Multiple residents suggested changes to the detailing of the proposed sunroom.

Chairperson 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:

WHEREAS, the owners of the property at 29 Kalorama Circle, NW have designed a proposed addition to said property by enclosing an existing terrace with an enclosed sunroom, and

WHEREAS, this property is located within the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, and

WHEREAS, the owner's architects, Barnes Vanze Architects, Inc., have prepared sketches to be submitted to HPRB, and

WHEREAS, the immediate neighbors have reviewed the plans and have no objection to the proposed enclosed sunroom.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D supports the proposal as presented at its October 17, 2016 meeting and asks that the applicant works with HP to improve the quality of the proposed materials (such as the windows) in order to preserve the character of the neighborhood.

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

Open Comments

There were no open comments.

Announcements

A representative for the Friends of Mitchell Park said that the group's annual Fall Fun Day is coming up on October 30th.

Date of Next Meeting

Chairperson Bender said that the next ANC meeting will be on Monday, November 14th at 7:00 pm at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, 2200 California Street NW.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.