



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 19th, 2018, 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 38 residents and visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

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

DC Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Lt. Jerome Merrill, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He also gave an overview of two recent crimes that occurred on S Street NW and on Connecticut Avenue NW.

Guest Speakers

Clifford Seagroves, Senior Bureau Official, Office of Foreign Missions, US State Department

Clifford Seagroves, the Acting Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM), said that he has been working at OFM for 16 years and has thus witnessed firsthand many of the diplomatic property issues that the neighborhood has raised. He said that OFM is always working to address issues related to vacant and abandoned diplomatic properties in the neighborhood. He said that the office is starting to see some positive changes after many years of work. He gave an overview of the current state of several vacant and abandoned diplomatic properties in the neighborhood.

Director Seagroves said that if local residents have any issues with diplomatic properties in the neighborhood, such as trash not being put out properly, they can contact OFM by emailing

ofmproperty@state.gov. He added that his office also serves as the custodian for the former Iranian properties in the city, some of which are located in ANC 2D. He said that OFM is currently looking into options for temporary use of the Iranian properties.

Chair Bender asked about the ongoing construction timeline for the Chinese residential building at 2300 Connecticut Avenue NW. He raised concerns regarding how the completed building may impede public access to the adjacent Belmont Road Park.

Commissioner Goldstein raised concerns regarding how people are living in the abandoned Pakistani property at 2201 R Street NW. Director Seagroves said that because the property no longer has diplomatic protection, MPD is able to enter the property to address any issues. He said that for abandoned properties that have diplomatic protection, local residents should contact the U.S. Secret Service regarding any issues.

Commissioner Goldstein asked if OFM has had discussions with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) regarding efforts to right-size the large amount of designated diplomatic parking in the neighborhood. Director Seagroves said that OFM has had discussions with Alice Kelly, the former Manager of DDOT's Policy and Legislative Affairs Division, regarding the matter. He added that he did not receive any negative feedback from the diplomatic properties regarding the recent efforts to remove diplomatic parking from Ambassadors' residences.

Jeff Marootian, Director, Department of Transportation

Jeff Marootian, the Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), said that the agency has several responsibilities, from infrastructure management, including streets and sidewalks, to public space management and urban forestry. He said that the most important thing that DDOT does every day is to implement Vision Zero, which is Mayor Bowser's goal to eliminate traffic and pedestrian fatalities in DC by 2024.

Director Marootian said that DDOT wants to eliminate all of the roads in DC's local road inventory that are rated as being in poor condition within the next five years. He said that DDOT is currently working on a campaign to eliminate potholes in the city. He gave an overview of DDOT's work to improve the conditions of DC's public alleys through the Mayor's AlleyPalooza campaigns.

Director Marootian said that DDOT is focused on the future of mobility in the city. He said that the agency is embracing technology by setting the stage for the next generation of technology that the city knows is coming.

Commissioner Goldstein said that the community has raised numerous concerns regarding DDOT's Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project. She asked about the current status of the project. Director Marootian gave an overview of the project. He said that it will restore the roadway of Massachusetts Avenue NW, which is in poor condition, and will make sure that the intersections, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossings along the roadway are safer. He said that the project team has collected initial community feedback and will be coming back to the ANC in the next several months with updated project designs.

Chair Bender raised concerns regarding the number of construction dumpsters that sit on residential streets for long periods of time. He asked if DDOT can limit the amount of time that individual dumpsters can sit out on the street. Director Marootian said that it is a matter that DDOT is working to address.

Chair Bender asked if DDOT favors the proposal where all LED streetlights in the city will be no higher than 2,700 Kelvin. Director Marootian said that DDOT is working on a project to convert all of the city's streetlights to LED lights. He said that, as part of the project, DDOT will not be using LED lights that are higher than 3,000 Kelvin, and that DDOT will be using 2,700 Kelvin lights in many places. He added that there is currently not commercial availability of 2,700 Kelvin LED lights for all of the different types of streetlight fixtures that the city has.

Commissioner Goldstein asked how DDOT coordinates its divisions with the city's 3-1-1 reporting system. Director Marootian said that DDOT has a dedicated team that monitors 3-1-1 requests and makes sure that the requests are routed to the correct divisions at DDOT. He said that DDOT actively responds to 3-1-1 requests every day of the year.

Approval of February 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the ANC's February 20th, 2018 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Commissioner's Comments

Chair Bender said that the trial period for the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) dockless bikeshare program ends in April. He said that DDOT is encouraging local residents to submit their comments regarding the program via email to dockless.bikeshare@dc.gov.

Chair Bender said that Martin's Wine and Spirits at 1919 Florida Avenue NW has applied for renewal of the establishment's alcoholic beverage license. He said that the protest date for local residents who would like to submit comments regarding the license renewal application is Monday, May 7th.

Chair Bender said that The Mediterranean Way Gourmet Market at 1717 Connecticut Avenue NW has applied for a substantial change to the establishment's alcoholic beverage license. He said that the deadline for local residents who would like to submit comments regarding the substantial change application is Monday, April 23rd.

Chair Bender said that the Dupont Circle Village will hold its annual gala on Friday, April 27th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Embassy of Haiti, 2311 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

Chair Bender said that DC Water will hold a Ward 2 Town Hall to discuss water projects and issues impacting the community on Tuesday, March 27th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the auditorium of the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, 2425 N Street NW.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$9,014.25.

DC Government Reports (Continued)

Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that this coming Saturday, March 24th is the March for Our Lives event. He said that the city is expecting that between 500,000 and 1 million people will be coming into the city to attend the event. He gave an overview of the road closures that are scheduled as part of the event. He added that Serve DC is recruiting volunteers to serve as way finders during the event and that local residents can contact him via email to jerry.chapin@dc.gov if they are interested in volunteering.

Councilmember's Office

Joe Florio, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that the DC Council's Committee on Finance and Revenue will hold a budget oversight hearing for Events DC, Destination DC, and Commission on the Arts and Humanities on Wednesday, April 11th at 10:00 am. He added that the committee will also hold a budget oversight hearing for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer on Wednesday, April 18th at 10:00 am.

Commissioner Goldstein thanked Councilmember Evans for attending the recent Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Annual Meeting.

Department of Public Works

Sonya Street, the Lead Inspector for Ward 2 for the Department of Public Works (DPW), said that DPW is in the process of preparing for the snowstorm that will take place Tuesday, March 20th and Wednesday, March 21st. She encouraged local residents to be careful when driving and walking during the storm and to take Metro whenever possible.

Old Business

Highlights of Sheridan-Kalorama Combined 2018 Neighborhood Annual Meeting

Chris Chapin, the President of the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council, gave an overview of the 2018 Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Annual Meeting. He said the meeting now includes six neighborhood organizations. He said that the 2018 meeting covered several issues, including the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 2118 Leroy Place NW. He added that Councilmember Evans gave a good overview of the current state of the city.

2018 ANC Grant Program

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve three \$500 ANC grants to the Spanish Steps Preservation Project and Endowment Fund, Restore Mass Ave, and the Sheridan-Kalorama Call Box Project. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Curbside Management Parking Study

Chair Bender said that copies of the ANC's draft curbside management resolution are on the table in the back of the meeting room. He said that an updated draft of the resolution will be sent out soon. He asked that local residents send him any comments that they have regarding the current draft resolution. He said that the ANC will most likely vote on the proposed resolution during the ANC's April meeting.

The draft curbside management resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) initiated a city-wide Curbside Management Study in October 2014; and

WHEREAS, DDOT's study of parking in ANC2B and 2D has been extremely thorough and fine-grained, and has identified the following conditions (among others):

- The number of Ward 2 RPP vehicles is 5.7 times more than RPP spaces;
- 30% of vehicles parked in RPP spaces in North Dupont/Sheridan-Kalorama are intra-ward plated vehicles;
- There is limited parking availability during mid-day, evenings, and weekends in North Dupont and Sheridan-Kalorama, with parking occupancy throughout Dupont and Sheridan-Kalorama at >80% on weekends;
- Overnight parking occupancy is more than 90% in North Dupont and Sheridan-Kalorama;

WHEREAS, DDOT held an initial Stakeholders Meeting May 2015, and subsequent Stakeholders Meetings in August 2015, May and June 2016, and March 2018 to discuss the data from DDOT's Curbside Management Study, the neighborhood-scale curbside planning approach, neighborhood priorities, and short- and long-term recommendations for the Dupont and Sheridan-Kalorama ANCs 2B and 2D; and

WHEREAS, through these meetings with DDOT and separate meetings of the Stakeholders group in January and March 2018, the following overarching priorities have been identified to enhance fair and equitable management of limited curbside access:

- Residential Permit Parking: Manage the neighborhood supply and demand in favor of residents as already implemented throughout ANC 2D;
- Visitor Parking: Accommodate needed visitor parking through a controlled-access program;

- Commercial Parking: Manage commercial parking spillover onto residential streets while ensuring adequate parking for commercial access for patrons and deliveries;
- Enforcement: Enhance the consistency and timeliness of enforcement of parking rules and violations; and
- Signage: Clarify and simplify signage for parking spaces to avoid confusing and conflicting information.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D requests DDOT to proceed with the Local Parking Management Pilot Program by implementing these recommendations:

For neighborhood residential parking:

- Create smaller RPP zones within Ward 2 in combination with a pay-by-cell program for all vehicles from outside the zone;
- Implement an on-line system for visitor passes, with a menu of visitor pass options including day and week passes and a limited number of need-substantiated annual passes (e.g. for home health aides or school teachers);
- Consider placing a reasonable limit (or cost increases) on RPP permits for vehicles registered at the same dwelling unit;
- Right size diplomatic parking; such as removing street parking for ambassadorial residences, eliminate parking privileges for foreign properties that are vacant and reduce parking set aside for “quasi diplomatic” spaces;
- Improve parking signage to minimize the number of signs, e.g., by implementing a grid-style signs providing “at-a-glance” understanding of when parking in a space is legal and when it is not; the cost; and what permits are honored; and
- Designate all un-designated parking spaces as RPP or metered as appropriate for their location.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2D prevails upon the Council of The District of Columbia to provide the requisite legislative and fiscal authority in a timely manner allowing DDOT to expedite implementation of this project; and to also require the full cooperation of the Department of Public Works to provide all necessary enforcement and other supporting services for this project.

Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Project

Chair Bender gave an overview of DDOT’s Connecticut Avenue NW Streetscape and Deck-Over Project. He said that the project will run up Connecticut Avenue from Dupont Circle to California Street NW. He said that there are handouts on the table in the back of the meeting room regarding the project.

2112 Wyoming Avenue NW Historic Preservation Review Board Action

Chair Bender said that the Historic Preservation Review Board's (HPRB) hearing regarding the project at 2112 Wyoming Avenue NW was on March 1st. He said that, during the hearing, HPRB voted to approve the proposed balconies.

New Business

There was not any new business.

Announcements

Commissioner Goldstein gave an overview of DDOT's proposal to install bike lanes on 21st Street and/or 22nd Street NW. She said that the DDOT contact for the project is Megan Kanagy, whose email is megan.kanagy@dc.gov.

Holly Sukenik said that the Spanish Steps Preservation Project and Endowment Fund will be holding an event on Sunday, April 29th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Jewett House, 2040 S Street NW. She said that local residents who have questions about the event can email her at hsukenik@hotmail.com.

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, April 30th 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 8:38 pm.