



## **GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

February 11, 2019, 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 Jeff Nestler (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 22 residents and visitors in attendance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of January 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Nestler moved to approve the ANC's January 23rd, 2019 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### **Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton**

Chair Bender introduced Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to meeting attendees. She said that she is working to schedule a markup hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives regarding her bill on DC statehood. She said that it would be a big step to get the bill through the U.S. Senate. She said that she already has 195 cosponsors on her bill.

Congresswoman Norton gave an overview regarding her work on the development of The Wharf, federal tax breaks for the development of affordable housing, the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG), preventing a military parade in the city, and tax benefits for hiring the unemployed.

Meeting attendees discussed statehood efforts, maintenance of DC's National Park Service (NPS) sites, DC's building height limit, and sports betting in DC with Congresswoman Norton.

### **Administrative and Financial Matters**

#### **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Nestler said that he and Chair Bender recently attended a meeting of DC's Embassy Task Force. He said that task force attendees said that the Embassy of China's apartment building project at 2300 Connecticut Avenue NW is close to being done. He said that the task force also discussed the dilapidated Embassy of Pakistan property at 2201 R Street NW. He said that the Government of Pakistan bought the property back during a tax sale. He added that the U.S. Department of State is currently having conversations with the Government of Pakistan about selling or rehabilitating the property.

Chair Bender said that the Public Space Committee will hold a second meeting regarding DC's proposed Small Cell Guidelines on Thursday, March 21st at 1:00 pm at 1100 4th Street SW, room 200.

Chair Bender gave an overview of Chairman Phil Mendelson's recent quarterly ANC Commissioners meeting on Monday, January 28th, which featured representatives from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

#### Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Nestler moved to pay Peter Sacco, the ANC's Administrative Coordinator, \$300 for services performed as Administrative Coordinator during the months of October, November, and December 2018. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0)

Commissioner Nestler moved to reimburse Chair Bender for document printing expenditures of \$17.55. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

#### DC Government Reports

##### Metropolitan Police Department (Police Service Area 208)

*There was no one present regarding this matter.*

##### Mayor's Office

Amr Kotb, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), introduced himself to meeting attendees. He encouraged local residents to call DC's shelter hotline at: (202) 399-7093 if they see homeless individuals out in the cold during hypothermia season. He also encouraged local residents to submit any service requests they have through DC's 3-1-1 system. He said that the 3-1-1 system helps MOCRS track outstanding issues.

Mr. Kotb said that the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Christmas tree collection period is now over. He said that local residents can still drop off their trees at the Fort Totten Transfer Station, 4900 John F. McCormack Drive NE.

Mr. Kotb said that the MySchoolDC enrollment lottery deadline for preschool through grade 8 is March 1st.

## Councilmember Jack Evans' Office

Daniel Bassett, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that the DC Council is about to enter its annual agency performance and budget oversight season. He also said that Councilmember Evans' office is working to address the enrollment issues at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens. He added that Councilmember Evans is concerned that the DC Public Schools (DCPS) does not share the school's concerns about overcrowding and expected enrollment.

## **Old Business**

### District Department of Transportation's Assessment of High Crash Sites - Intersection at Florida Avenue, S Street, and Connecticut Avenue NW

*The Commission delayed action regarding this matter until a future meeting.*

### 2320-2330 S Street NW - Water Main Tie-In After Hours Work Permit Request

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

ANC 2D supports Anchor Construction Corporation's after-hours work permit request to tie-in water lines at 2320-2330 S Street NW to the water main. The contractor agrees that all residents impacted by this after-hours work will be notified at least 48 hours in advance and that noise will be held to a minimum.

ANC 2D notes that the project contractor, in an exchange of emails, stated that the tie-in work would only take approximately two hours. Therefore, the ANC agrees to a six-hour window of work beginning no earlier than 10:00 pm and ending no later than 4:00 am.

## **New Business**

### 2320 Tracy Place NW - Renovation to Rear of the House

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

ANC 2D supports the plans for the renovation work to be done to the exterior of the property at 2320 Tracy Place NW as presented at the ANC's February 11, 2019 meeting, with the understanding that modifications to the plans might be made in review with the property's neighbors.

### Enrollment Challenges and Urgent Needs at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens

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

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens (SWWFS) is a city-wide educational resource serving students from all eight wards, with the majority of attendees living outside of Ward 2,

WHEREAS, SWWFS is the DC Public Schools (DCPS) in-boundary school for all preschool, elementary school, and middle school students in ANC 2D,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, SWWFS has demonstrated one of the strongest year-over-year track records of academic improvement of any public elementary school in the city and currently has a waiting list of 700 students requesting enrollment,

WHEREAS, current enrollment at SWWFS is 474 students and, with a perfect distribution of students from preschool through grade 8, the building could reasonably accommodate a total of no more than 500,

WHEREAS, the middle school at SWWFS is currently budgeted and staffed to accommodate 150 students, while middle school enrollment for the next academic year now stands at 160 and a conservative estimate projects it may reach 190 or more, depending on the number of eligible students from Thomson Elementary School and Ross Elementary School who chose to enroll,

WHEREAS, completion of the staff compound at the Chinese Embassy will inevitably result in a significant increase in the number of elementary school students at SWWFS in the coming academic year,

WHEREAS, the need to recognize, support, and build upon academic success should be a first order imperative throughout the DCPS system and the current enrollment surge at SWWFS, particularly in the middle school, represents a clear and present threat to the academic integrity of the school, and

WHEREAS, if DCPS does not take immediate action (rather than waiting until the late summer or fall), then DCPS will be failing the school, students, and larger community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D requests that DCPS increase the funding available to SWWFS for the 2019-2020 school year by roughly \$600,000 in order to increase staffing to a level commensurate with the anticipated expanded enrollment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2D requests that DCPS prioritize needed renovations of the physical plan at SWWFS to increase available academic space by re-purposing and subdividing the smaller of its two gyms to create six new classrooms. It is the belief of the ANC and the SWWFS community that, if undertaken in the next 45 days, such a renovation can be completed prior to the 2019-2020 academic year, thereby raising the overall capacity of the building by 150 students without materially affecting

the physical education program, which can be reorganized to more efficiently operate in the single large gym without a meaningful loss of effectiveness.

### **Announcements**

Chair Bender said that the ANC recently received an email from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) regarding the responsibilities for ANC Secretaries, including the ANC's meeting notice requirements. Chair Bender gave an overview of the ANC's monthly meeting notification methods.

Chair Bender said that the ANC will need to consider the possibility of revising the ANC's bylaws.

Chair Bender said that the Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 pm at the Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S Street NW.

### **Open Comments**

*There were not any open comments.*

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will be on Monday, March 18th, 2019 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 8:54 pm.