

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 16th, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

There were not any commissioner's comments.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$16,742.03.

Approval of the ANC's FY 2024 Budget

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's FY 2024 budget. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 3 Financial Report

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 3 financial report. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Lieutenant Timothy Beirne, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed parking issues in the neighborhood, an uptick in the police presence in the neighborhood resulting from current international events, the protests at the

Chinese Ambassador's residence at 2301 S Street NW, and contractor parking in the alley behind the 2200 block of Q Street NW with Lt. Beirne.

Mayor's Office

Christopher Powell, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that yard waste collection is now available rear round by scheduling a pick up with DC's 3-1-1 system. He said that the Department of Public Works' (DPW) special waste collections have moved to Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium's parking lot 3. He also said that work is taking place through Thanksgiving to redo the lettering on Black Lives Matter Plaza.

Mr. Powell gave an overview of the Mayor's recent awarding of \$8.5 million in grants for the Safe Passage Safe Blocks program. He said that the Mayor recently appointed Nina Albert as DC's Acting Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. He also encouraged local residents to attend the 17th Street High Heel Race on Tuesday, October 24th at 6:00 pm.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed yard waste removal and the missing callbox at the intersection of 24th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW with Mr. Powell.

Councilmember's Office

Aukima Benjamin, the Committee and Constituent Services Manager for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an overview of Councilmember Pinto's Secure DC package of legislation and the ways that the Councilmember thinks the legislation will improve public safety. She gave an overview of the Councilmember's efforts to increase oversight of the Office of Unified Communications (OUC). She encouraged local residents to submit comments regarding the Secure DC legislation to Judiciary@dccouncil.gov.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed leaf collection efforts with Ms. Benjamin.

New Business

Update from Ambassador Rebecca Gonzales, the Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions

Cliff Seagroves, the Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM), introduced himself to meeting attendees. He said that ANC 2D has the most chancery properties in the city. He said the office is excited about the sale of the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW. He also said that the office is pleased about the improvements to and occupancy of the Embassy of Serbia's property at 2221 R Street NW.

Mr. Seagroves said that local residents who have any issues with chancery properties can email ofmproperty@state.gov. He said that OFM is aware of the leakage from the Embassy of China's property at 2200 S Street NW onto the Spanish Steps.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the Embassy of Serbia's property at 2221 R Street NW, the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW, the proposed brick wall on public space at the Chinese Ambassador's residence at 2301 S Street NW, and the possible removal of public parking in front of diplomatic properties for security reasons with Mr. Seagroves.

Handling the Protest Noise at the Corner of S Street and 23rd Street NW

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the protests at the Chinese Ambassador's residence at 2301 S Street NW and the ongoing noise concerns from neighbors with Mr. Seagroves.

Fixing Three Streetlights (#24321, #24323DC, and #24324) in the Alleyway Behind Waterside Drive NW

Christophe Wassmer, the Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), said that a 3-1-1 system request has been submitted to fix the three streetlights in the alleyway behind Waterside Drive NW. He encouraged local residents to use the 3-1-1 system for needed sidewalk and streetlight repairs.

Replacing Speed Bump in the Alleyway Behind 2551 Waterside Drive NW

Mr. Wassmer said that he is working to replace the speed cushions in the alleyway behind 2551 Waterside Drive NW.

Updates

Update Regarding the District Department of Transportation

Mr. Wassmer said that there is a 3-1-1 system request submitted for signage in the alleyway and on the sidewalk at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW. Commissioners stressed the need to address the issue.

Mr. Wassmer asked if a 3-1-1 system request had been submitted for the United States Secret Service parking zone on the north side of the 2500 block of Belmont Road NW. Commissioners said that they would submit a request.

Mr. Wassmer said that DDOT is currently waiting for the completion of the DC Smart Street Lighting Project. He said that the light shield at 2339 Massachusetts Avenue NW can be addressed when the project team comes to ANC 2D.

Mr. Wassmer said that DDOT is monitoring the traffic at the bus stop at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW. He said that, if traffic conditions worsen at the bus stop, DDOT can implement additional measures to improve the conditions. Commissioners asked for copies of DDOT's reports on the assessment of the bus stop.

Mr. Wassmer said that a Traffic Safety Input (TSI) request for speed bumps and one-way signage at the Generator Hotel Washington DC at 1900 Connecticut Avenue NW has been added to DDOT's TSI queue.

Mr. Wassmer said that a speed camera has been installed at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW. He said that he has asked DDOT's Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) team for data from the camera. He added that a new red light camera will be installed at the intersection in mid-October.

Mr. Wassmer said that DDOT has no plans to increase the walk time at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW after the last increase to the walk time. He said that DDOT believes that any further walk time increases will have negative impacts to general traffic flow.

Mr. Wassmer said that a number of TSI requests for R Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue and Florida Avenue NW have been queued for future consideration.

Mr. Wassmer asked the commissioners to submit a 3-1-1 system request for the traffic lights at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Waterside Drive NW.

Update Regarding the National Park Service

There were no updates regarding this matter.

Update Regarding Washington Gas

There were no updates regarding this matter.

Update Regarding the Spanish Steps

Chair Warren said that the fountain at the Spanish Steps will soon be turned off for the winter.

Announcements and Open Comment

Chair Warren said that the Friends of Mitchell Park's annual Fall Fun Day will take place on Sunday, October 29th.

A local resident raised concerns regarding the redevelopment project at 2151 California Street NW. He said that he is concerned that the redevelopment could affect the resale values of neighboring properties. He said that he is also concerned about the developer's vetting of potential residents. Chair Warren encouraged the local resident to reach out to the developer and the building's tenant association with the questions.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, November 13th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.