



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 15, 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 7:02 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners David Bender (2D01) and Jeff Nestler (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 25 residents and visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of March 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Nestler moved to approve the ANC's March 18th, 2019 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Guest: Ward 2 Councilmember, Jack Evans

Councilmember Jack Evans said that the DC Council is currently reviewing Mayor Bowser's proposed budget for FY 2020. He said that the proposed budget is the largest in DC's history and includes large investments in health and human services, education, debt service, and public safety. He said that the proposed budget also includes several proposed tax increases. He gave an overview of the city's current AAA bond rating.

Councilmember Evans said that the city continues to struggle with poor educational outcomes even after increasing funding for the DC Public Schools (DCPS). He said that the city also continues to struggle with addressing homelessness.

Councilmember Evans said that he continues to fight for improvements to Mitchell Park and the Spanish Steps. He said that he is working on legislation that would allow the city to pick up trash on embassy properties. He added that he continues to push the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to fix various streets and alleys across Ward 2.

Councilmember Evans said that he continues to serve as the Chair of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). He gave an overview of WMATA's efforts to bring the Metrorail system to a state of good repair.

Councilmember Evans, meeting attendees, and commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding the Embassy Task Force and the large amount of Uber vehicles in DC with Maryland and Virginia license plates.

DC Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department (Police Service Area 208)

Lt. Jonathon Pongratz and Officer Jeremy Brady, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, were present. Lt. Pongratz gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

The meeting attendees and commissioners asked MPD to consider subdividing the PSA crime statistics into just the statistics for the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood.

The meeting attendees and commissioners engaged in a discussion with the MPD representatives regarding Friday traffic and sidewalk backups along Massachusetts Avenue NW near the Islamic Center of Washington.

Mayor's Office

Ben Guzman, the Director of the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, gave an overview of the Mayor's proposed FY 2020 budget. He said that there is a fact sheet on the table in the back of the meeting room that focuses on the Ward 2 investments in the proposed budget. He said that proposed budget includes \$1 million in statehood advocacy funding and \$2.5 million in funding for the 2020 census.

Director Guzman, meeting attendees, and commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding the processes for the 2020 census.

Amr Kotb, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that trash collection will slide one day this week due to Emancipation Day tomorrow. He said that after recent neighborhood concerns, MPD reaffirmed that it will continue to issue visitor parking permits. He added that he will be leading an upcoming multi-agency walk of the alley at 2161 Florida Avenue NW in order to address various issues. He said that the DC Circulator continues to be free and that DC's diaper tax has been eliminated.

Councilmember's Office

Daniel Bassett, the Senior Policy Advisor for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office; meeting attendees; and commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding needed funding for DC's previously-passed short-term rental legislation.

Department of Public Works

Inspector Sonya Street, Ward 2's Lead Solid Waste Inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), gave an overview of the DPW smartphone app, which provides updates on street sweeping, leaf collection, and booting and towing across the city. She encouraged local residents to download the app.

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Nestler gave an overview of the recent meeting of the Embassy Task Force. He said that residents will be moving into the Embassy of China's apartment building at 2310 Connecticut Avenue NW very soon. He said that the ANC will be notified about how many students will be moving into the building and will be attending DCPS. He also gave an overview of the current state of the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW. He said that the embassy has not paid its property taxes and that an auction of the property might take place.

Chair Bender gave an overview of the recent collapse of a piece of wall at the Embassy of Afghanistan's property at 2341 Wyoming Avenue NW. He also gave an overview of various property insurance issues for local residents who are neighbors to embassy properties.

Chair Bender said that WMATA has announced that the authority will soon begin installing a canopy over the north entrance to the Dupont Circle Metrorail station.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Nestler said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$10,058.64.

Commissioner Nestler moved to pay Peter Sacco, the ANC's Administrative Coordinator, \$330 for services performed as Administrative Coordinator during the months of January, February, and March 2019. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0)

ANC's FY 2019 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Commissioner Nestler moved to approve the ANC's FY 2019 Quarter 2 financial report. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Old Business

Waterside Drive – Alley Illegal Use

No was present regarding this matter.

1901 24th Street NW, Slovak Embassy, Fence Modification

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:

WHEREAS, the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, the owner of the property at 1901 24th Street NW, plans to install a new fence on top of the existing brick wall located in the front side yard,

WHEREAS, the property is located in the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District,

WHEREAS, the plans describe a security fence consistent with other fences in the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the property owner has agreed that the existing trees will not be damaged or destroyed, and

WHEREAS, Embassy staff have shared the plans with the immediate neighbors and there are no objections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D has no objection to the application on the condition that the fence does not exceed the height permitted by the building code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair or his appointee is authorized to represent the ANC on this issue.

Announcements

There were not any announcements.

Open Comments

Chair Bender said that the ANC recently received a public space application from the Embassy of China for the streetscape plan for the embassy's apartment building at 2310 Connecticut Avenue NW. He gave an overview of the ANC's ongoing work to address the concerns regarding the vehicular access plan for the apartment building.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, May 20th 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 8:31 pm.