



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2017, 7:00 pm

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 21 residents and visitors in attendance.

Election of Officers

Chairperson Bender moved to elect himself as the ANC's Chairperson and Secretary and Commissioner Goldstein as the ANC's Vice Chairperson and Treasurer for 2017. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of November 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Bender moved to approve the November 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Goldstein said that she has received many 311-type calls over the last year. She encouraged meeting attendees to more fully utilize the city's 311 system for reporting any non-emergency issues in the neighborhood or to contact the constituent services team in Councilmember Jack Evans' office. She added that for emergency situations, constituents should call the police, fire, or other departments or agencies as

they are the ones who could quickly resolve such situations. She added that the ANC will make sure that all agency contacts are prominently featured on the new ANC website.

Chairperson Bender said that the Government of Sri Lanka has agreed to lease out its embassy property at 3025 Whitehaven Street NW. He also gave an overview of the upcoming move of the Obama and Kushner families to the neighborhood.

Chairperson Bender said that the ANC has received many complaints about rats and other pests in the neighborhood. He said that meeting attendees can contact Gabriel Curtis, Supervisor Pest Controller with the DC Department of Health (202-724-8540, Gabriel.curtis@dc.gov), to report any issues.

Meeting Cancellation Policy

Chairperson Bender said that any time the city government is closed due to inclement weather or any other emergency situation, the ANC will not meet.

Review of Standing Committees

Chairperson Bender said that the ANC's only standing committee is the ANC 2D Task Force on the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Connecticut Ave. Construction Project. He said that, based on a recent committee member resignation, the ANC should terminate the committee.

Chairperson Bender moved to terminate the ANC 2D Task Force on the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Connecticut Ave. Construction Project as of January 9, 2017. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said that the ANC received its full DC government allotment for FY 2017 Quarter 1.

Security Fund Participation

Commissioner Goldstein moved to have the ANC participate in the 2017 ANC Security Fund and to authorize an expense of \$25 in order to participate. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Bank Signatories

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the 2017 ANC officers as signatories for the ANC's checking account. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Expenses for the ANC's Administrative Coordinator

Commissioner Goldstein moved to authorize an expense of \$300 for Peter Sacco's first quarter contract payment. Chairperson Bended seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Commissioner Goldstein moved to reimburse Peter Sacco \$84 for the purchase of a one year website hosting plan with Wix. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

DC Government Reports

Mayor's Office

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) (jerry.chapin@dc.gov, 202-297-6566), said that the Christmas tree pickup process has begun and will continue through January 27. He said that trees can be left out on the curb.

Mr. Chapin said that 5,000 National Guardsmen have been mobilized for Inauguration weekend. He added that three First Amendment protest permits have been issued for Freedom Plaza on Inauguration Day. He said that his office is trying to reach out to the U.S. Secret Service to find out what the impacts of the Obama and Kushner family moves to the neighborhood will be.

Mr. Chapin encouraged meeting attendees to call the homeless shelter hotline (202-399-7093) if they see homeless individuals out in the cold.

A local resident asked what the city's snow removal policies for smaller streets in the neighborhood are. Mr. Chapin said that he will advocate for more efficient plowing in the neighborhood during any snowstorms this winter.

Councilmember's Office

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office (tLipinsky@dccouncil.us), said that the DC Council just started its new Council session. He said that the Council's committees have been reorganized as part of the new session. He added that Council oversight hearings will be starting soon.

Mr. Lipinsky said that Councilmember Evans has been added to the Council's Committee on Government Operations, which includes oversight of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). He encouraged meeting attendees to send him any concerns regarding DCRA.

Commissioner Goldstein asked Mr. Lipinsky to provide any overview of the constituent services portion of the Councilmember's office. Mr. Lipinsky encouraged meeting

attendees to call the Councilmember's office with any constituent services concerns. He added that Sherri Kimbel is the main constituent services staff member in the office. Lastly, he added that 311 is particularly helpful for any tree issues.

A local resident asked for the Councilmember's help in fixing the potholes on the 2100 block of Leroy Place NW. She said that the matter has still not been resolved and that the block needs help.

New Business

2017 ANC 2D Grant Applications

Commissioner Goldstein said that the ANC will once again consider grant applications from organizations within the ANC that are submitted by March 1, 2017.

BZA Application No. 19134A; Zambia (Continuation of R Street Temporary Location)

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:

The Commission approves the denial of allowing the conversion of an existing single family dwelling into a Chancery in D-R-3, but supports granting the embassy the right to continue to operate at this location without street parking for the necessary duration until the permanent quarters are rehabilitated on Massachusetts Avenue NW.

Kalorama Circle Projected Project

Alex Venditti (Alex.Venditti@cbmove.com), a representative for the French Embassy regarding the matter, said that the French Government has determined that the northwestern corner of the property, adjacent to Kalorama Circle NW, for the French Ambassador's residence is no longer necessary to the government. He said that the portion of the property is thus being put up for sale. He said that the total acreage of the proposed property is about half an acre, a small portion of the five acres of the whole Ambassador's residence property.

Mr. Venditti presented some visuals displays that gave an overview of the potential for four homes or one large mansion to sit on the sold property.

Chairperson Bender said that the ANC is opposed to the addition of any new curb cuts in the neighborhood. Mr. Venditti said that it would be up to the purchaser a property to go through the appropriate regulatory process for the development.

Commissioner Goldstein asked how Mr. Venditti would be marketing the property. Mr. Venditti said that his firm at Coldwell Banker would be starting the process by marketing

through its own sister real estate companies. He said that he would be starting with local marketing before marketing nationwide.

Commissioner Goldstein asked if the State Department would be involved in the sale process. Mr. Venditti said that the State Department's involvement would be determined based on who the purchaser is.

A local resident informed the Commission that the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 (DC Law 2-144) requires any lot subdivision with a historic district must be reviewed by the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation".

2320-2330 S Street Renovation (Former Textile Museum)

Ankie Barnes (abarnes@barnesvanze.com), the architect for the applicant, gave a visual presentation on the plans for the renovation project at 2320-2330 S Street NW. He said that the applicant was proposing to install a new security fence along the west side of the property, as well as a smaller fence along the east side of the property. He said that the applicant is also proposing to install a new garden room on the back of the main house.

Chairperson Bender asked why the applicant was not using the same style of fence for both sides of the property. Mr. Barnes said that the east side fence was more visible from the street, and because there was less of a security risk on the east side due to the Myanmar Embassy being located next door, the east side fence could be less secure and more ornate.

Chairperson commended Mr. Barnes for the impressive design work of the project.

Commissioner Goldstein also commended Mr. Barnes for his ambitious and tasteful design of the project. She asked what would happen to the caretaker's house on the property on Decatur Street NW. Mr. Barnes said that the house will be renovated for use as a caretaker's house. He added that he could look into matching the fencing designs on both sides of the property based on the requests from the ANC and local residents.

Chairperson Bender asked what the plans for the driveway are? Mr. Barnes said that the applicant will be restoring the driveway using current materials. He said that there are no plans to add or remove curb cuts as part of the driveway work.

A local resident asked when the construction for the project will begin and how long it will take. Mr. Barnes said that the applicant is looking to start construction in mid-2017 and that the construction process would take about 12 to 14 months.

Commissioner Goldstein moved to support the Historic Preservation Review Board application for the project based on the understanding that the ANC will come to an agreement with the applicant regarding the plans for the fences on both sides of the property. Chairperson Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The Commission approves the plans as presented with the understanding that the applicant will come to an agreement with the Commission regarding the plans for the security fence on both the east and west sides of the property. The Commission thanks the applicant for the fine work that was done on crafting the proposal.

Announcements

Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Annual Meeting

Chairperson Bender said that the annual Sheridan-Kalorama Combined Neighborhood Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28 at 6:00 pm at the Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S Street NW.

Other Announcements

A representative for the Friends of Mitchell Park said that the organization will be holding its annual fundraising event on March 20 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the French Ambassador's residence.

Open Comments

A local resident commended Commissioner Goldstein for her work on prompting the city to repair sidewalks and curbs in the neighborhood.

A local resident said that he is concerned about the impacts to neighborhood parking that will result from the Obama and Kushner families moving to the neighborhood on Belmont Road NW and Tracy Place NW, respectively. He said that, in the near future, the ANC and neighborhood civic groups will need to address the issue. Chairperson Bender said that the ANC is working with Sherri Kimbel, the Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Jack Evans, on trying to figure out what the security configurations for the two families will be. He said that there is still not a clear distinction regarding whether Belmont Road NW will be cut off to vehicular traffic. He said that, at minimum, the street parking in front of the two houses will most likely be removed.

A local resident distributed a draft resolution that called on the ANC to ask for the four diplomatic parking spaces in front of the Russian Cultural Center at 1825 Phelps Place NW to be converted to neighborhood parking. Chairperson Bender said that the ANC has already raised this issue on several occasions with DDOT and that the ANC believes that parking issues should be addressed in a comprehensive way and not piecemeal. He added that the ANC should first do more research with the State Department regarding the property before considering the resolution (*see addendum below*). He said that the ANC can bring up the issue at the ANC's February meeting.

The Director of the Washington English Center, which is also located in Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, gave a quick overview of the center's programs.

Date of Next Meeting

Chairperson Bender said that the date of the ANC's next meeting will be February 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.